



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Replacement Local Development Plan

2023-2038

Special Landscape Areas

December 2024



1. Introduction

1. Context

- 1.2.1. This Background Paper is one of a range of papers prepared to offer more detailed information and to provide an explanation of the approach taken in the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). This paper specifically discusses Special Landscape Areas within the Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) administrative area.
- 1.2.2. This version of the Paper is produced to inform the Pre-Deposit (or Preferred Strategy) Stage (December 2024) and it is anticipated it will be updated as the RLDP proceeds to Deposit. This paper will therefore be updated as the Plan progresses through its statutory stages.

1.3. Special Landscape Areas

- 1.3.1. SLAs are a non-statutory designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary.
- 1.3.2. Landscapes designated as SLAs may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the local authority area.
- 1.3.3. SLAs may be included in a local planning authorities Local Development Plan (LDP)/ Replacement LDP (RLDP) to identify areas where there is justification to apply an extra level of landscape protection through special landscape policies.
- 1.3.4. The current NPT Local Development Plan includes SLA designations covering 6 areas of the county borough.
- 1.3.5. As part of the preparation of the RLDP, the Council will assess landscape quality across the County Borough using the methodology detailed in Chapter 3. As detailed in the methodology this will be undertaken in an iterative process with some stages of the assessment being completed prior to Preferred Strategy consultation and others post.

- 1.3.6. As part of the assessment, the existing SLAs will be re-assessed, and all remaining areas evaluated to establish any changes or additions for the new plan. The Council will also assess proposals for developments in the SLAs. This will enable the RLDP to put in place measures to conserve areas of landscape quality as required by national planning policy.

1.4. Document Structure

- 1.4.1. **Chapter 2** details relevant national and local planning policy and guidance.
- 1.4.2. **Chapter 3** details the methodology that the Council has/is following for its assessment of SLAs.
- 1.4.3. **Chapter 4** details the review undertaken to date of the existing SLAs in order to determine whether they remain fit for purpose.
- 1.4.4. **Chapter 5** details the number and location of Candidate Sites (and Urban Capacity Sites) being promoted within SLAs. It provides a summary of the landscape assessment as part of the ISA of the Candidate Sites and signposts where additional work is needed, for example where Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments are required.

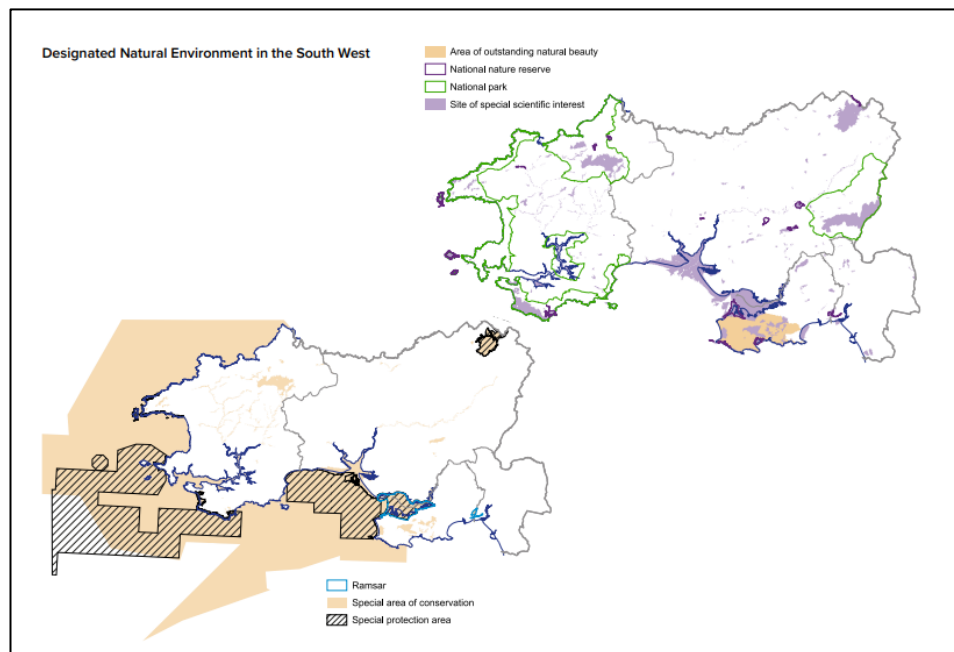
2. Planning Policy and Guidance

2.2. National Policy and Guidance

Future Wales

- 2.2.1. ***Future Wales: the National Plan 2040*** (FW) published February 2021 provides the national development framework for Wales and forms part of the statutory development plan for the County Borough, alongside the existing NPT LDP.
- 2.2.2. FW recognises that Wales' landscapes are amongst the best in the world and tells the story of Wales from volcanoes, glaciers, mountains and river valleys to castles, farms, industrial heritage and ports. It notes that approximately a quarter of Wales is covered by three national parks and five areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- 2.2.3. The supporting text to Policy 1 '*Where Wales will grow*' states that by focusing large scale growth on the urban areas, development pressures can be channelled away from the countryside. In areas designated for their landscape protection a presumption against inappropriate development remains in place.
- 2.2.4. FW identifies a number of *Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind*. Policy 17 states that within these areas, WG have assessed the likely impact on the landscape and found them to be capable of accommodating wind energy development in an acceptable way. Outside of these areas, Policy 18 states that consideration will need to be given to ensure the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).
- 2.2.5. In terms of regional working, FW states that the South West Wales Region (which NPT is a part of) needs to consider the role of protected landscapes noting that the area includes national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Figure 1: South West Wales Region



- 2.2.6. The supporting text to Policy 30 states that managing the South West's outstanding natural resources, which include the coast, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, minerals, agricultural land, water and a high quality landscape, is a priority for the region and it should be ensured they can be enjoyed by future generations and help provide economic benefits for the regions communities.

Planning Policy Wales

- 2.2.7. Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Edition 12, 2024, sets out the national planning policy context for Wales. Chapter 6 *Distinctive and natural places* outlines the approach to the natural landscape and environment. The Chapter stresses the importance of the natural landscape in terms of achieving a prosperous Wales and the role of the landscape in terms of contributing to the seven goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.2.8. Distinctive and special landscapes are identified as a National Sustainable Placemaking Outcome (under the Maximising Environmental Protection and Limiting Environmental Impact category and the Distinctive and Natural Places theme)

- 2.2.9. PPW outlines the statutory landscape designations that apply within Wales, namely National Parks and AONB and sets out the planning policy context for development within these areas.
- 2.2.10. In addition to statutory landscape designations, PPW states that planning authorities should also provide for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of local landscapes. This may include policies for landscape features, characteristics and qualities of local significance, and the designation of SLAs. Planning Authorities should state which features, characteristics or qualities require extra protection, and explain how the policy or designation will achieve this protection. LANDMAP (NRW's all-Wales GIS based landscape resource) and any associated landscape character assessments (including the register of historic landscapes in Wales) should be used to inform local landscape policies and SPG, and to help identify or revise SLAs.

LANDMAP Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP and SLAs (2017)

- 2.2.11. NRW's Guidance Note sets out the approach for using LANDMAP to identify SLAs and states that the role of potential SLAs should be considered within the context of the wider framework of designations in Wales, namely National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coasts, registered Landscapes of Historic Interest, and World Heritage Sites.
- 2.2.12. It indicates that local planning authorities may designate, at their discretion, areas of landscape importance within their administrative boundaries with a local landscape designation (i.e. SLAs). SLAs may be included in an LDP to identify areas where there is justification to apply an extra level of landscape protection through special landscape policies. Some authorities may consider that their landscapes can be managed more effectively by adopting a dual approach to landscape management. In a dual approach, all landscapes will be underpinned equally by LANDMAP, but in addition to this, landscapes of high local importance will be specifically identified as SLAs with additional guidance being produced for these key landscapes.

2.2.13. The Guidance Note advises that the key issue for each local planning authority is whether to apply an SLA designation and that it is important that the local planning authority makes an individual choice.

2.2.14. It also states that an SLA may be designated for one or more of the following reasons but that the role of the SLA must be clearly aligned with the original need for the SLA in order to fulfil the objective of the designation. It is important that the role of an SLA has been carefully considered in conjunction with what the LPA is aiming to achieve with its other planning and management policies:

- To recognise and protect (through development management) locally valued landscapes important for their distinctive character, qualities and sense of place. To influence positive landscape planning. For example, by producing design guidance to enhance landscape character or to target land management grants towards the conservation of special landscape features recognised within the SLA; and
- To raise understanding and appreciation of the importance of local landscapes by communities, visitors and the wider public.

2.2.15. The Guidance Note states that LANDMAP provides the most detailed evaluated landscape resource for the identification of SLAs and their boundaries and should form the primary resource for underpinning and justifying any SLAs. In addition to LANDMAP, many local planning authorities have their own published strategic-level Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) based upon LANDMAP's spatial framework. The information contained within local LCAs (particularly the Landscape Character Area descriptions) could be used to supplement the LANDMAP data using the best available landscape evidence at both strategic and local scales.

2.2.16. Other evidence that should be used, where possible, to supplement LANDMAP to ensure a robust approach is taken to SLA designation/review, includes:

- The descriptions of Wales's National Seascape Assessment, as well as any local Seascape Character Assessments undertaken at the LPA scale;
- The descriptions of the Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (noting that these relate to historic landscape designations in their own right, so cannot alone justify an additional SLA designation);
- Wales Tranquil Areas Map; and
- CPRE's Night Blight mapping, 200

2.2.17. The Guidance Note outlines the following approach for identifying SLAs. It advises that a pre-requisite to identifying SLAs is a complete LANDMAP study for the LPA; the model is an iterative process, and is likely to vary between authorities dependent on the local rationale for designating areas as SLA; and a mixture of both quantitative analyses of the LANDMAP data and qualitative research based on further evidence and consultation is recommended, with field verification by landscape professionals forming an essential element to the process.

Stage 1: Strategic Criteria for SLA designation

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
Need (e.g. establishing the planning need for SLA designation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the need and purpose of SLA designation: • Areas considered as SLAs must demonstrate a need for this designation that is above and beyond existing planning policies for landscape management and protection. • Within a SLA the conservation value of the visual, ecological, historic, cultural and geological

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	<p>landscape must be the primary consideration or purpose of an SLA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a valid, defensible and clearly justified need for a SLA is paramount to an effective designation. • The SLA designation can be used to raise awareness of the special characteristics, qualities and importance of a locally valued landscape so that it can be promoted as a positive management tool for targeted landscape management guidelines and grant bids. • It can also help raise awareness and recognition for valued landscapes outside those that are nationally designated. • SLA-specific design guidance can be produced to aid planners and developers to promote development that enhances local landscape character, distinctiveness and landscape quality. • Information contained in the SLA 'Statements of Significance' can be used to highlight to decision makers how landscape change can be guided to respect local landscape character and qualities, thereby safeguarding distinctiveness and landscape value whilst allowing appropriate change. • Need for integrity/cohesiveness in areas designated as SLA:

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A SLA will be designated for its intrinsic value; as such the size, scale and boundaries will be determined by the landscape character displaying the values for which it is designated. It must cover more than an individual site or feature, forming a recognisable, coherent area of landscape. The area that is designated must be large enough to make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and planning – and only occur in one location (i.e. a SLA should not consist of several fragmented landscapes separated by land outside of the designation). • It is unlikely that local Landscape Character Areas (LCA) could be directly adopted to define an SLA, as these are defined for a different purpose (i.e. an entire LCA is unlikely to merit SLA designation), however as a general rule SLAs may be of a similar size to LCAs, and could, where appropriate, trace their boundaries in parts to allow for a streamlined approach (this applies similarly to underlying LANDMAP aspect area boundaries). • In some SLAs, a coherent and defensible boundary for an SLA may encompass small parts of the local landscape that does not display the same high landscape importance. It is the prerogative of the LPA to make the decision to include areas of lower landscape importance as long as a clear and defensible justification is

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	made, and can be made at an Inquiry, and they form a minority part of the SLA.
Landscape criteria (e.g. local distinctiveness, landscape quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By definition, a SLA designation usually only applies to areas that are deemed as 'special' in terms of their local landscape character. This reflects both local distinctiveness and sense of place, as well as landscape quality in its own right. • With regard to landscape quality, usually SLAs contribute to important landscape and visual qualities associated with the wider landscape, with characteristic elements intact and in good condition. Exceptions will be those SLAs recognised for their potential for landscape enhancements, but that might not be deemed to be in good landscape condition at the time of designation. • Once agreed, each potential SLA will need to be assessed against the Strategic Criteria in subsequent stages of the process.
Consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining consensus on the need for SLA designation within the LPA's administrative area is a key first step in the process. • Consensus should then be gained internally (i.e. within the planning and policy teams) throughout the main stages of the process. • Establishing a Steering Group to guide and monitor the process would help ensure

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	<p>representative consensus is reached easily and consistently at key points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider public consultation on the Local Development Plan or other Landscape Policy Plans provides the opportunity for wider input into the designation of SLAs.

Stage 2: Establish Broad Search Areas

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
Use LANDMAP	<p>By using GIS to interrogate the classification, evaluation and landscape information for the aspect areas within each LANDMAP layer, a broad picture of areas that might warrant SLA designation will begin to emerge.</p> <p>Relevant information from each LANDMAP Aspect includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape characteristics Qualities Features Evaluation & evaluation criteria Rarity, representativeness within authority <p>Because of the large number of aspect areas likely to be found within any LPA area across the five aspects it is helpful to use GIS to interrogate the evaluations by using a process called 'unioning'. The unioning process is a geometric intersection, or overlay of two</p>

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	<p>or more spatial datasets, that retains the features from all of the original, source GIS files and creates a new polygon dataset. Through this process broad SLA search areas can be identified.</p> <p>Once Broad Search Areas have been identified using LANDMAP, the results should be shared with planning/landscape professionals within the LPA, (for example a SLA Steering Group for the duration of the project may be helpful) to gain consensus. This will provide early verification of the LANDMAP-based Broad Search Areas as well as pin-point locations that may warrant further investigation through the use of other available baseline evidence.</p>
Use further available evidence	<p>To ensure robustness at each stage in the process, the Broad Search Areas identified using the LANDMAP process should be further refined using other available baseline evidence, including in particular the local Landscape Character Assessment, if available.</p> <p>Other available evidence may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seascape Character Assessment • Register of Historic Landscapes etc.

Stage 3: Establish Specific Special Landscape Areas

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
Field verification	<p>A thorough field verification exercise by landscape professionals should form an essential element of the SLA identification and review process. Field work should be systematic, seeking to visit key locations within each of the Broad Search Areas identified under Stage 2 to refine them down to potential, individual SLAs.</p> <p>Field survey record sheets should be developed to ensure a consistent approach is followed – with a particular focus on assessing each potential SLA against the Strategic Criteria developed under Stage 1.</p> <p>Field surveyors should use an Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 basemap to make annotations and suggested boundaries for the individual SLAs (following clearly decipherable features on the map, such as roads, rivers, field boundaries).</p> <p>Photographs that provide an accurate representation of the landscape of proposed SLAs should be taken and their locations recorded using OS grid references (a GPS handset is helpful for this purpose).</p> <p>Following the field work exercise, individual SLAs should have been identified, to be further refined under the next task.</p>
Boundary definition	<p>SLA boundaries should be precisely drawn based upon the information gathered to date (particularly</p>

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	<p>map-based annotations made in the field) and professional judgement.</p> <p>They should be drawn to coincide with permanent physical features that are identifiable on the ground and can be clearly mapped (e.g. roads, rivers, field boundaries or topographical features).</p> <p>If boundaries can coincide with component LANDMAP aspect areas or Landscape /Seascape Character Areas this will be beneficial (to provide a 'nested' approach), although this should not be an overriding factor in their identification (i.e. the SLAs should be fit for their own purpose).</p> <p>SLAs will not include landscapes already nationally designated as National Park or AONB, but may include other environmental designations (e.g. SSSIs, SPAs, SACs).</p> <p>Where other designations exist within the SLA boundaries, the LPA may find it useful for the Statement of Significance to include reference to these.</p> <p>Where a SLA boundary meets a local planning authority boundary, a consensus between the two authorities on the designation of the SLA should be sought. This promotes regional consistency of local landscape designations.</p>
Evaluation of proposed SLAs	Once the proposed individual SLAs have been identified, and boundaries drawn, further evaluation against the Strategic Criteria should take place to

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
against Strategic Criteria	double check that the proposed SLAs are robust and backed up by adequate evidence against each criteria. It is also useful to consult with key staff members within the LPA on the proposed set of individual SLAs (e.g. through a SLA Steering Group if established) to again assure consensus. Any final boundary refinements should be made at this stage.
Consider relationship with existing SLAs and other designations (if relevant)	In identifying SLAs, consensus with or divergence from, existing SLAs may occur. The purpose of the review of a local landscape designation is to re-examine the case for SLAs in the context of updated and consistent LANDMAP information. Existing SLAs cannot be automatically lifted into a new LDP. A review of existing SLAs is recommended for inclusion in a LDP.

Stage 4: Statement of Value & Significance

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
Written justification of the SLA against Strategic Criteria	<p>This is the primary information source for designated SLAs.</p> <p>All SLAs for a local authority area should be mapped in a GIS environment and a technical report should draw together all the Statements for the identified SLAs.</p> <p>The report should also clearly set out the methodology undertaken to identify SLAs in the authority area (including definitions and sources of</p>

Criteria for Assessment	Guidance
	<p>evidence used to assess landscapes against the Strategic Criteria).</p> <p>The statement for each SLA should be clear and easily convey the landscape's special characteristics, qualities and local value, thereby making it easily understood by planning officers, developers and land managers.</p>
Description of special qualities and features	Description of special qualities and features.
(Optional): Development management / landscape guidance	Some LPAs may wish to take the process further than the SLA Statements of Value & Significance, for example through the production of more detailed development management / landscape guidance tailored to each SLA. This will provide a further tool in ensuring that any new development or landscape enhancements respect the special qualities and features of the locally designated landscape.

2.3. Local Policy and Guidance

NPT LDP 2011 – 2026

- 2.3.1. The NPT LDP (2011-2026) recognises that NPT has a variety of distinctive and contrasting landscapes and seascapes and states that the NPT LANDMAP Landscape Assessment evaluated approximately half of the County Borough area as 'high' or 'outstanding' for its geological landscapes, much of the visual and sensory aspect layer as 'moderate' or of local importance with 'high' values applied to plateau and coastal areas, there are

'high and 'outstanding' values for landscape habitats and the majority of the County Borough is 'high' or 'outstanding' in terms of its cultural aspect layer.

- 2.3.2. The supporting text to Strategic Policy 14 'The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast' notes that whilst a detailed study has been undertaken of the County Borough's landscapes which recommends areas which should be specifically protected for their landscape value or to prevent the coalescence of settlements (i.e. SLAs and Green Wedges), the strategy aims to protect all areas of countryside where appropriate. The strategic policy aims to conserve the County Borough's countryside, landscapes and undeveloped coast, support rural enterprise including tourism and leisure activities and concentrate development in sustainable locations.

Policy SP14 The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast'

- 2.3.3. Policy SP14 states that the countryside and the undeveloped coast, including landscapes, seascapes and agricultural land, will be protected and where feasible enhanced through the following measures:

1. The protection of the open countryside through the control of inappropriate development outside settlement limits;
2. The protection of the undeveloped coast through the control of inappropriate development;
3. The designation and protection of SLAs;
4. The designation and protection of Green Wedges.

Policy EN2 SLAs'

- 2.3.4. Policy EN2 'SLA's' provides the detailed policy with regards to SLAs. It states that in order to protect areas of high landscape quality, the following SLAs are designated:

- EN2/1: Mynydd y Garth
- EN2/2: Dulais Valley
- EN2/3: Vale of Neath
- EN2/4: Margam

- EN2/5: Mynydd y Gelli
- EN2/6: Foel Trawsant

- 2.3.5. And that development within SLAs will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impacts on the features and characteristics for which the SLA has been designated.
- 2.3.6. The supporting text (Paragraphs 5.3.9-5.3.14) note that SLAs have been identified using the SLA Designation Criteria in the Countryside Council for Wales Guidance Note 1 (2008), utilising LANDMAP data. This has resulted in the identification of six SLAs, designated to protect areas of high landscape quality. While development is not precluded within the SLAs, these areas will be protected as far as possible from any development that would harm their distinctive features or characteristics. Applications for developments within these areas will thus have to conform to high design standards.
- 2.3.7. It is anticipated that mineral and renewable energy developments are likely to be the predominant types of proposal that could have significant impacts. In the case of renewable energy developments, it will need to be demonstrated that component elements have been designed and sited to minimise visual intrusion and adverse effects on the landscape, while mineral developments will be expected to provide screening or bunding during the operational phase and a site restoration scheme which returns the landscape as far as practicable to its original form and appearance on completion of the works.
- 2.3.8. In the case of single buildings, generally these should be located within an existing building curtilage, farm complex or other group of buildings or immediately adjacent to a settlement limit wherever possible. In the case of groups of new buildings, these should be located adjacent to the settlement limit where appropriate, and the scale, form and design of the proposed development should conserve and where possible enhance the distinctive or characteristic features of the SLA.
- 2.3.9. Where approved, all developments will be expected to meet the highest design standards including use of appropriate materials and landscaping, careful attention to siting and retention as far as possible of important

landscape features such as field boundaries, walls, hedges and trees to conserve and/or enhance the special qualities for which the SLA has been designated.

Policy BE1 'Design'

- 2.3.10. NPT LDP Policy BE1 Design is a general design policy for all new developments. It recognises that the design of new development has a major influence on the conservation and enhancement of the character of an area and on people's quality of life. The policy addresses concerns raised about dereliction and loss of character and Plan objectives concerning the built and natural heritage of the County Borough. It aims to ensure that development proposals will complement and enhance the area generally, including its arterial gateways, townscapes, landscape and seascape, and retain existing character where this is desirable.
- 2.3.11. The Policy recognises that in order to make the best use of available land, developments should be designed where possible to maximise the accommodation provided while remaining in keeping with the surrounding area. Where appropriate, new developments will be required to demonstrate how they connect to existing, nearby communities.
- 2.3.12. The supporting text notes that good design includes paying regard to general amenity as well as appearance, accessibility and resource use. Detailed building design, from overall massing to finishing materials, plays an important role and should take account of and enhance the site's surroundings including other buildings, open spaces and topography. Landscaping has an important effect and is a significant part of the overall design process.
- 2.3.13. The Policy states that all development proposals will be expected to demonstrate high quality design which fully takes into account the natural, historic and built environmental context and contributes to the creation of attractive, sustainable places. Proposals will only be permitted where all of the following criteria, where relevant, are satisfied:

1. It complements and enhances the character and appearance of the site, building or area in terms of siting, appearance, scale, height, massing and elevation treatment;
2. It respects the context of the site and its place within the local landscape, including its impact on the important arterial gateways into the County Borough, its effects on townscape and the local historic and cultural heritage and it takes account of the site topography and prominent skylines or ridges;
3. It utilises materials appropriate to its surroundings and incorporates hard and soft landscaping and screening where appropriate;
4. It would not have a significant adverse impact on highway safety, the amenity of occupiers of adjacent land or the community;
5. Important local features (including buildings, amenity areas, green spaces and green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecological connectivity) are retained and enhanced as far as possible;
6. It achieves and creates attractive, safe places and public spaces, taking account of 'Secured by Design' principles (including where appropriate natural surveillance, visibility, well-lit environments and areas of public movement);
7. It plays a full role in achieving and enhancing an integrated transport and communications network promoting the interests of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and ensures linkages with the existing surrounding community;
8. It uses resources, including land and energy, as efficiently as possible through:
 - (a) Making the best and most efficient use of the land available through being of appropriate density taking into account the character and appearance of the area, normally a minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area or a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare in the Valleys Strategy Area;

- (b) The layout and form of the development does not preclude the reasonable use of other adjacent land;
 - (c) Developing brownfield land in preference to greenfield land where possible;
 - (d) Minimising building exposure while maximising solar gain.
9. Its drainage systems are designed to limit surface water run-of and food risk and prevent pollution;
 10. The layout and design of the development achieves inclusive design by ensuring barrier free environments, allowing access by all and making full provision for people with disabilities

2.4. NPT Supplementary Planning Guidance

Landscape and Seascape Supplementary Planning Guidance (2018)

- 2.4.1. The Landscape and Seascape Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) provides information and guidance setting out the expectations on all development proposals to protect and enhance all landscapes and seascapes. It also outlines the variety of landscapes and seascapes relevant to NPT and sets out the measures that will be taken through the planning system to meet the objectives set out in the LDP policies.

LANDMAP : Natural Resources Wales / LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline

- 2.4.2. The LANDMAP (Landscape Assessment and Decision-Making Process) Information System is a complete all-Wales GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.
- 2.4.3. This approach comprises five spatially related datasets known as aspect topic layers as follows:

- Geological Landscape: this is the study of the geology, geomorphology and hydrology of the area.
- Landscape Habitats: looks at the distribution of vegetation and habitats and the basis for landscape ecology.
- Visual & Sensory: this aspect identifies those landscape qualities that are perceived through the senses. It deals with the individual physical attributes of landform and land cover, as well as their visual patterns of distribution and sensory characteristics, and the relationships between them in a particular area.
- Historic Landscape: focuses on how archaeological and historical sites relate to each other and to the surrounding landscape.
- Cultural Landscape: this considers the relationship that exists between people and places; how people have given meaning to places, how the landscape has shaped their actions and their actions have shaped the landscape

2.4.4. For each of these aspect topic layers, discrete geographical units known as aspect areas are identified and mapped and a data set is developed that includes a description classification and evaluation of quality. In addition, other, non-evaluated data sets are developed including a Form and Function layer (i.e. landscape type and use) together with the carrying out of a Public Perception Study. This latter exercise brings together the findings from focus group and questionnaire exercises.

2.4.5. The aspect topic layers are evaluated as follows:

- Outstanding: of international or national importance
- High: of regional or county importance
- Moderate: of local importance
- Low: of little or no importance
- Unassessed/unknown: insufficient information exists to evaluate the area.

- 2.4.6. The evaluation criteria numbers used on the proformas relate to the specific LANDMAP sub criteria for each aspect layer and are as shown in the table below. For more detailed information on LANDMAP refer to Natural Resources Wales / LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline

NPT LANDMAP: Landscape Assessment (2004)

- 2.4.7. The NPT LANDMAP Assessment was commissioned by NPTCBC and CCW (now NRW) and was completed and published in late 2004. The Assessment provided detailed analysis of the landscapes of all areas of the County Borough, generated evaluated aspect areas for the LANDMAP datasets and included contextual information on landscape form and function. Included within the Assessment were a public perception study and a full landscape assessment bringing together all the evaluated aspect information and derived landscape character areas.
- 2.4.8. At the time of preparing the LDP, whilst there had been some changes affecting some of the aspect areas since the Assessment was completed (resulting from new developments and changes in forestry and agricultural land management practices etc.), it was considered that these have had a relatively minor impact on the overall landscape character within the County Borough and the NPT LANDMAP Assessment remained a useful resource to help inform the evaluation of landscape impacts of proposals.
- 2.4.9. The first part of the report outlines the main characteristics of the landscape within NPT under each aspect heading and contains summary maps for each aspect. The second part describes and evaluates each landscape character area in detail.

NRW National Landscape Character Areas

- 2.4.10. NRW have defined National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales. Using LANDMAP data, 48 NLCAs have been identified across Wales with descriptive profiles highlighting what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics.

2.4.11. NPT falls within two of the NLCAs, NLCA 37: South Wales Valleys and NLCA 38: Swansea Bay. The full landscape descriptions for these two NLCAs are available on the NRW website.

NPT Landscape Advice Report (2011)

2.4.12. To inform the LDP, NPT commissioned Landscape Advice Report in order to provide background and evidence-based information. The report covered four main issues:

1. The identification of areas of countryside where wind farms, coal, aggregates and stone extraction and waste landfill would not be acceptable;
2. The identification of areas of countryside as SLAs, with justification;
3. The assessment of existing areas designated as Green Wedges in the former Unitary Development Plan (UDP), with recommendations for amendments and new areas as appropriate; and
4. The assessment of the appropriate distance for mineral buffer zones around settlements or designated landscape features that should be protected.

2.4.13. In relation to issue 1, the report recommended refinements to the then TAN8(7) Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) to define the areas considered most appropriate for wind farm developments. The refined SSAs were subsequently discussed and evaluated through the LDP Examination in Public process and finalised in the adopted LDP. Similarly, recommendations were made in relation to areas considered inappropriate for mineral extraction, which informed the LDP process.

2.4.14. The study also included detailed analysis using LANDMAP data in order to identify areas appropriate for designation as SLAs (issue 2) and set out the primary landscape qualities and features and key policy and management issues for each identified area.

2.4.15. In relation to the Green Wedges (issue 3), the pre-existing UDP Green Wedges were taken as a starting point and recommendations for amendments

made following detailed analysis and ground truthing, which informed the final boundaries adopted through the LDP process.

2.4.16. Mineral buffer zones (issue 4) were approached similarly, with recommendations made that were implemented through inclusion within the adopted LDP.

Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

2.4.17. The most important and best-surviving historic landscapes in Wales are identified in the 'Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales'. There are two Registered Historic Landscapes within (or partly within) NPT:

- 'Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows' Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest [Cadw Ref HLW(MGI)1]; and
- 'Mynydd Margam' Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest [Cadw Ref HLW(WGI/MGI)2](9).

2.4.18. Specific guidance on the management and conservation of these areas within the planning process has been published by Cadw (Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process (2nd Edition).

3. Methodology

3.0.1. The Council will use/ has used the following methodology to address landscape considerations as part of the preparation of the RLDP:

- Task A: Review existing SLAs to determine whether they remain fit for purpose
- Task B: Candidate Sites Assessment
- Task C: Identification of new SLA

3.0.2. Further information in relation to each task is provided below. During the preparation of this Document, the Council consulted Swansea Council on the proposed methodology and no concerns were raised.

3.1. Task A: Review existing SLAs to determine whether they remain fit for purpose

For Preferred Strategy:

3.1.1. For Preferred Strategy the Council will undertake a high-level desk-based review assessment of the existing SLAs in the current NPT LDP.

3.1.2. To inform the current LDP, the Council appointed TACP Environmental Consultants to provide detailed landscape advice including an assessment of the need of, and justification for, the identification of areas of countryside as SLAs and the identification of those areas of concern. As part of the preparation for the RLDP Preferred Strategy, the Council will review this document.

3.1.3. We will also look at planning permissions which have been granted within the SLAs and use our local knowledge to review the extent to which there have been changes within the existing SLAs.

For Deposit:

3.1.4. The Council will address any comments raised as part of the Preferred Strategy consultation with regards to the existing SLA designations and undertake further review where necessary.

3.2. Task B: Candidate Site Assessment

For Preferred Strategy:

- 3.2.1. For Preferred Strategy the Council will identify Candidate Sites within the existing SLAs.
- 3.2.2. The Council will also assess all sites as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) which includes the following landscape indicators:

Figure 2: SA Objective 13: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast Criterion

SA Objective 13: Proximity to SLA⁹ or Heritage Coast	
<u>Criteria 13(a): Proximity to SLA10 or Heritage Coast</u>	
<i>Sustainability implications:</i>	
PPW11 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.	
Table C.62: Proximity to SLA10 or Heritage Coast	
Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from SLA or Heritage Coast	++-
Within 1km - 2km of SLA or Heritage Coast	
Within 1km of SLA or Heritage Coast	-
Site within SLA or Heritage Coast	--

Table C.63: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	
Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	++-
Within 1km-2km of Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	
Within 1km of National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	--

Table C.64: Visual Amenity Impacts	
Description	Symbol
No evidence of potential adverse visual amenity impact	0
Evidence of potential minor adverse visual amenity impact	
Evidence of potential major adverse visual amenity impact	--

Table C.65: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact

Description	Symbol
Proposal would integrate strongly with existing settlement structure	++-
Proposal likely to integrate with existing settlement structure	
Proposal detached from existing settlements or likely to result incoalescence (minor impact)	-
Proposal detached from existing settlements or likely to result incoalescence (major impact)	--

Table C.66: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)

Description	Symbol
No Change from individual site integration score	Same scoring as Individual Site Integration/Coalescence/separation Impact -
Allocation of site will have a cumulative impact	Relevant Comment/scoring

3.2.3. The Council will also signpost where additional work is needed, for example where Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments will be required.

3.2.4. For any key sites the Council identifies and presents as part of the Preferred Strategy document, if these are located within or adjoining SLA, the Council will review the LANDMAP criteria for these sites.

For Deposit:

3.2.5. For all sites proposed to be allocated in the NPT RLDP the Council within or adjoining SLA, the Council will assess the sites with regards to the criteria within LANDMAP.

3.2.6. The Council will also identify the extent to which any further work is required and ask site promoters to work with the Council to complete this work (for example Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments). The Council will then appoint an independent consultant to review the findings of this work.

3.3. Task C: Identification of New SLA

3.3.1. This Task will be completed for the Deposit consultation.

3.3.2. In order to identify any potential new areas for SLA designation, the Council will appoint a consultant to build upon the detailed work undertaken to inform

the current LDP. The Council will work with the Consultant to follow the methodology identified by NRW in their Guidance Note as outlined in Chapter 2.

4. Task A: Review existing SLAs to determine fit for purpose

- 4.0.1. As detailed in the Methodology above, for Preferred Strategy the Council has undertaken a high-level desk-based review assessment of the existing SLAs in the current NPT LDP.
- 4.0.2. This has incorporated a review of the TCAP Environmental Consultants' work which was undertaken to inform the current LDP. This included an assessment of the need of, and justification for, the identification of areas of countryside as SLAs and the identification of those areas of concern. It has also incorporated a review of planning permissions granted within the SLAs and local knowledge of the extent to which there have been changes within the existing SLAs.
- 4.0.3. For Deposit, the Council will address any comments raised as part of the Preferred Strategy consultation with regards to the existing SLA designations and undertake further review where necessary.

4.1. Background

- 4.1.1. NPT has a wide range of landscape types, forms and features incorporating a number of entirely different character types. The area ranges in height from sea level at Swansea Bay to about 600m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) near Glynneath. From the coastal plain, the land rises dramatically to over 200m AOD along the scarp slope that provides the backdrop to the more densely developed coastal belt. Behind, the majority of the County Borough is between 250-600m AOD, giving it an upland or semi-upland character.
- 4.1.2. The plateau areas are deeply incised by five main river valleys, formed as a result of geological faulting and glacial erosion, which drain in a generally south westerly direction towards the coast. Each valley has its own distinct character, varying from deep and steep sided to shallower and more meandering as they reach the coast, with estuaries associated with the rivers Neath, Afan and Kenfig. Much of the undeveloped coastline retains extensive

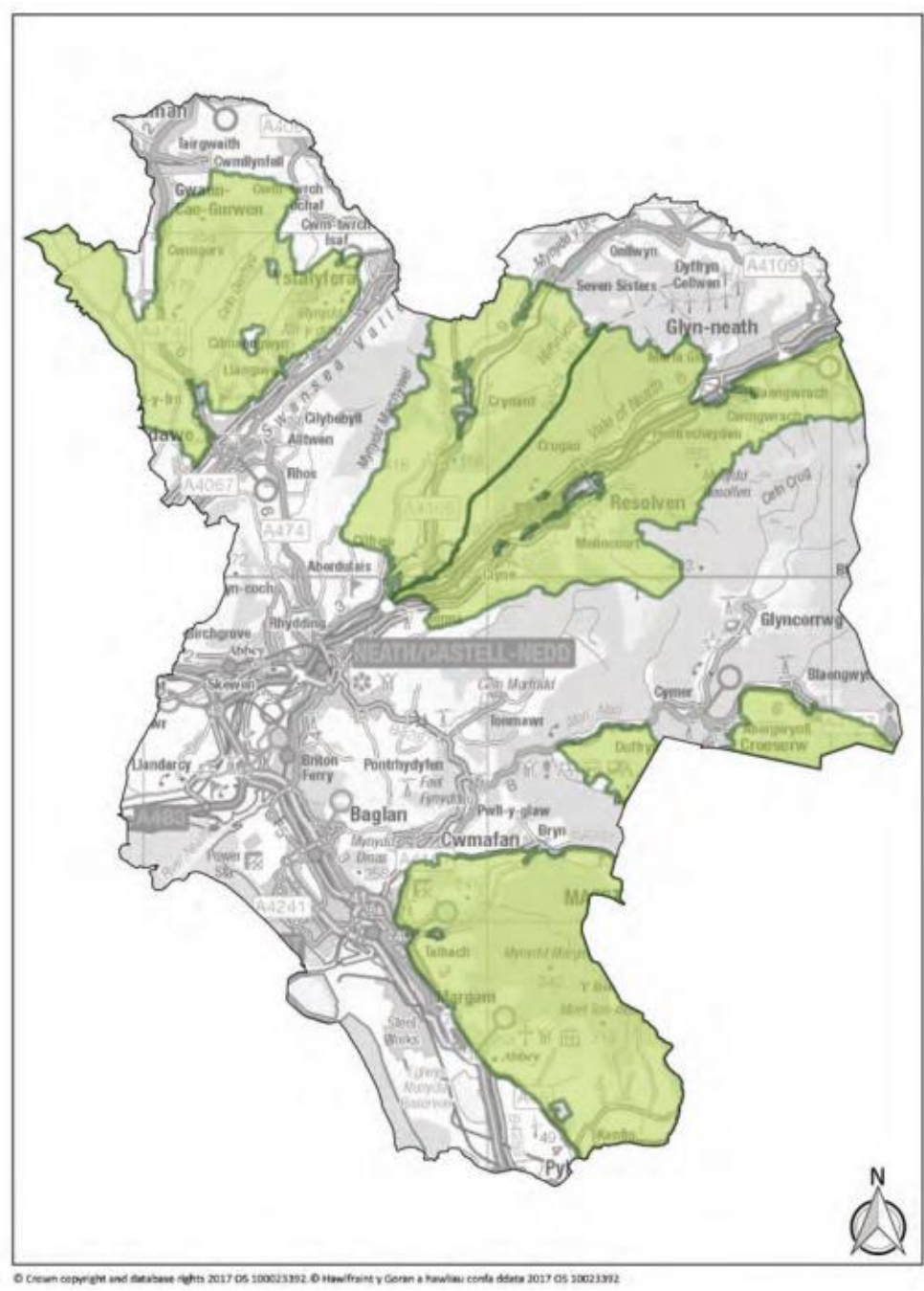
dune systems, but these have been broken up by areas of development elsewhere.

4.1.3. Some 43% of the County Borough is forested, much of it is extensive upland plantations, while the main agricultural activity is pasture, with extensive grazing on the upland commons, with limited arable production mostly confined to the extreme south of the area around Margam. Mining and heavy industry has had a major impact in the past, with steel making, opencast mining and quarrying still continuing. Canals, docks, railways and major road routes tend to be concentrated along the coastal belt. The settlement pattern reflects this historic emphasis, with major centres of population being concentrated along the coast.

4.1.4. The current LDP designates the following 6 areas of the county borough as SLAs:

- EN2/1: Mynydd y Garth
- EN2/2: Dulais Valley
- EN2/3: Vale of Neath
- EN2/4: Margam
- EN2/5: Mynydd y Gelli
- EN2/6: Foel Trawsnant

Figure 3: SLAs within NPT



4.2. Planning Permission Review

4.2.1. The Tables below details key planning permissions with regards to potential landscape impacts approved since the beginning of the Plan period within the SLAs:

Table 1: EN2/1 Mynydd y Garth

Address	Application	Assessment
Perthi Gwynion Farm, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe	Planning permission P2012/0567 approved October 2012 for the erection of one 27.0m high wind turbine (20.0m to hub) with ancillary access track, hard stand and cable run.	Two wind turbines in location – minor impact
East Pit, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	Outline planning permission P2012/1073 granted June 2015 for development comprising leisure facilities to include: a 120-bedroom hotel, 78 holiday lodges, a campsite, visitors centre, dive centre with ancillary dive centre shop, parking provision, recreational space, internal access routes, services and drainage provision; and associated works including access, footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways, landscaping and layout details.	Not implemented, expired.
The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe	Reserved matters P2013/0312 granted August 2013 for replacement dwelling.	Replacement dwelling – minimal impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Land to the rear of Gwrhyd Road, Rhydyfro	Planning permission P2014/1046 granted March 2015 for the retention and completion of stable block, hay store and hardstanding plus means of enclosure and gates.	Stable only – minimal impact.
Mynydd y Gwrhyd North of Pontardawe east of Cwmgors	Planning permission P2015/0110 approved November 2015 for engineering works to facilitate highway improvements, in order to facilitate access for construction vehicles in association with the construction of 2 no. wind turbines proposed under planning application reference P2014/0402	Road construction only – minimal impact
Land to the north of Perthigwynion Farm, Rhydyfro	Planning permission P2015/0915 approved June 2016 for the erection of a single wind turbine (Height to tip 86.5m) and ancillary works including control cabinet, access track and temporary lay down area.	Two wind turbines in location – minimal impact
Tyn y Coed Cae Farm, Pontardawe Road, Pontardawe	Planning permission P2015/0996 approved December 2015 for steel framed agricultural building for storage of agricultural machinery and housing of sheep.	Agricultural building near existing farm – minimal impact.
Gellilwca Fawr Farm, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe	Planning permission P2015/1066 approved June 2016 for construction of a detached building for use as a horse-riding arena for the schooling of horses.	Building near existing farm buildings – minor impact.
Brynglas Retreat, King Edward Road, Tairgwaith	Planning permission P2019/0418 approved June 2019 for change of use of land to campsite including the siting of 1 wooden clad static	Only part of the site is within SLA – minimal impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
	caravan and the provision of 3 pitches for touring campervans/caravans plus associated works.	
Land To The West Of Cwmgors On Mynydd Uchaf Adjoining Community Wind Turbines	Planning permission P2020/0408 approved November 2020 for solar farm.	The site is actually to the east of Cwmgors. Open hilltop/ moorland. Potential impact but small area relative to wider landscape context. Not yet constructed. Adjacent windfarm
106 Graig Road, Godre'r Graig	Outline planning permission P2014/0923 approved December 2014 for dwelling.	History of unimplemented outline consents. Not implemented.
The Bungalow, Baran Road, Pontardawe	Planning permission P2013/0312 approved August 2013 for detached dwelling and garage.	Replacement dwelling. Minor impact.
Land south of Baran Road, Rhydyfro	Prior approval P2013/0645 determined to not be required August 2013 for agricultural building.	Replacement dwelling – minor impact
Hafod Wennol Farm, Rhydyfro	Prior approval P2012/0883 determined to not be required October 2012 for agricultural building. Prior approval P2015/1053 determined to not be required December 2015 for agricultural building.	Agricultural building – prior notification. Minor impact.
Blaen Egel Fawr Farm, Pontardawe	Prior approval P2023/0412 determined to not be required June 2023 for agricultural storage building.	Agricultural building prior notification – minor impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Land at Gwrhyd Quarry, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe	Prior notification P2022/0790 determined to not be required December 2022 for the construction of a new saw shed building.	Shed building prior notification – minor impact.

Table 2: EN2/2 Dulais Valley

Address	Application	Assessment
Cilfrew Hotel, Main Road, Cilfrew	Reserved matters (P2011/0654) granted August 2012 for 7 dwellings.	Majority of the site is not located within SLA. Redevelopment of existing site. Minor impact.
Cilfrew Hotel, Main Road, Cilfrew	Planning permission P2014/0044 granted November 2014 for the retention and completion of two pairs of semi-detached dwellings and construction of two detached dwellings.	Majority of the site is not within SLA. Minor impact.
Unit 1 Ynysygerwn Avenue, Aberdulais	Planning permission P2015/0748 granted March 2016 for engineering operations to facilitate the use of land at the rear of Groundhog for storage and carparking including retaining works, hardstanding and drainage works.	Significant extension of industrial area into the SLA but not prominent in the wider area. Minimal impact in wider SLA context.
Brynrhug, Brynawel, Crynant	Planning permission P2016/0326 granted April 2018 for the retention and completion of 22k micro hydro-electric installation.	Small scheme. Minimal impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Tan y Rhiw Farm, Cilfrew	Planning permission P2011/0773 approved March 2012 for proposed hydro-electric scheme . Planning permission P2013/0395 approved January 2014 for construction of new weir, intake chamber, pipeline, outfall, turbine house, access track and associated engineering works to facilitate the generation of hydro-electric power.	Very small building. Minimal impact.
Land adjacent to Dynevor House, Main Road, Cilfrew	Planning permission P2012/0085 approved March 2012 for detached dwelling.	Majority of the site is not located within SLA. Minor impact.
Plot adjacent to 27 Dulais Road, Seven Sisters	Planning permission P2015/0192 granted August 2015 for bungalow.	Majority of the site is not located within SLA. Minor impact.
Land at Brynawel Farm, Crynant	Planning permission P2017/0293 granted July 2017 for installation of 21m high lattice mast, supporting 2 antenna, 2 300mm dishes, plus associated ground-based equipment cabinets and ancillary development.	Single mast. Minimal impact
Bryncoed House, Treforgan	Planning permission P2017/1006 approved April 2020 for demolition of existing care home and construction of 5 no. Dwellings.	Majority of the site is located within the settlement limit. Minor impact.
Garden City Garage, Dulais Road, Seven Sisters	Planning permission P2019/5409 approved October 2019 for construction of a workshop	New building within existing garage site. Minimal impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Plot 1 Treforgan Road, Treforgan	Planning permission P2022/0492 approved July 2023 for detached dwelling.	Single dwelling. Minimal impact
Brynryg Farm, Brynawel	Planning permission P2022/0984 approved for erection of an anemometer mast.	Single mast. Minimal impact.
Site of Bethany Chapel, Church Road, Seven Sisters	Outline planning permission P2018/0719 approved October 2018 for detached dwelling.	Single dwelling replacing chapel. Minimal impact.
28 Dulais Road, Seven Sister	Outline planning permission P2019/5662 approved January 2020 for dwelling.	Single dwelling. Minimal impact.
Land opposite Maes y Deri, Pleasant Hill, Cilfrew	Planning permission P2017/0459 granted July 2017 for the retention and completion of amended house type and detached garage.	Retention and completion of single dwelling. Minimal impact.
Cilfrew AGI, Aberdulais	Planning permission P2017/0533 granted July 2017 for installation of single storey modular portacabin for onsite staff amenity facilities.	Existing AGI site. Minimal impact.
Gwaun Iarll Farm, Seven Sisters	Prior notification P2019/5500 determined to not be required November 2019 for agricultural storage building.	Agricultural building on existing farm. Minimal impact.
Land at Cefn yr Allt, Aberdulais	Reserved matters application P2018/0426 granted June 2019 for three dwellings.	Relatively small area of SLA development. Houses replacing existing buildings on site. Minimal impact in wider SLA context.

Table 3: EN2/3 Vale of Neath

Address	Application	Assessment
Land at Hendre Fawr Farm, Rhigos	Planning permission P2013/0635 approved July 2014 for 11.6 MW Solar Array.	Solar farm on former opencast area. Between 1965 and 1973 the site was in operation as an open cast quarry but has since been restored to agricultural use. To the south of the site is a restored former quarry site now in use for forestry and to the west of the site is an extant opencast quarry. Potential significant impact on SLA. Further work required in order to understand impact on SLA.
33 Parish Road, Blaengwrach	Planning permission P2014/0233 approved November 2014 for dwelling.	Replacement dwelling between others. Mostly not in SLA. Minor impact.
Cwmgwrach Forest	Retrospective planning permission P2014/0826 approved June 2015 for the erection and operation of a coal washing plant.	Unity Mine now closed. Not significant in wider SLA. Further work required in order to understand whether buildings

Address	Application	Assessment
		remain and the extent of hardstanding on site. Potential boundary amendment required.
Melin Court Windfarm, Resolven	Planning permission P2014/0883 approved May 2018 for 5 wind turbines.	Not implemented. Non-material amendment approved June 2021. Variation of Conditions approved August 2020 and May 2023.
Land south of Neath Road, Abergarwed	Planning permission P2014/1193 approved January 2016 for detached barn (Use Class B8), plus retention of engineering operation for the importation of inert material.	Not implemented.
Land to the west of Resolven Gauging Station and Weir, Resolven	Planning permission P2015/1051 granted January 2016 for the proposed construction of a 460m access track and vehicle turning area plus associated engineering works.	Track adjacent to dual carriageway. Minimal impact.
Lane from B4242 at Pentrecwyda to Craig Clwyd Telecommunication Exchange, Resolven	Planning permission P2017/0751 approved October 2017 for 30m mast.	Single mast. Minimal impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Land adjacent to The Rise, Resolven	Planning permission P2018/0039 approved May 2018 for dwelling.	Near to existing dwellings/ group. Minimal impact.
Ysgol Gynradd Clun Letty, Clyne	Planning permission P2018/0301 approved June 2019 for demolition of existing school buildings and erection of 26 dwellings.	Mostly not within the SLA. Redevelopment of existing site. Minimal impact.
Land adjacent to 1 Neath Road, Abergarwed	Planning permission P2019/5153 approved August 2019 for dwelling.	Mostly not SLA. Infill within settlement limits. Minimal impact.
Plot 1 Glannant Place, Cwmngwrach	Planning permission P2021/1206 approved February 2022 for dwelling.	Effectively within settlement but outside of settlement limit. Further work required in order to understand whether settlement boundary amendment would be appropriate. Minimal impact.
37 Parish Road, Blaengwrach	Planning permission P2022/0495 approved August 2022 for dwelling.	Infill development. Minor impact.
Wenallt Farm	Planning permission P2022/0625 approved December 2022 for the change of use to provide a 12 pitch campsite.	Campsite only partly within SLA. Minimal impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Land adjacent to 10 Glynneath Road, Resolven	Outline planning permission P2011/0326 approved October 2011 for 2 dwellings.	Two dwellings in SLA but in a gap in a row of dwellings. Minimal impact.
Parc Pelenna, Fairyland Road, Tonna	Outline planning permission P2012/0354 approved August 2014 for 32 holiday homes.	History of unimplemented permissions. Not developed.
Land between 4 Forest View and 100 Neath Road, Resolven	Planning permission P2022/0491 approved May 2023 5 dwellings. Outline planning permission P2019/0302 approved December 2019 for construction of 5 dwellings.	Mostly not within SLA. Between dwellings. Minimal impact.
Glyn Gwilym Farm	Outline planning permission P2020/0972 approved August 2021 for rural enterprise dwelling.	Adjacent to existing farm. Minimal impact.
37 Parish Road, Blaengwrach	Outline planning permission P2021/0019 approved February 2021 for detached dwelling.	Infill development. Minimal impact.
Land Adjacent To Neath Road, Resolven	Planning permission P2023/0736 approved February 2024 for new process building and treatment tanks as part of a replacement active mine water treatment scheme.	Replacement building adjacent to road. Minimal impact.
Land at Walters Avenue, Maesgwyn	Lawful development certificate P2017/0464 issued August 2017 for an existing use of land for (a) motor vehicle testing, driver training and associated activities; and (b) motor care and motorcycle racing including trails of speed, and practicing for these activities.	Use only. Minor impact.

Address	Application	Assessment
Brynychwyth Farm, Fairyland Road, Tonna	Prior notification P2019/0241 determined to not be required March 2019 for agricultural building.	Farm building. Minor impact.

Table 4: EN2/4 Margam

Address	Application	Assessment
Land at Varteg Row, Bryn	Number of planning permissions approved for dwellings.	Nearly all not in SLA/ within settlement limit.
Pantymoch Farm, Penycae	Planning permission P2014/0567 approved October 2014 for solar farm.	Significant impact. Significant solar farm in a prominent location within SLA. Noticeable from Port Talbot and the M4. In combination effect with Brombil windfarm P2012/0638.
Pantymoch Farm Lane from Pen y Cae Road to Pen y Lan Cottage, Pen y Cae, Port Talbot	Planning permission P2015/1011 granted February 2016 for internal access roads to serve solar farm.	See above. Access roads not significant impact in themselves.
Land at Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam	Planning permission P2012/0638 allowed at appeal in May 2015 for the erection of 5 wind turbines.	Four wind turbines built. Prominent location and in combination effects when seen from M4 in combination

Address	Application	Assessment
		with solar farm above (granted P2014/0567).
Brombil Farm Telecommunication Mast, Brombil Access Road, Margam	Prior notification P2021/1045 determined to not be required for the removal of 1 existing 15m high monopole, associated antennas and 4 equipment cabinets to be replaced with 1 new 20m high 5G monopole accommodating 9 new antennas and 1 relocated 600mm dish with 6 new cabinets and associated ancillary works.	Single mast. Minimal impact.
Land adjacent to Cwrt Cerrig, Bryn	Planning permission P2016/0329 approved April 2016 for retention of two barns and construction of new barn.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Foel Trawsant, Bryn	Planning permission P2014/0825 granted November 2021 for the installation of 11 wind turbines.	Access point only. Wind farm is within EN2/6. No impact on EN2/4. See separate EN2/6 entry.
Riverside Stables, Pen y Bryn, Bridgend	Planning permission P2017/0576 approved August 2017 for retention and completion of use of land for the siting of two caravans for a Gypsy family, associated amenity building, hardstanding and improvement of existing access.	Noticeable but wider SLA impact minor.
Cae Hamdden Stud, Heol y Glo, Bryndu	Planning permission P2017/0647 approved September 2017 for formation of an all-weather riding arena and parking/unloading area.	Minor impact in wider SLA.

Address	Application	Assessment
Cae Cwm Dyffryn Bryn, Goytre Road, Bryn	Planning permission P2018/0087 approved February 2018 for agricultural building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Cae Cwm, Dyffryn Road, Bryn	Planning permission P2020/0286 approved June 2020 for agricultural building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Crugwyllt Fach Farm, Margam	Planning permission P2020/0723 approved October 2020 for barn.	Farm building. Minor impact.
Oakfield House, Heol y Glo, Pen y Bryn, Pyle	Planning permission P2021/0412 approved December 2021 for 2 wooden lodges for tourist accommodation.	Two lodges. Minor impact.
Ynys-Y-Gwas Farm, Afan Valley Road, Cwmavon	Planning permission P2021/1165 approved January 2022 for agricultural barn and small workshop.	Farm buildings. Minor impact.
Graig Goch Farm, Ton Mawr from Graig Goch access lane, Margam	Proposed lawful development certificate issued February 2014 for the erection of a single storey detached log cabin.	Log cabin. Minor impact.
Rhianwen Fach Farm, Mynydd Emroch, Port Talbot	Prior notification P2022/0158 determined not to be required March 2022 for general purpose building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Brombil Farm, Margam	Prior notification P2022/0181 Prior Notification determined not to be required March 2022 for agricultural building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Longlands Farm, Pyle	Prior notification P2022/0189 determined not to be required March 2022 for agricultural building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.

Table 5: EN2/5: Mynydd y Gelli

Address	Application	Assessment
Land R/O 1-10 Pen y Wern, Croeserw	Planning permission P2011/0783 approved January 2012 for Community and Enterprise Centre. Planning permission P2013/0029 granted July 2013 for amendment to planning permission.	Not within SLA.

Table 6: EN2/6 Foel Trawsnant

Address	Application	Assessment
Afan Argoed Country Park, Afan Valley Road, Cymmer	Planning permission P2013/0593 granted October 2013 for detached log cabin for holiday let with raised terrace and associated access and parking.	Log cabin. Minor impact.
Afan Argoed Country Park, Afan Valley Road, Cymmer	Planning permission P2020/0832 granted January 2022 for detached building incorporating a bike hire, retail facility to include office, toilet, workshop and classroom.	Adjacent to existing carpark. Minor impact on SLA.
Visitors Centre Afan Argod Country Park, Afan Valley Road, Cymmer	Regulation 3 – Council development. Change of use of the existing visitor centre to a stand alone café/ restaurant with ancillary visitor information. Granted March 2022. Change of use for three camper van electric hook up points within the car park.	Change of use plus campsite at rear of existing building. Minor impact overall on wider SLA.

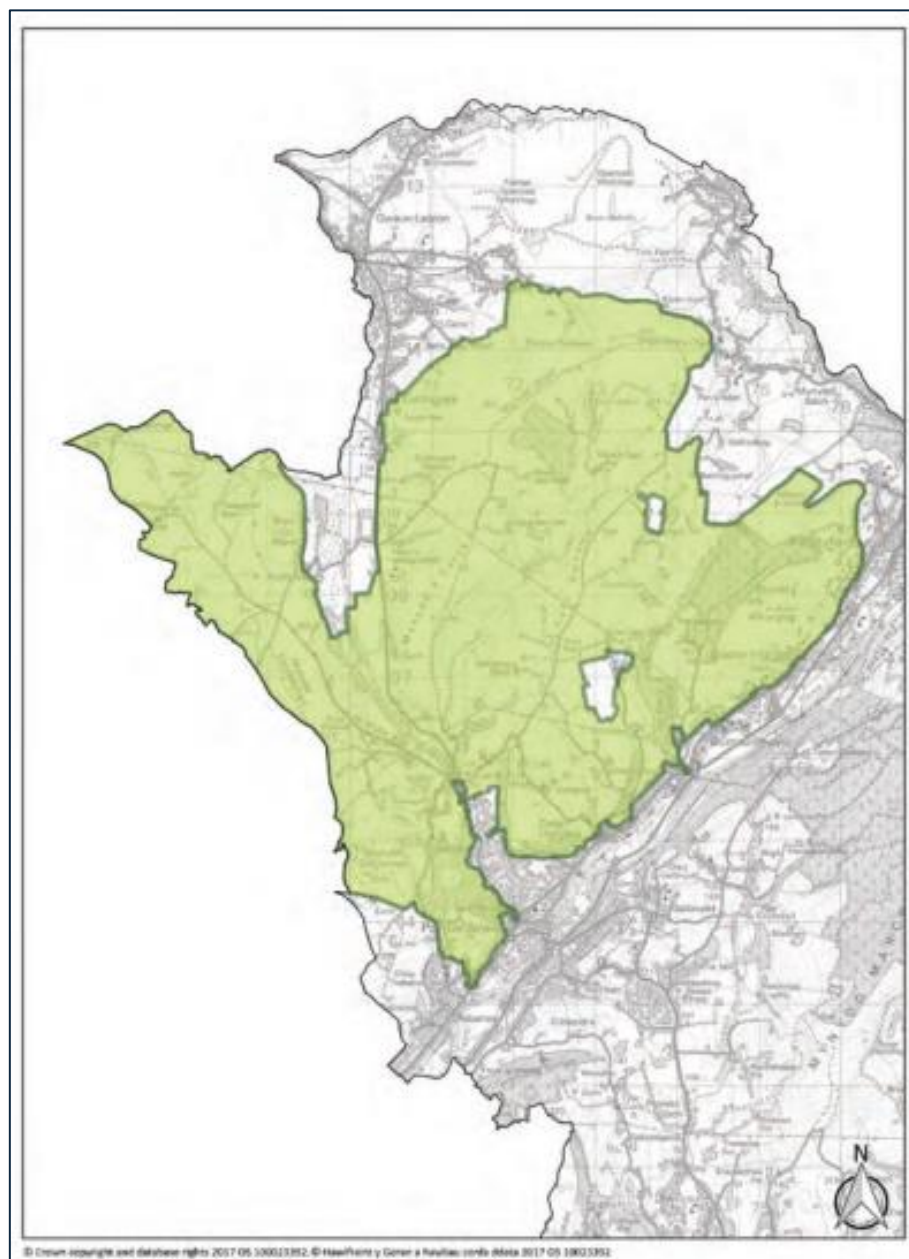
Address	Application	Assessment
	Regularisation of change of use of land the rear of the centre, to an ancillary campsite for up to 10 pitches.	
Afan Forest Park, Port Talbot	Planning permission P2013/1093 granted February 2014 for two detached storage containers and associated hardstanding.	Adjacent to visitor centre building and carpark. Minimal impact on SLA.
Foel Trawsant, Bryn	Planning permission P2014/0825 approved November 2021 for 11 wind turbines.	Windfall including 11 turbines within SLA (mostly open access area plus PProWs) likely to have major effect on the whole SLA (above Afan Valley/ Dyffryn and Cynonville).
Hafod Wen, Percy Road, Cynonville	Planning permission P2016/0020 approved March 2016 for retention and completion of agricultural building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Land at Pen y Bryn, Croeserw	Outline planning permission P2018/0493 granted January 2022 for a proposed adventure resort.	Bounds SLA on south western side only, not within SLA.
Tyn y Pant Farmland, Cynonville	Prior notification P2016/0489 determined not to be required June 2016 for agricultural building.	Agricultural building. Minor impact.
Hendre Owen Farm, Dyffryn Rhondda	Prior notification P2016/1060 determined not to be required January 2017 for telecommunications.	Single mast. Minimal impact.

4.3. Review of existing SLAs

4.0.1. Taking the work undertaken previously by TACP consultants as a starting point, the Council has considered the information contained in the planning permission review coupled with local knowledge, and on-line resources (principally Google Maps and Streetview) to review the 6 currently designated SLAs. These sections below provide a summary of the existing SLAs.

4.3.1. EN2/1: Mynydd y Garth SLA

Figure 4: EN2/1: Mynydd y Garth SLA



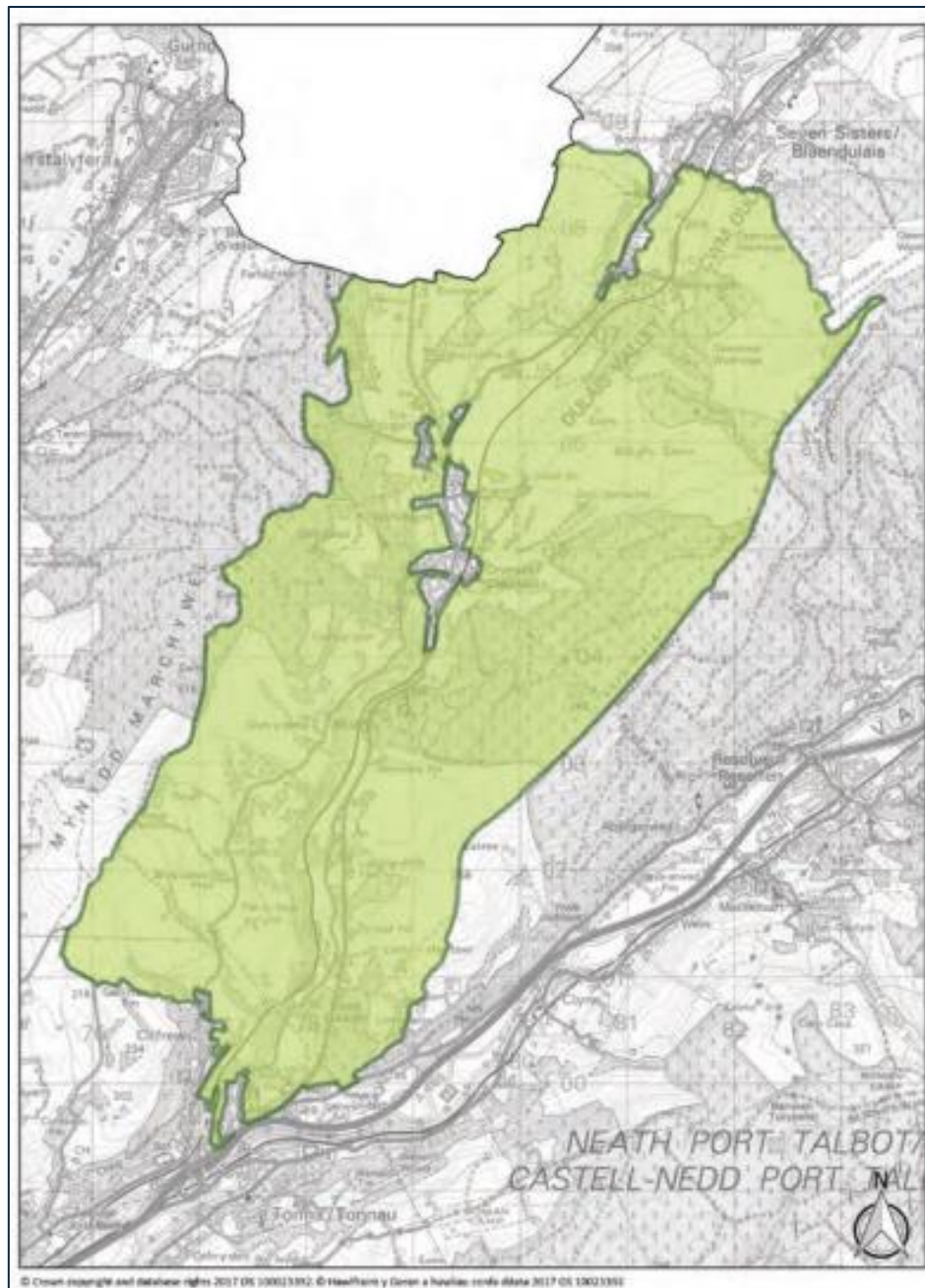
- 4.3.1.1. The SLA includes the upland moorland plateau of Mynydd y Garth, Cefn Gwrhyd and Mynydd Carnllechart.
- 4.3.1.2. The upland plateau is dominated by pennant sandstone and underlying Productive Coal Formation, up to 357m AOD.
- 4.3.1.3. The land cover is predominantly grazed pasture with deciduous tree cover especially along riparian corridors.
- 4.3.1.4. The area provides a remote, exposed yet settled and tranquil feel.
- 4.3.1.5. It has a high scenic upland mosaic landscape quality with panoramic views out from higher elevations.
- 4.3.1.6. It is relatively unspoilt with a strong sense of place which adds to the integrity and coherence of the landscape.
- 4.3.1.7. The landscape bears evidence of evolution over millennia to include: prehistoric cairns, ancient field systems, trackways, industrial spoil heaps and small pockets of afforestation which combine to evoke a timeless quality of great scenic, cultural value and strong cultural identity. Gwrhyd road has a local dialect meaning the Long Man which is a possible reference to a prehistoric burial site.
- 4.3.1.8. The post medieval boundary stones and sheep folds are features of the upland which is one of the three most important and significant funerary and ritual landscapes in south Wales.
- 4.3.1.9. It is one of the key non forested areas within the County Borough that is classified as “tranquil” but which has seen considerable erosion in area of tranquillity since 1997.

Figure 5: EN2/1: Mynydd y Garth SLA



4.3.2. EN2/2: Dulais Valley SLA

Figure 6: EN2/2: Dulais Valley SLA



4.3.2.1. The SLA stretches from the outskirts of Aberdulais in the south to Seven Sisters in the north. The SLA covers the valley sides to reinforce its visual context and therefore includes the unforested uplands of Mynydd Hirfynydd and Mynydd March Hywel as the backdrop to the valley. Areas of forestry plantation are included on both valley sides for coherence as it forms the same land mass and recognising that the appearance and biodiversity of this landcover can be enhanced through management. To the south-east the SLA

links to the Vale of Neath SLA via a contiguous boundary (refer to SLA EN3/3: Vale of Neath SLA below).

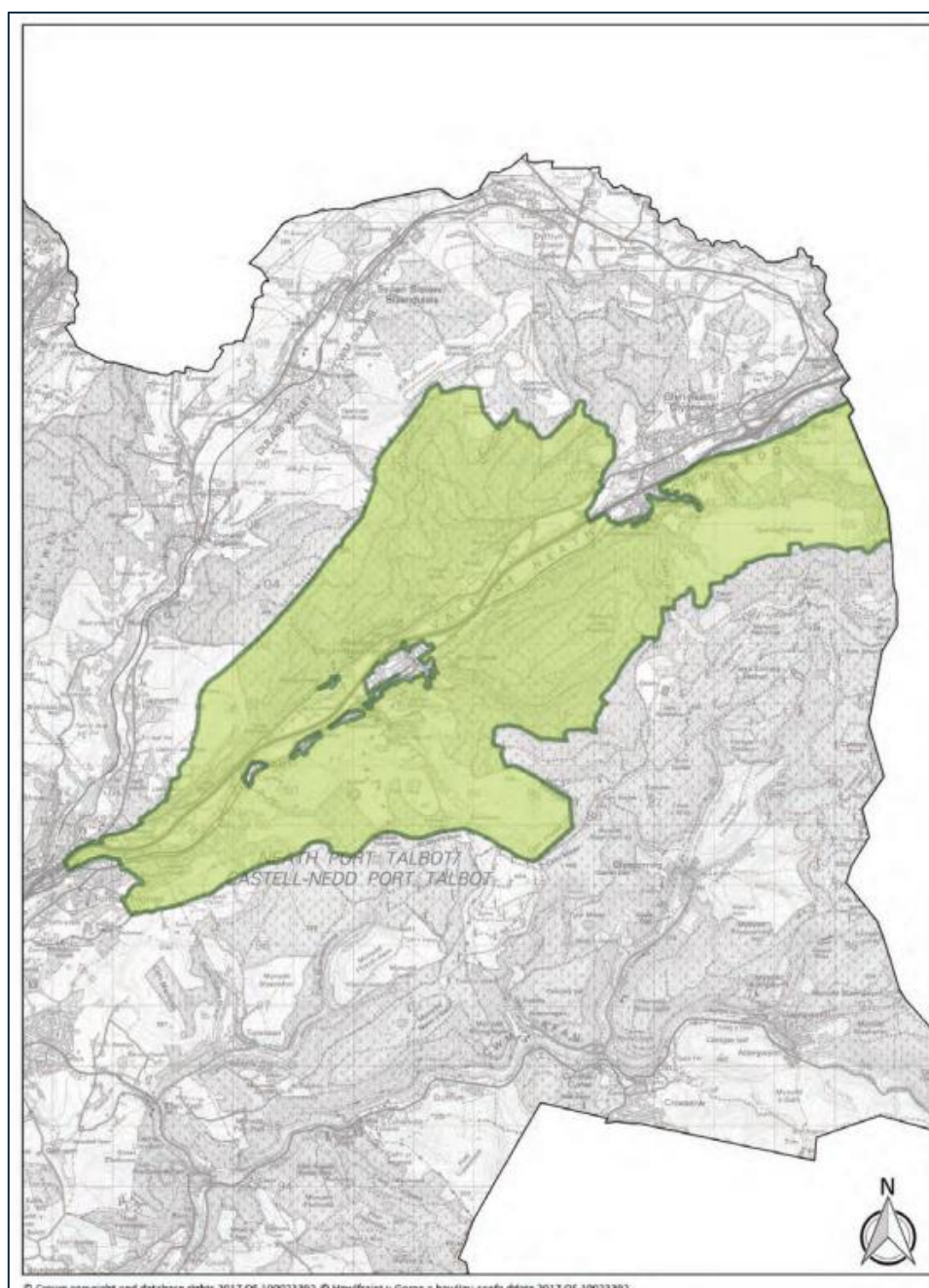
- 4.3.2.2. The Dulais Valley SLA is a typical upland u-shaped glacial river valley creating a wide valley floor and predominantly open landscape on the valley sides. The north east – south west running ridge along the Dulais Valley is important for its Pennant sandstones and coal measures.
- 4.3.2.3. It is a wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries, many of these contain grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape on the lower ground whereas drystone walls are a landscape feature of the upper reaches of the valley sides.
- 4.3.2.4. Tranquillity is a key feature of the upper ridge areas supported by lack of development. It should be noted that whilst the tranquillity indices for the upper slopes indicate that they are “undisturbed” there has been a degrading of the valley floor from Zone C to Zone B.
- 4.3.2.5. It is an evolved landscape containing evidence from prehistory, important Roman remains, open cast and forestry. The edges of the woodland are often regular and geometric, forming an abrupt edge to the surrounding open areas, which reduces the sense of place in the upper valley sides.
- 4.3.2.6. Although the historic context is mostly Roman, the landscape contains many examples of prehistoric land uses and the presence of sheepfolds indicates the importance of animal husbandry, in this area, in the post-medieval period.
- 4.3.2.7. The ridge of Mynydd Hirfynydd has been a significant route through the landscape from the prehistoric period through into the medieval period, which is now used as an historic walk (Sarn Helen). It is also crossed by the long distance footpath St Illtyd’s Way.
- 4.3.2.8. The Cefn Coed Colliery Museum, located to the south of Crynant, is an example of the mining industry which until the 1980s visually dominated the visual and social landscape of the South Wales Valleys and provided a strong sense of place and cohesion to the valley. This is currently closed due to essential maintenance works.

Figure 7: EN3/2: Dulais Valley SLA



4.3.3. EN3/3: Vale of Neath SLA

Figure 8: EN3/3: Vale of Neath SLA



- 4.3.3.1. The Vale of Neath is similar to the south east valley side of the Dulais valley with its north east – south west fault controlled U-shaped broad glacial valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes. The area is a pastoral and deciduous mosaic providing diversity within the valley and contrasting with the heavily coniferous wooded nature of the upper slopes.
- 4.3.3.2. The broad floodplain makes the Neath Valley distinctive from the Tawe or the Dulais. The topography and woodland cover on the northern and southern slopes of the Neath valley is a significant and dominant feature and provides coherence and integrity to the SLA.
- 4.3.3.3. The landscape contains many examples of prehistoric land use alongside the Roman camps and fortlets. The high ridge conveys the sense of the terrain having formed the ancient tribal frontier between the Silures and Demetae. Although now heavily forested in the east, former open cast mining in the north demonstrates a geological "frontier" between surface outcrops and the deep mines of the Tawe, Dulais and Neath Valleys.
- 4.3.3.4. To the north-east of the SLA it is geologically and topographically dominated by sundry small rivers and waterfalls, suggesting a natural boundary between the County Borough and the high moorland of the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- 4.3.3.5. On the boundary between the County Borough and Rhondda Cynon Taf there are a number of solar farms developed/ permitted in recent times including Hendre Fawr in NPT and Bryngolwg Farm and Land at Rhigos Road in Rhondda Cynnon Taf.
- 4.3.3.6. The SLA includes Cwm Gwrelych and Nant Llyn Fach SSSI and the Graig-y-Llyn geological SSSI.
- 4.3.3.7. A strong sense of place, coherence, local distinctiveness and cultural identity combine to contribute to the special qualities of the Vale of Neath. From Aberdulais to Glynneath the Vale of Neath's topographical beauties have attracted painters including Turner, poets, photographers in large numbers over several centuries.

4.3.3.8. The upper reaches of the valley have a tranquil and remote feeling, removed from settlements and dwellings although this contrasts significantly with the valley floor which is an important communications corridor.

4.3.3.9. The unforested areas of the valley sides are primarily sheep grazed, and there is evidence of relict post-medieval fieldscapes within the forested areas. Footpaths, long distance paths to include St Illtyds Way and bridleways facilitate views across the valley.

4.3.3.10. Cut into the hillslopes of the valley, on both the north and south sides, are many small former collieries, levels and quarries and Fynnon Oer windfarm lies to the south east of the SLA.

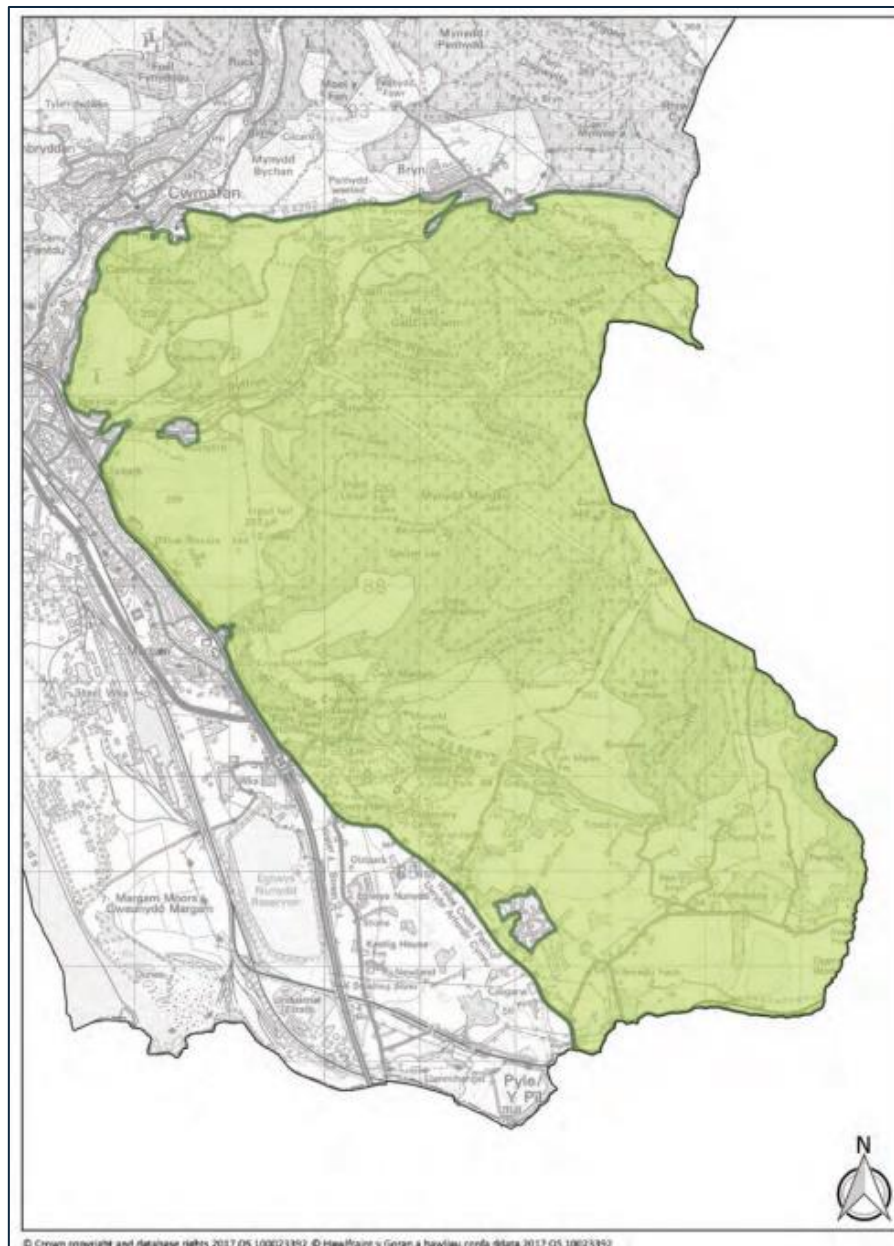
4.3.3.11. The settlements of Resolven, Blaengwrach and Glynneath are not included in the SLA.

Figure 9: EN3/3: Vale of Neath SLA



4.3.4. EN3/4: Margam SLA

Figure 10: EN3/4: Margam SLA



4.3.4.1. Mynydd Margam is a broad, low lying plateau of north east dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals between South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment and east-west Millstone Grit ridge to the south, dissected by shallow, alluvium filled valleys of tributaries and the main Cynfig valley. It includes former mine workings.

4.3.4.2. Cultural features in the landscape include evidence of prehistoric and later agricultural practices, rural settlements and contemporary forestry activities.

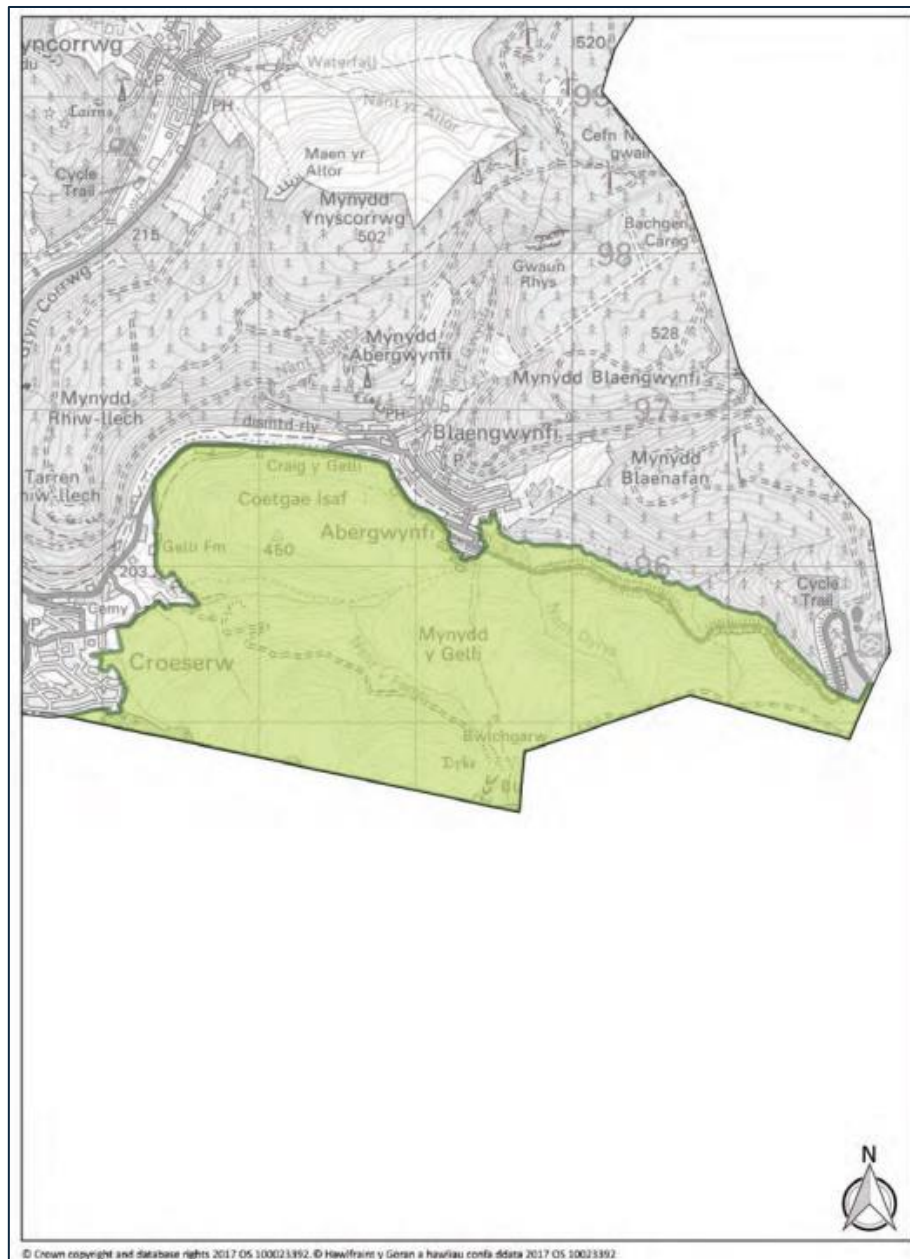
- 4.3.4.3. It is an evolved landscape containing multi-period cultural expressions untrammelled by industrial exploitation - extensive archaeological evidence of land husbandry, now given over to forestry interspersed with some small farms and thus is a comparatively rare example of a surviving relict landscape.
- 4.3.4.4. The SLA, which contains Margam Park, with its exceptional examples of architecture; its history as a major Cistercian Abbey and the wider monastic landholdings, provides a combination of high grade historic visitor attraction and a variety of multi-period pleasure grounds. It contains cultural elements dating from pre-history through every period up to the 21st century.
- 4.3.4.5. Whilst the SLA contains areas of forested upland these are important to the overall historical context of the area and could be managed to enhance the landscape quality of the wider area.
- 4.3.4.6. The scenic quality of the area is enhanced by the historic buildings of the Park and the backdrop of scarp creating a sheltered setting which link visually and provide the integrity of the whole. The sense of place for the park is initially prompted with boundary walls and entrance gates. The historic core and deer park make this area unique within the County.
- 4.3.4.7. Within recent years planning permission has been granted for the development of a solar farm and windfarm and these are considered to have an effect on the SLA.

Figure 11: EN3/4: Margam SLA



4.3.5. EN3/5: Mynydd y Gelli SLA

Figure 12: EN3/5: Mynydd y Gelli SLA



4.3.5.1. The landform of Mynydd y Gelli is a coherent landscape element and relates to the Western Uplands Bridgend SLA which includes the adjacent Mynydd Llangeinwyr.

4.3.5.2. Similar to Foel Trawsant it forms an open exposed plateau area within the eastern highlands complex.

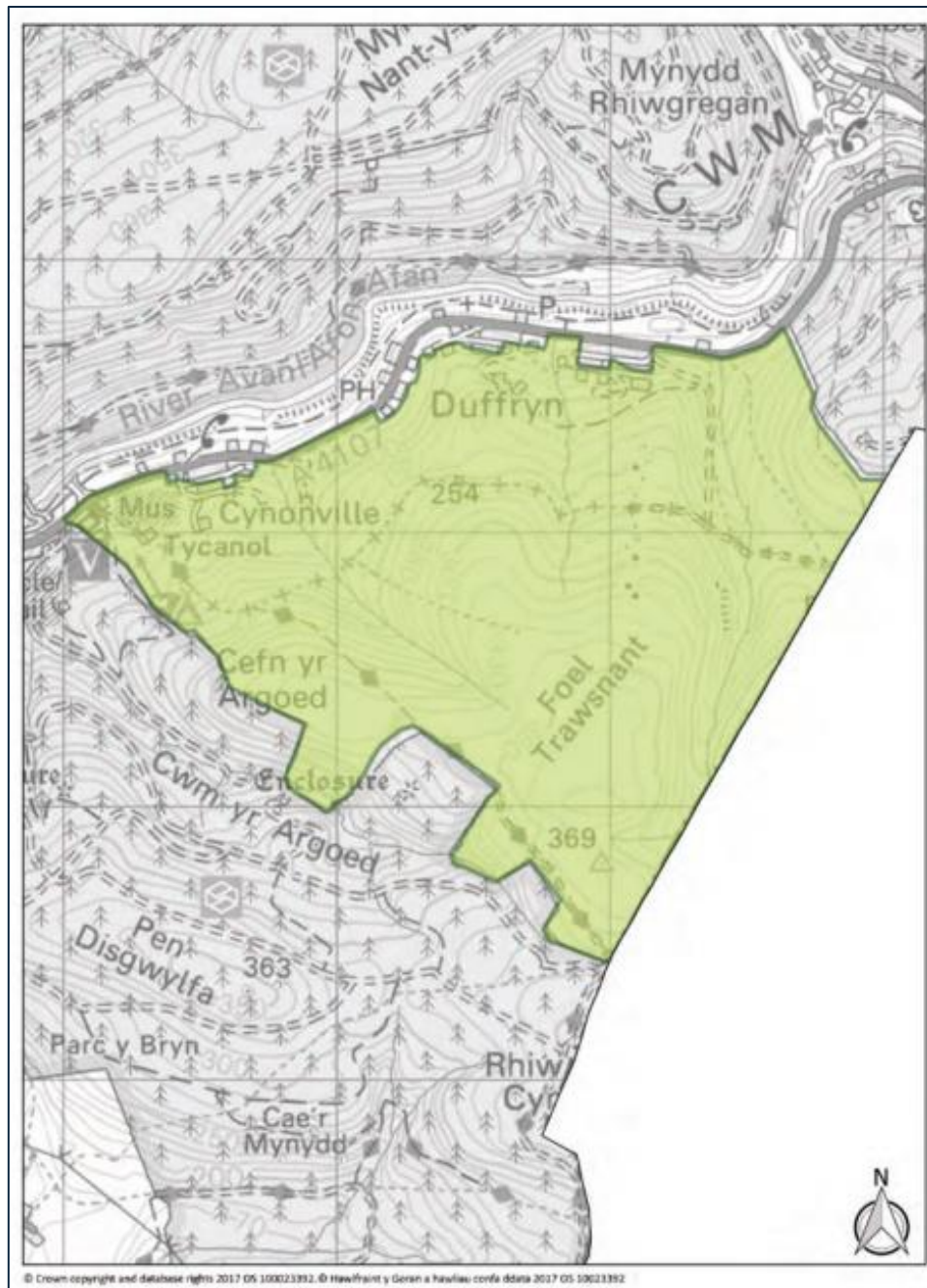
- 4.3.5.3. The landform and topography creates an imposing presence and with its simple land cover provides a contrast to the more complex landscapes of surrounding areas.
- 4.3.5.4. The open remote plateau has a sense of exposure and wilderness in contrast with the adjacent Afan valley.
- 4.3.5.5. It is unspoilt by development or land use and has a coherent distinct character, with topographical and visual unity, high scenic quality and strong sense of place

Figure 13: EN3/5: Mynydd y Gelli SLA



4.3.6. EN3/6: Foel Trawsnant SLA

Figure 14: EN3/6: Foel Trawsnant SLA



4.3.6.1. The SLA covers the steep, exposed, upland slopes in north east south west striking north and north east dipping sandstones and coals of the South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi-Brithdir Beds (Lower Pennant Measures).

4.3.6.2. It forms part of the eastern highlands complex and is one location within the relict landscape of mixed periods which is not covered in conifer plantations.

4.3.6.3. There has been limited development within the SLA the area feels exposed and bleak, access is via foot and bridle paths. Planning permission has however recently been granted for the development of 11 wind turbines. These have been implemented and are considered to have an impact upon the SLA.

4.3.6.4. The simple landscape features and pattern, upland grazing to 271m AOD creates a local sense of place and distinctiveness.

Figure 15: EN3/6: Foel Trawsnant SLA



5. Task B: Candidate Sites Assessment

5.1. Sites within SLA

Candidate Sites 2022

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA
RLDP/DV/0004	Land off Main Road, Crynant	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/N/0003	Land North of Main Road, Cilfrew	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/PT/0058	Balaclava Row, Land North of Inkerman Row	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/PT/0033	Manor Yard (Former Sawmill), Cwrt-y-Defaid, Margam	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/PT/0053	Land at Broomhill	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/NV/0018	Brynfelin, Melincourt	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/NV/0016	The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/DV/0001	Land adjoining Cefn Coed Colliery Museum	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/0006	Treforgan Colliery Site	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/0002	Land off Nant Celyn, Crynant	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/0003	Land Opposite Ynyswen Terrace	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/0007	Land at Ynyswen, Crynant	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/0004	Land East of Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/0001	Land off Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/0005	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 1	Dulais Valley

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA
RLDP/N/0006	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 2	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/0020	Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park	Dulais Valley
RLDP/P/0015	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 2)	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/0016	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 3)	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/0014	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 1)	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/0019	Land at Waun Penlan, Pontardawe	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/0017	Land off Commercial Road & Heol Gwrhyd	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/0020	The Former Abernant Colliery (current Pwllfawatkin Landfill land holding)	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/0013	Abernant	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/PT/0042	Land at Coed Hirwaun, Margam	Margam
RLDP/PT/0021	Nant y Boda, Bryn - Option A	Margam
RLDP/PT/0022	Nant y Boda, Bryn - Option B	Margam
RLDP/PT/0025	Land at Bryn	Margam
RLDP/AV/0001	Land at Pen y Bryn, Croeserw	Foel Trawsnant
RLDP/N/0044	Land East of Heol Y Glo, Tonna	Vale of Neath

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA
RLDP/N/0045	Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)	Vale of Neath
RLDP/N/0046	Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/0019	Coves Field, Melincourt	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/0017	Land South of Neath Road, Abergarwed	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/0012	Land at Rheola Estate (Option 1)	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/0013	Land at Rheola Estate (Option 2)	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/0014	Bryncwm Quarry	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/0001	Land at Fothergill Road, Cwmgwrach	Vale of Neath

5.1.1. Maps of sites not filtered at Stage 1 are provided below:

RLDP/DV/0001 – Land adjoining Cefn Coed Colliery Museum

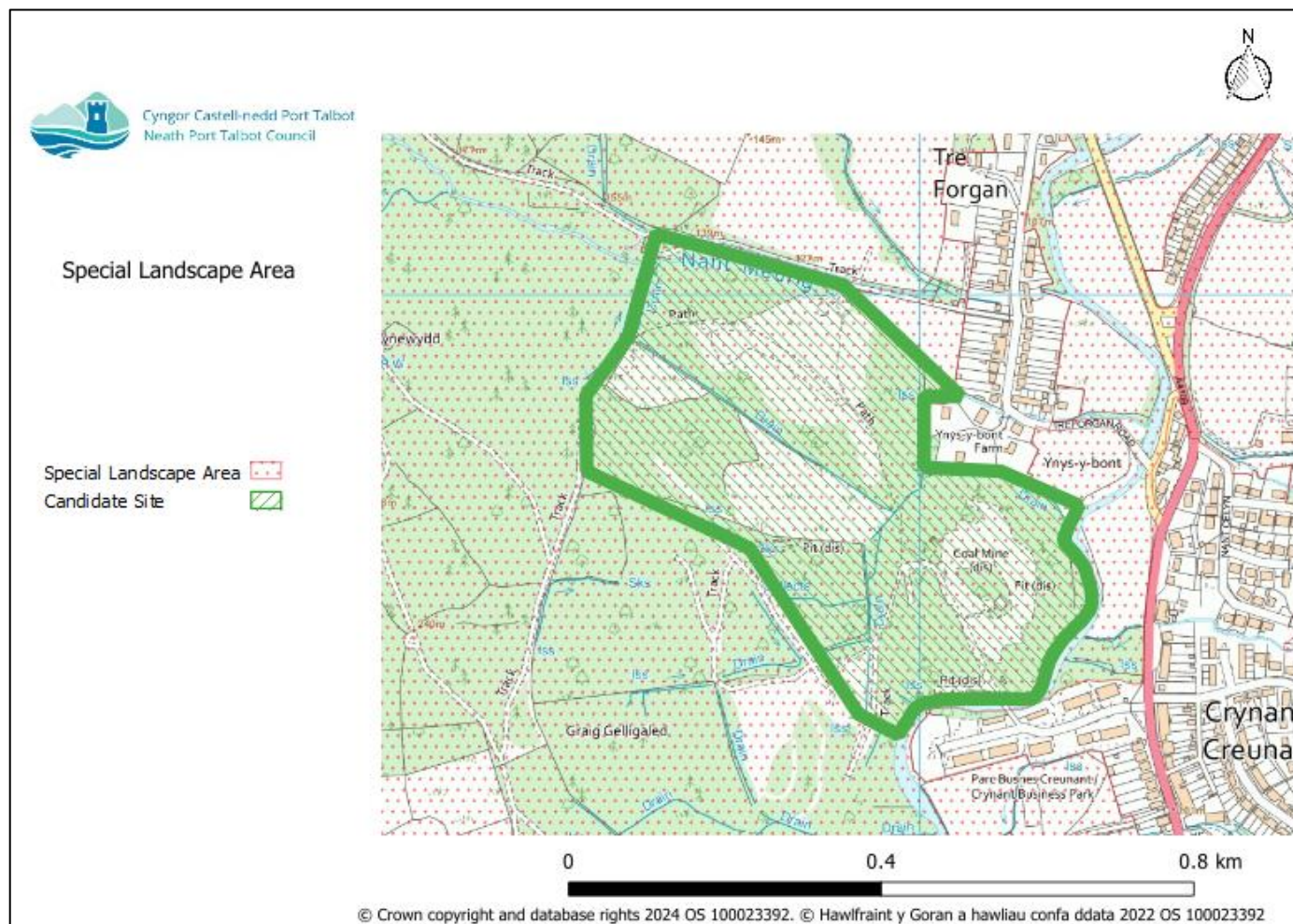
5.1.2. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 16: RLDP/DV/0001 – Land adjoining Cefn Coed Colliery Museum



5.1.3. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 17: RLDP/DV/0006 – Treforgan Colliery



RLDP/DV/0002 – Land off Nant Celyn, Crynant

5.1.4. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 18: RLDP/DV/0002 – Land off Nant Celyn, Crynant



RLDP/DV/0003 – Land Opposite Ynyswen Terrace

5.1.5. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

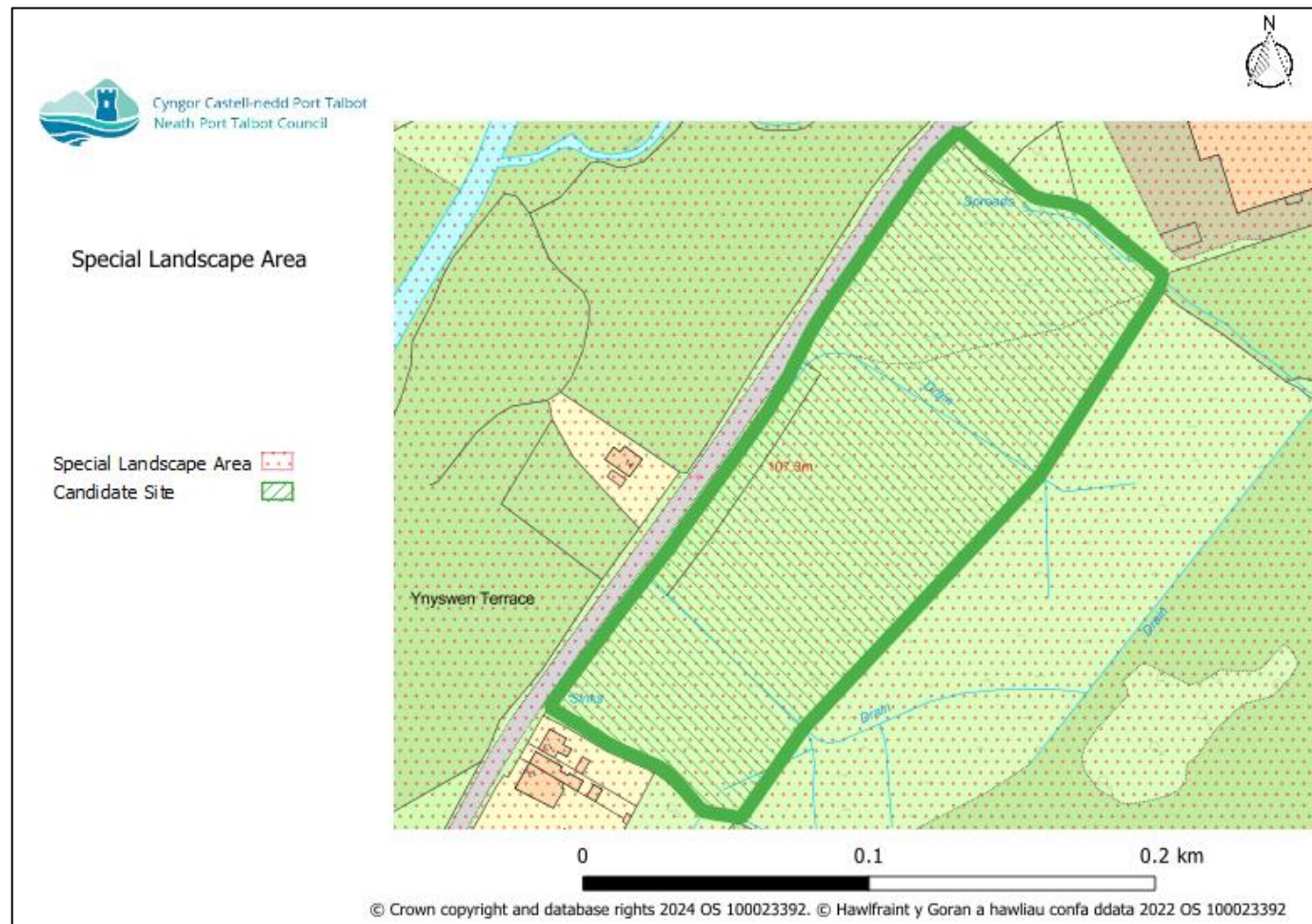
Figure 19: RLDP/DV/0003 – Land Opposite Ynyswen Terrace



RLDP/DV/0007 – Land at Ynyswen

5.1.6. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

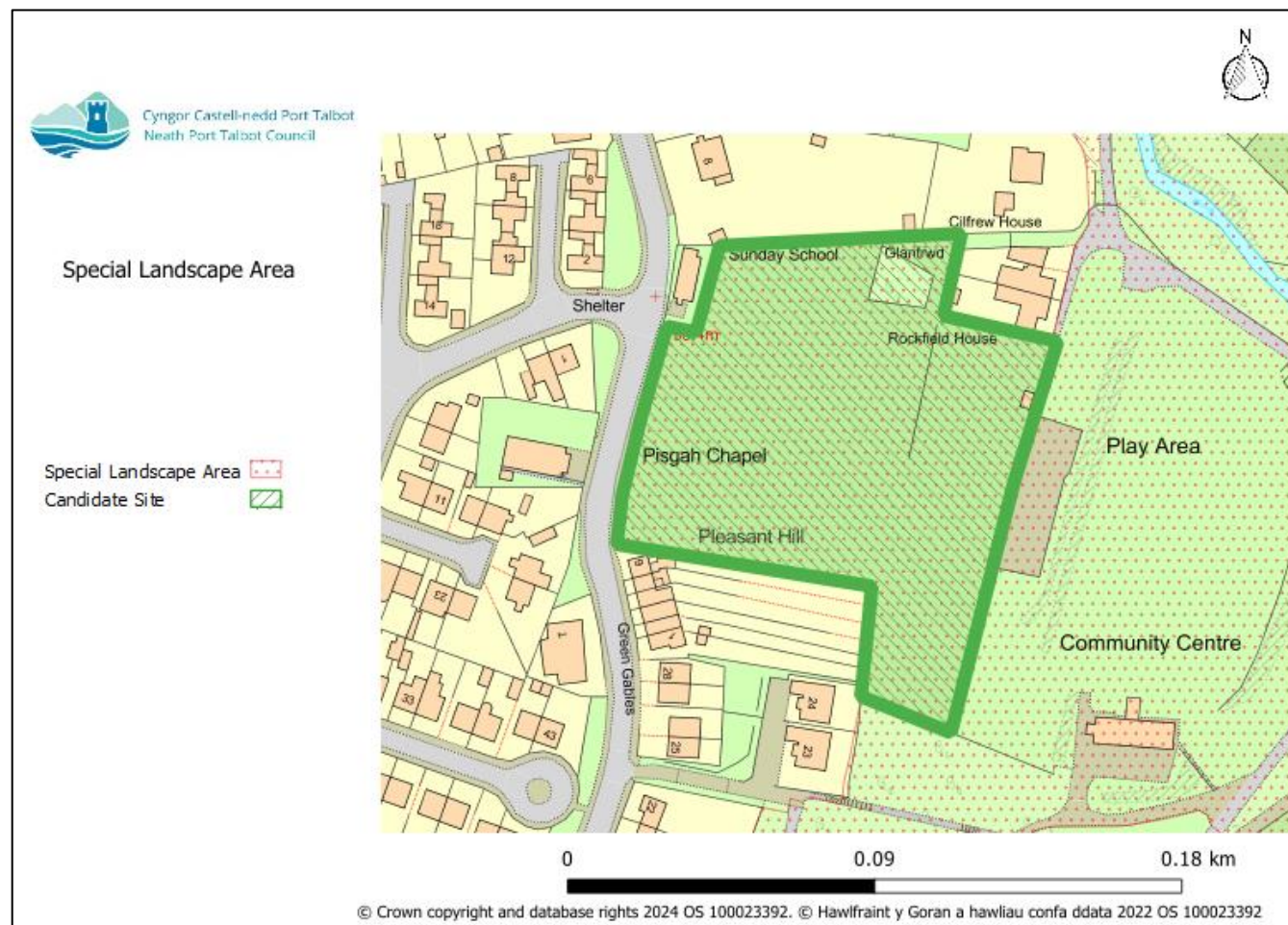
Figure 20: RLDP/DV/0001 – Land at Ynyswen



RLDP/N/0004 – Land east of Main Road, Cilfrew

5.1.7. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 21: RLDP/N/0004 – Land east of Main Road, Cilfrew



RLDP/N/0001 – Land off Main Road, Cilfrew

5.1.8. The Map below shows that the majority the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

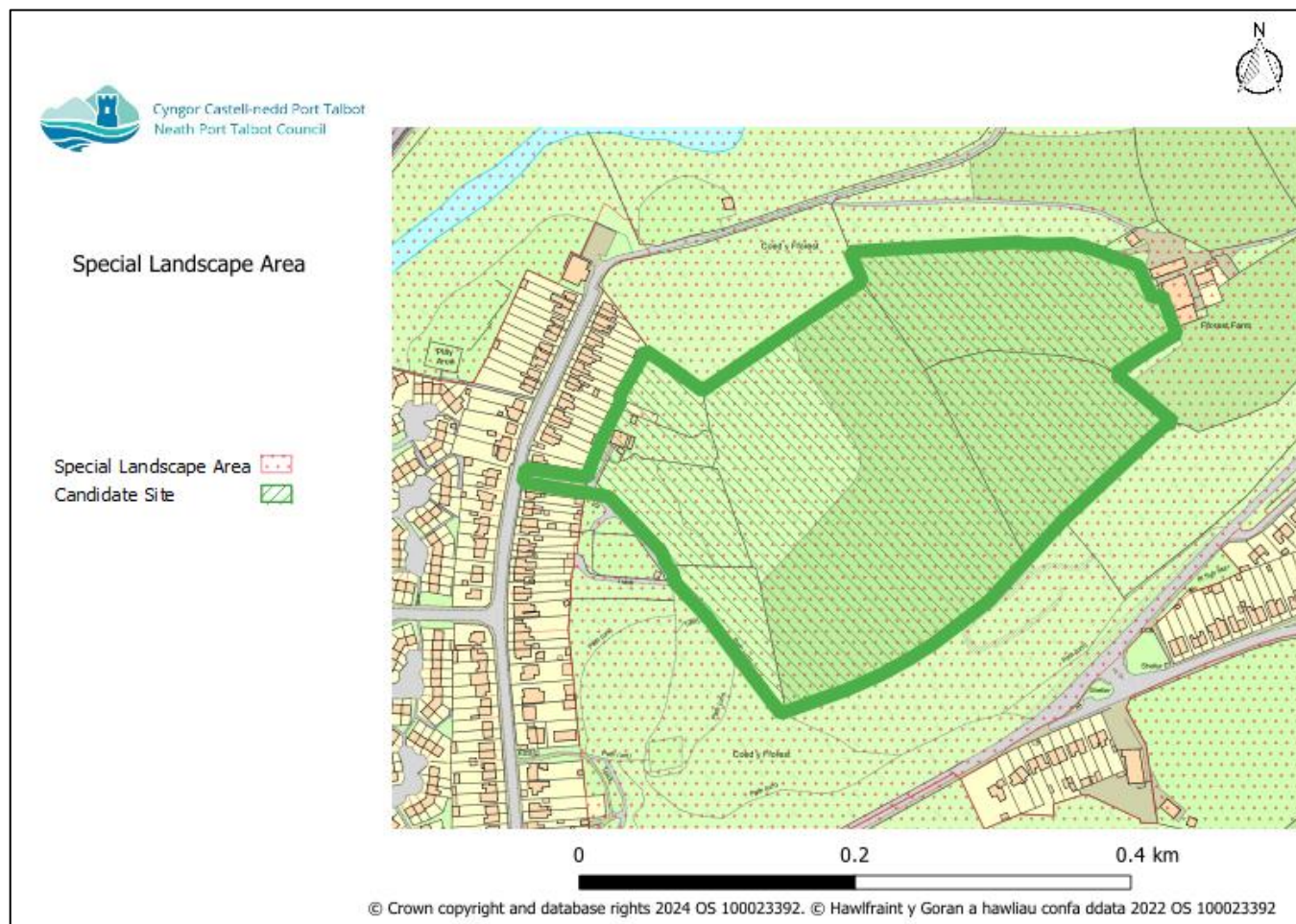
Figure 22: RLDP/N/0001 – Land off Main Road, Cilfrew



RLDP/N/0005 – Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais – Site 1

5.1.9. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

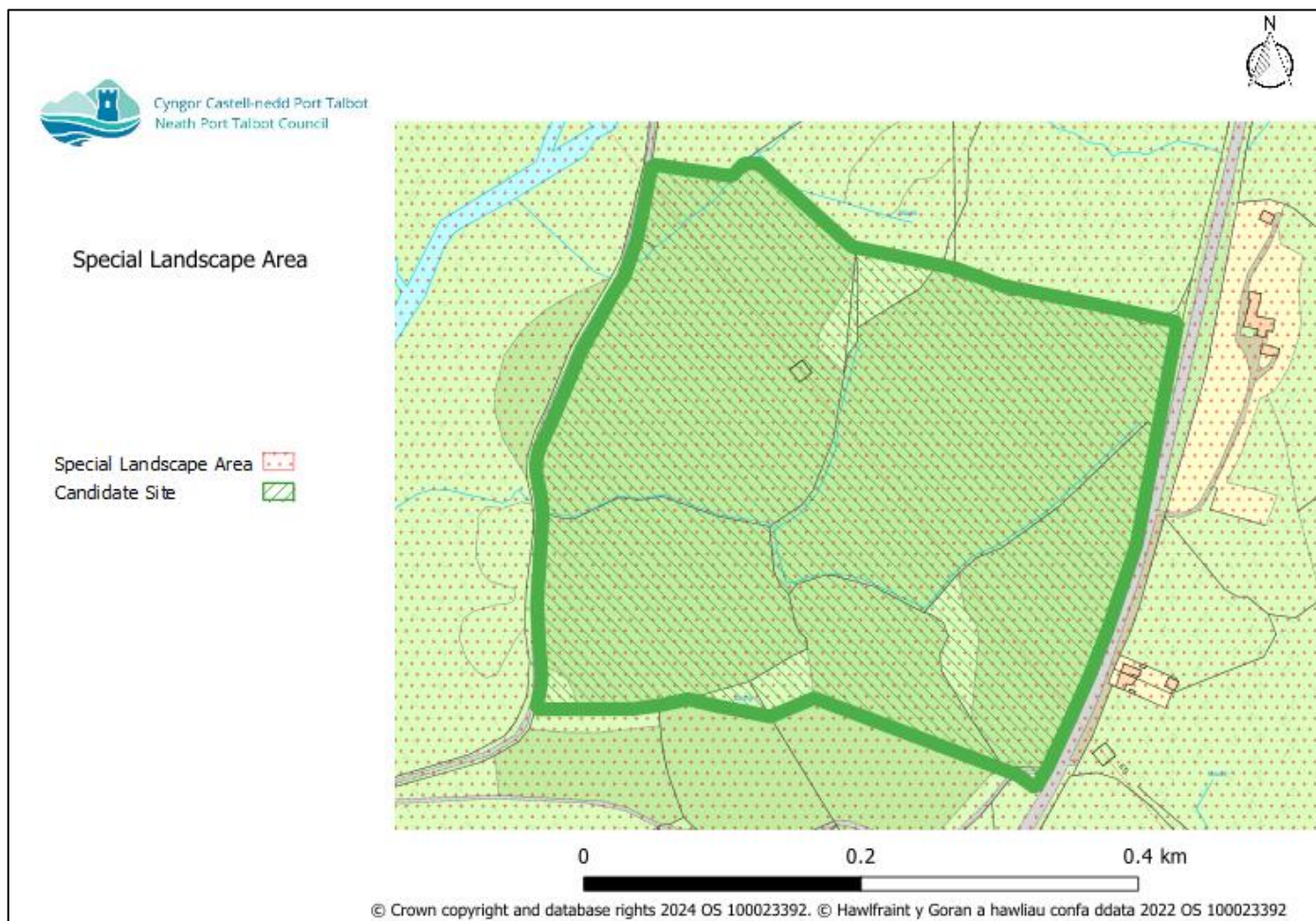
Figure 23: RLDP/N/0005 – Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais – Site 1



RLDP/N/0006 – Land at Fforest Farm – Site 2

5.1.10. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

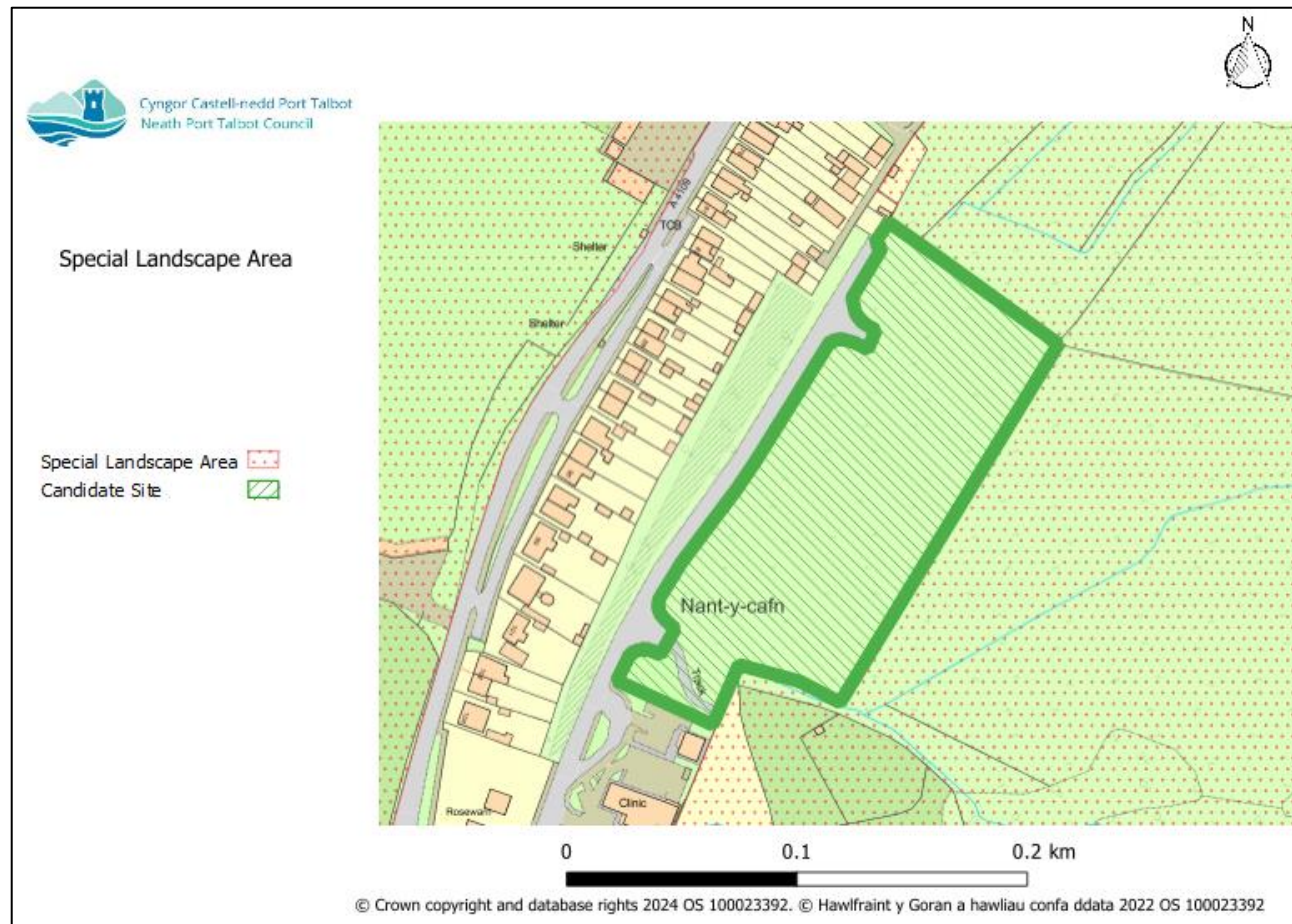
Figure 24: RLDP/N/0006 – Land at Fforest Farm – Site 2



RLDP/DV/0020 – Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park

5.1.11. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Dulais Valley SLA. The site itself does not lie within the SLA.

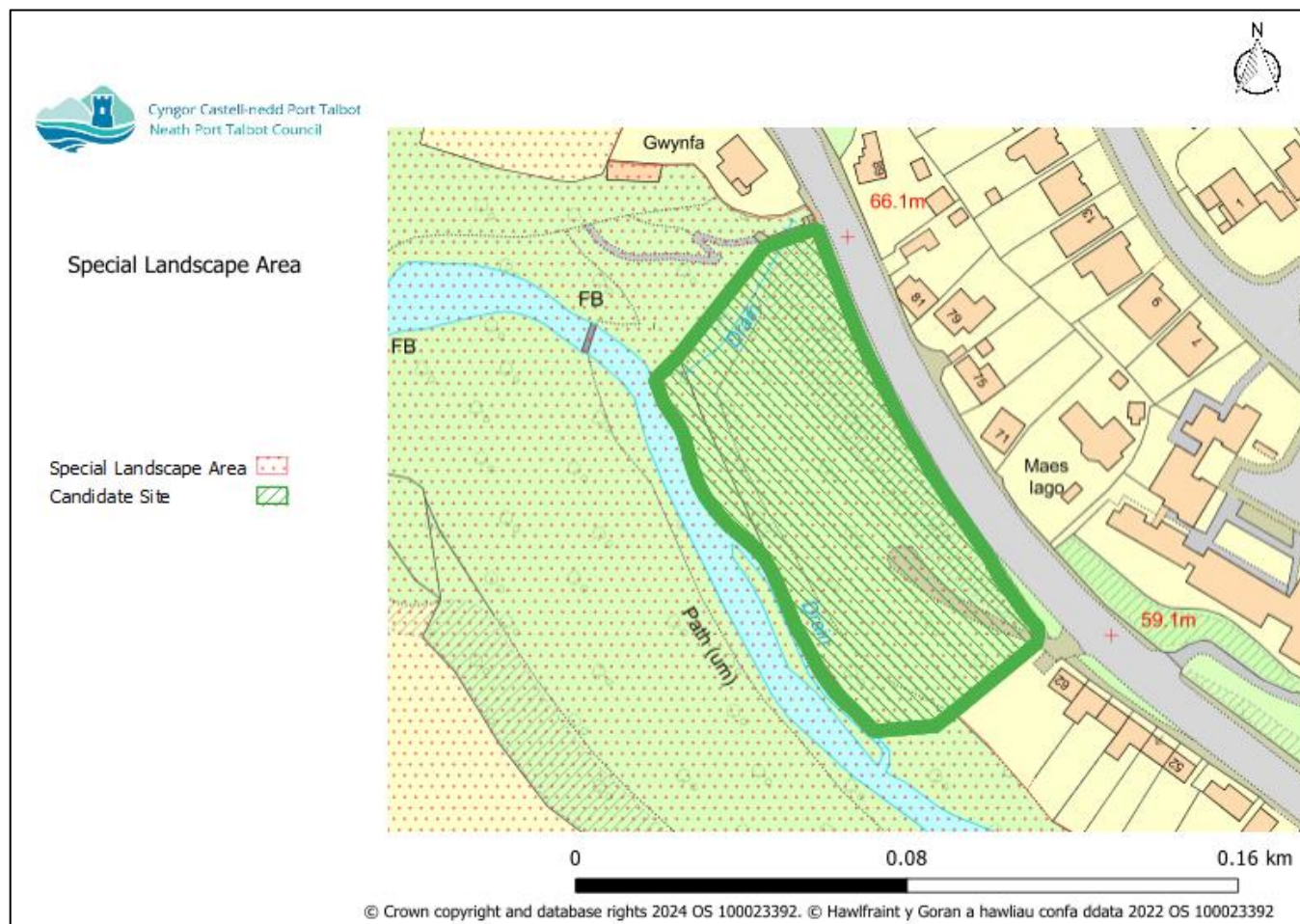
Figure 25: RLDP/DV/0020 – Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park



RLDP/P/0015 – Land south west side of James Street (Submission 2)

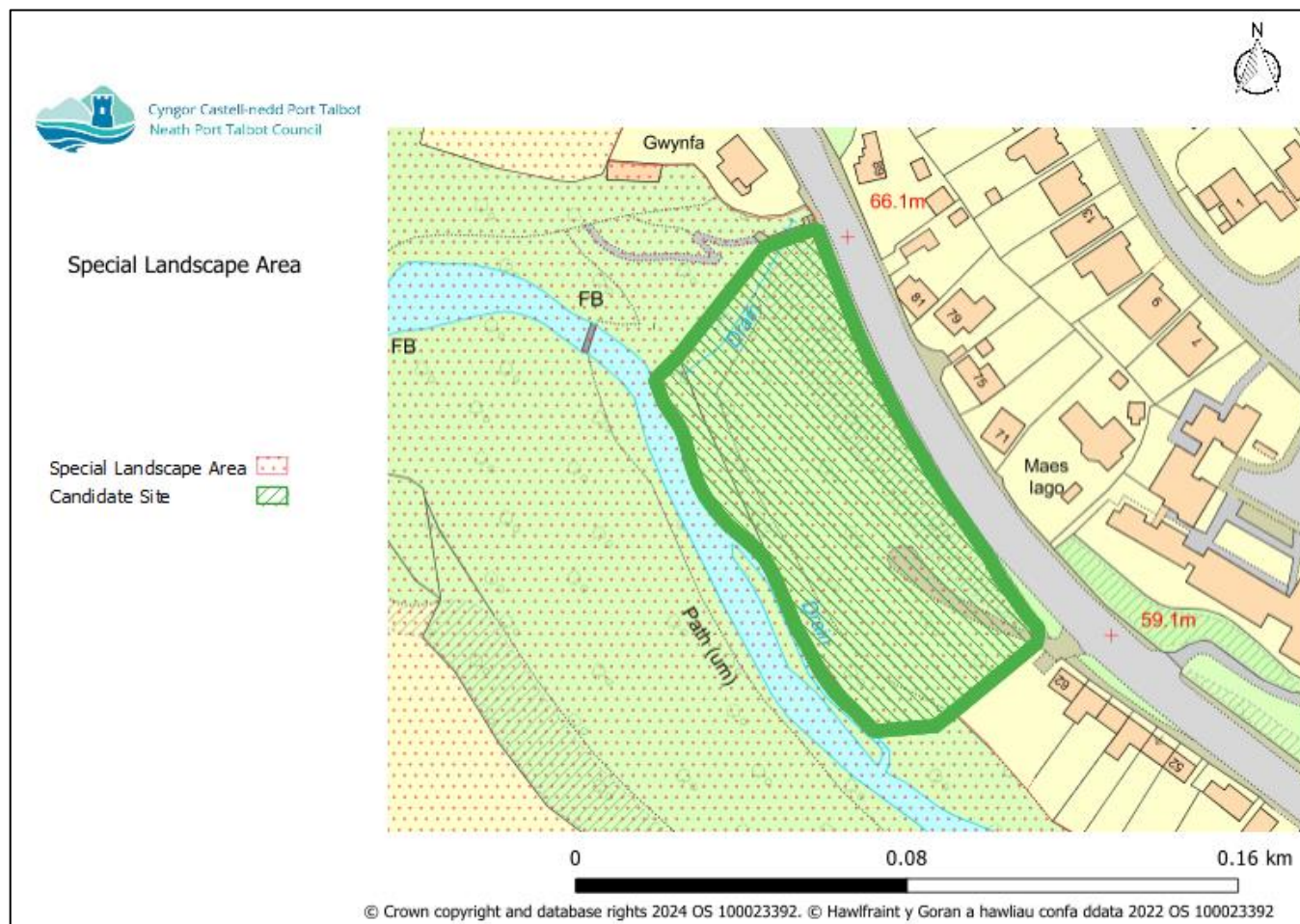
5.1.12. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

Figure 26: RLDP/P/0015 – Land south west of James Street (Submission 2)



5.1.13. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

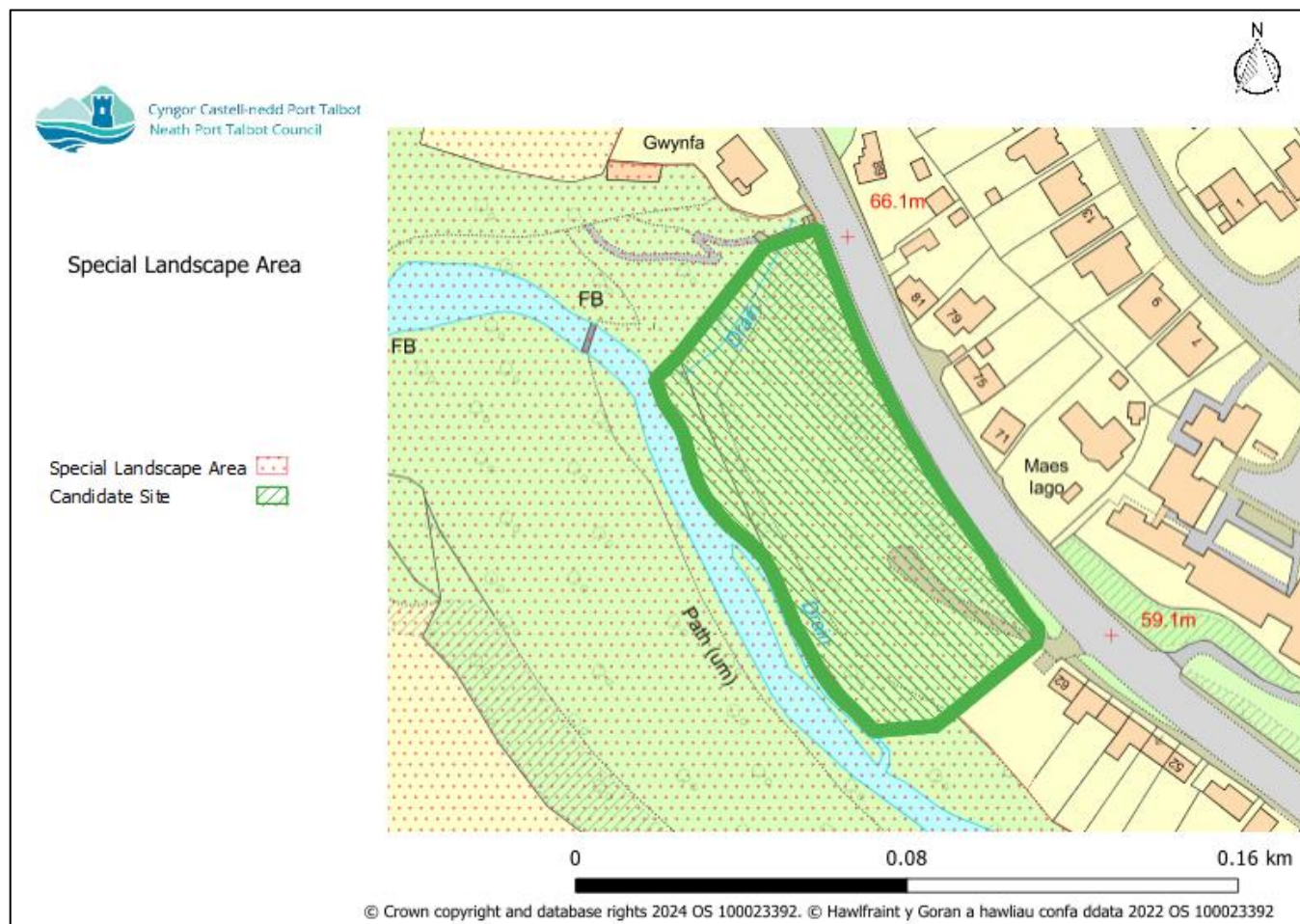
Figure 27: RLDP/P/0016 – Land south west of James Street (Submission 3)



RLDP/P/0014 – Land south west side of James Street (Submission 1)

5.1.14. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

Figure 28: RLDP/P/0014 – Land south west of James Street (Submission 1)



5.1.15. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Mynydd y Garth SLA. The site itself does not fall within the SLA.

The map displays the Special Landscape Area (SLA) and a Candidate Site in Port Talbot. The SLA is indicated by a red dotted pattern, and the Candidate Site is marked with a green diagonal line pattern. The map includes a scale bar from 0 to 0.2 km and a north arrow. The legend identifies the SLA and the Candidate Site. The map shows the area around the Port Talbot Steelworks, with the SLA covering a large portion of the landscape. The Candidate Site is located within the SLA, near the steelworks. The map also shows the surrounding urban area of Port Talbot, including the town center and the Port Talbot Steelworks. The map is titled 'Special Landscape Area' and 'Candidate Site'.

RLDP/P/0017 – Land off Commercial Road and Heol Gwrhyd

5.1.16. The Map below shows that the majority of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

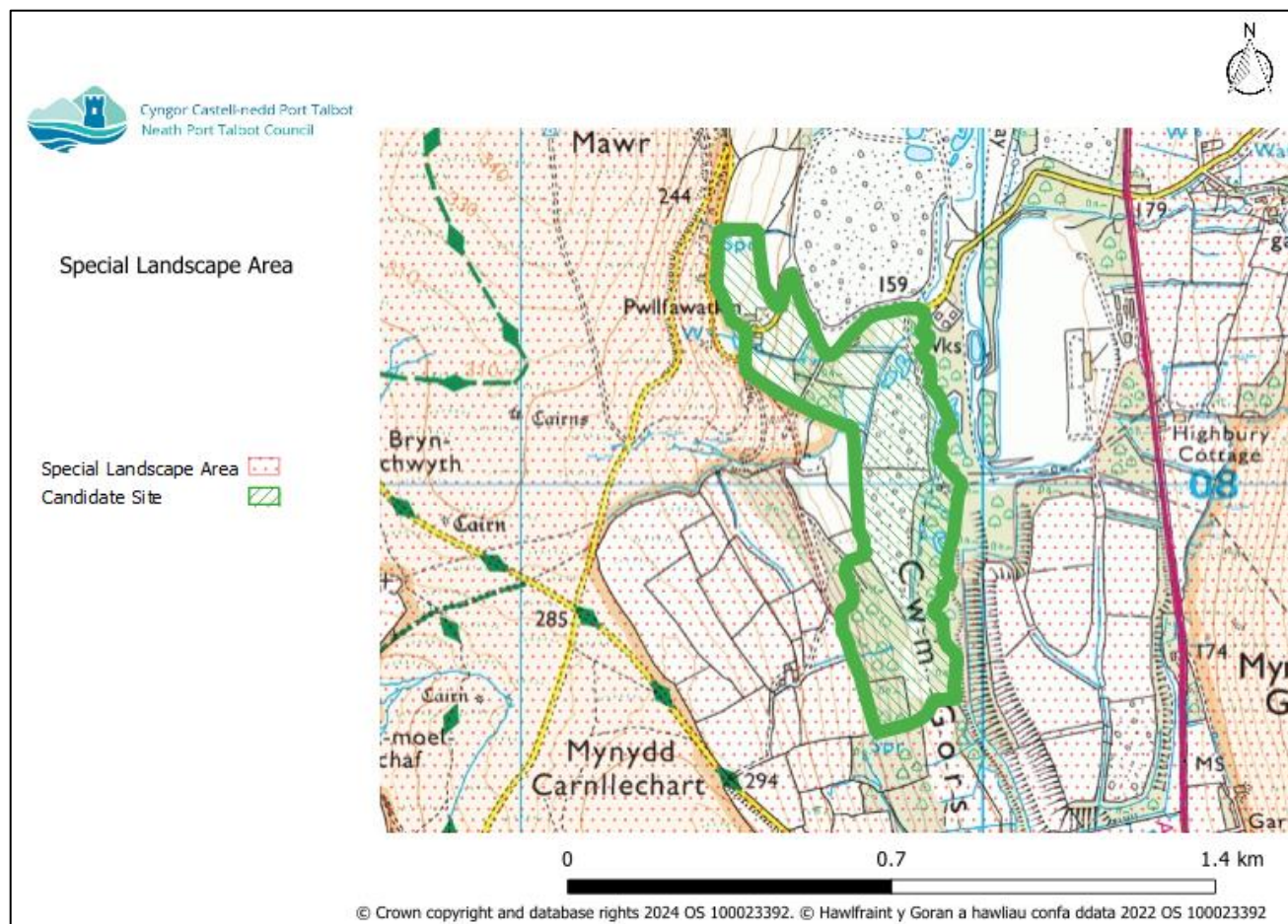
Figure 30: RLDP/P/0017 – Land off Commercial Road and Heol Gwrhyd



RLDP/P/0020 – The Former Abernant Colliery (Current Pwllfawatkin Landfill land holding)

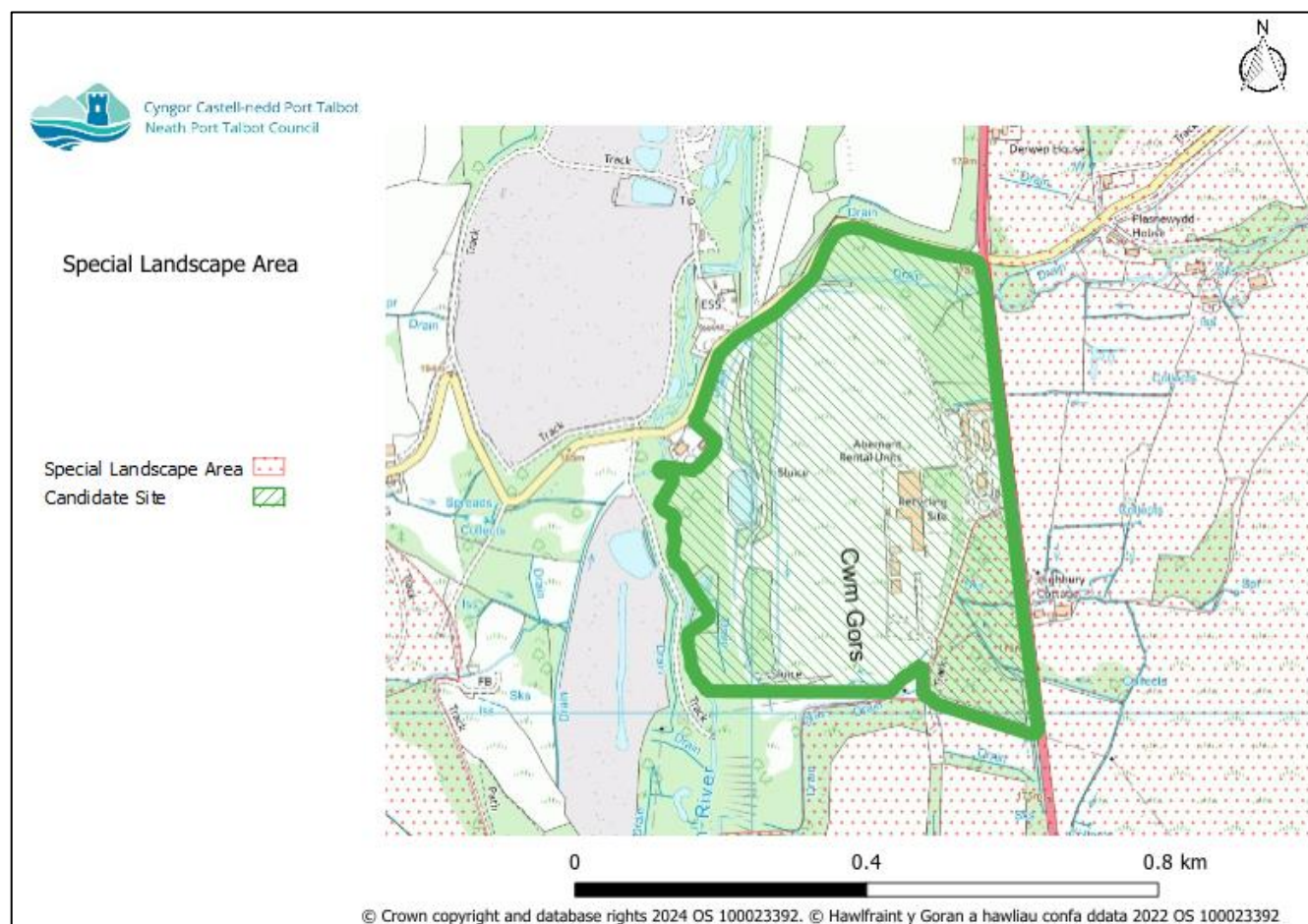
5.1.17. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps the Mynydd y garth SLA. The site itself does not lie within the SLA.

Figure 31: RLDP/P/0020 – The Former Abernant Colliery (Current Pwllfawatkin Landfill land holding)



5.1.18. The Map below shows that part of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

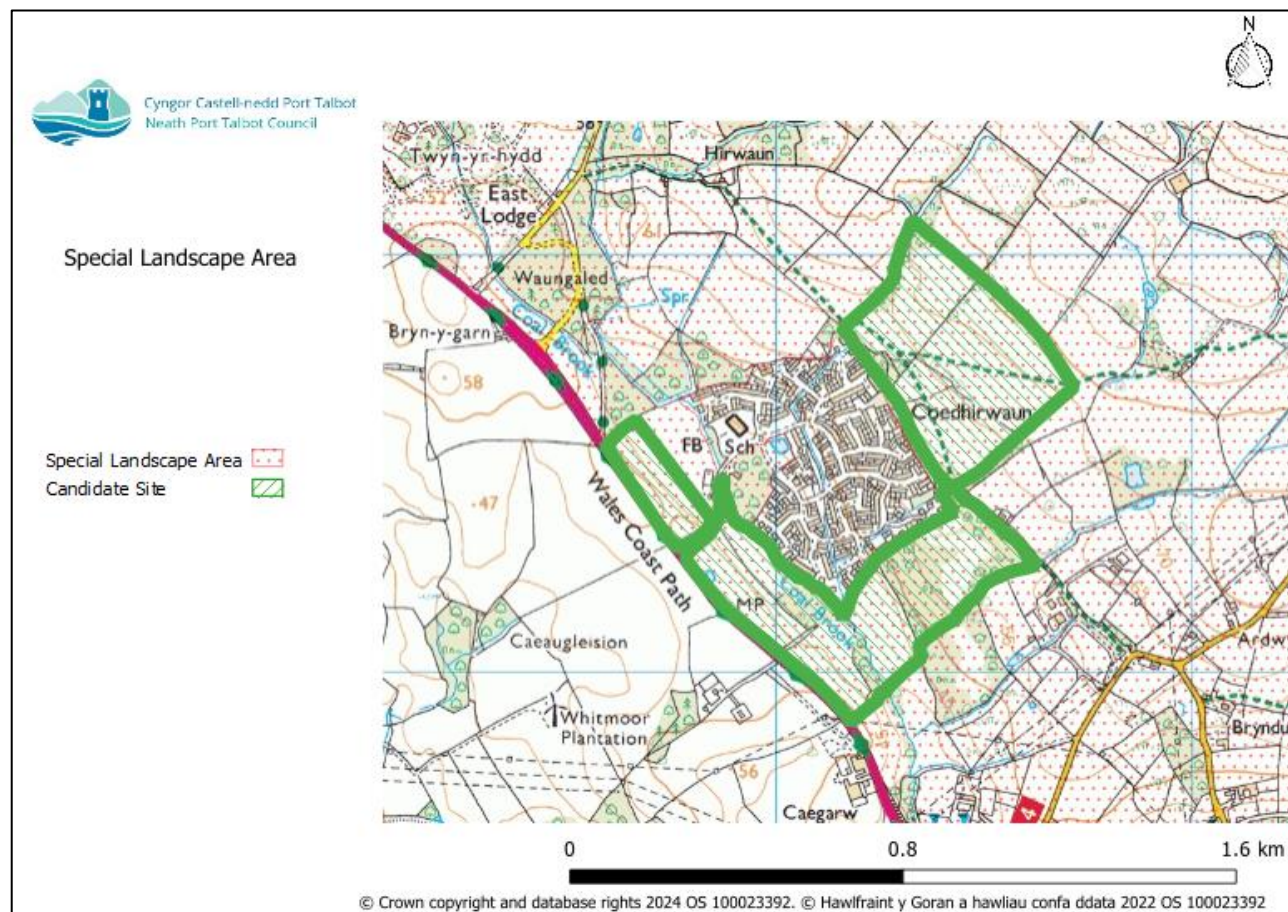
Figure 32: RLDP/P/0013 - Abernant



RLDP/PT/0042 – Land at Coed Hirwaun, Margam

5.1.19. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

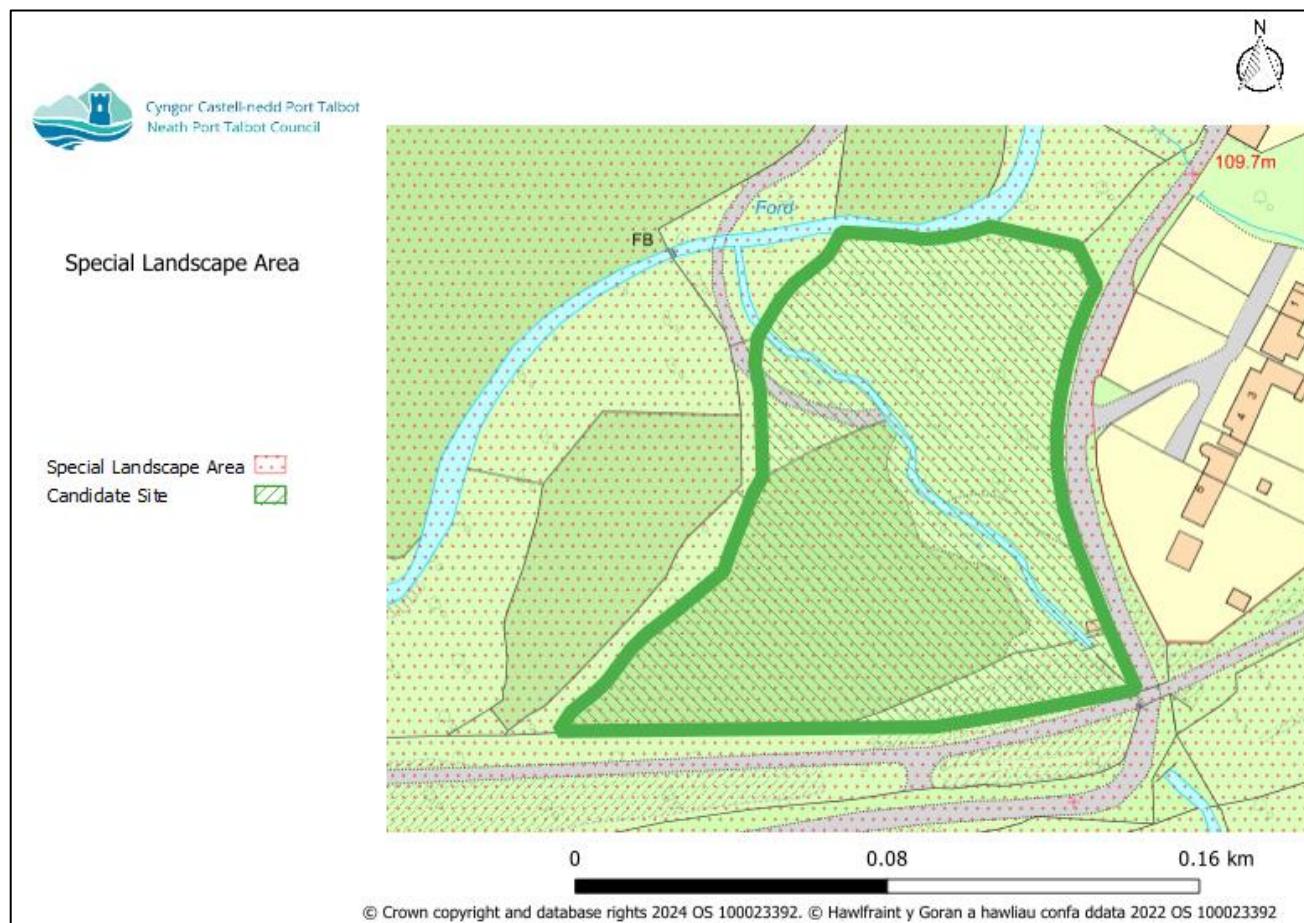
Figure 33: RLDP/PT/0042 – Land at Coed Hirwaun, Margam



RLDP/PT/0021 – Nant y Boda, Bryn – Option A

5.1.20. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

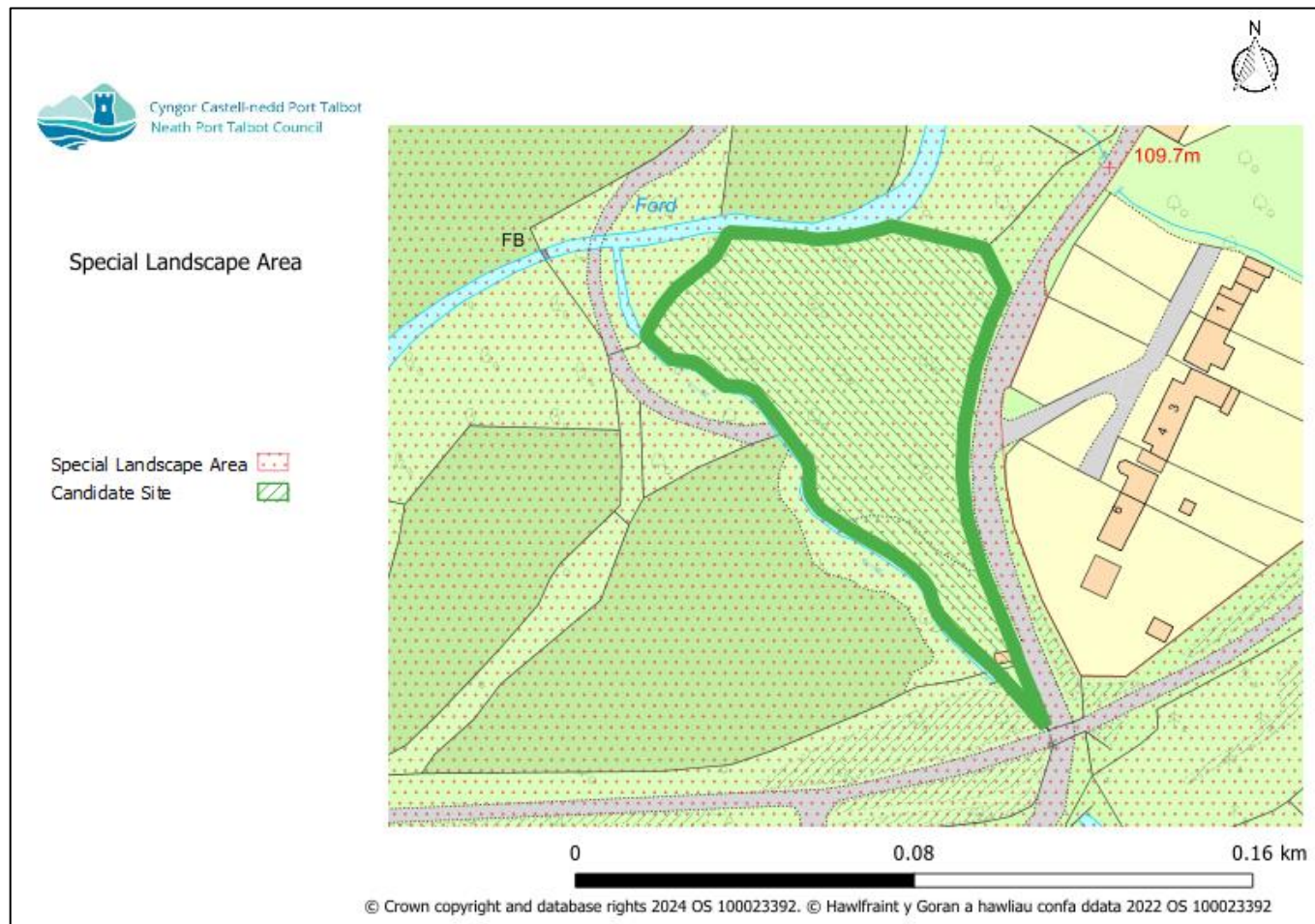
Figure 34: RLDP/PT/0021 – Nant y Boda, Bryn – Option A



RLDP/PT/0022 – Nant y Boda, Bryn – Option B

5.1.21. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

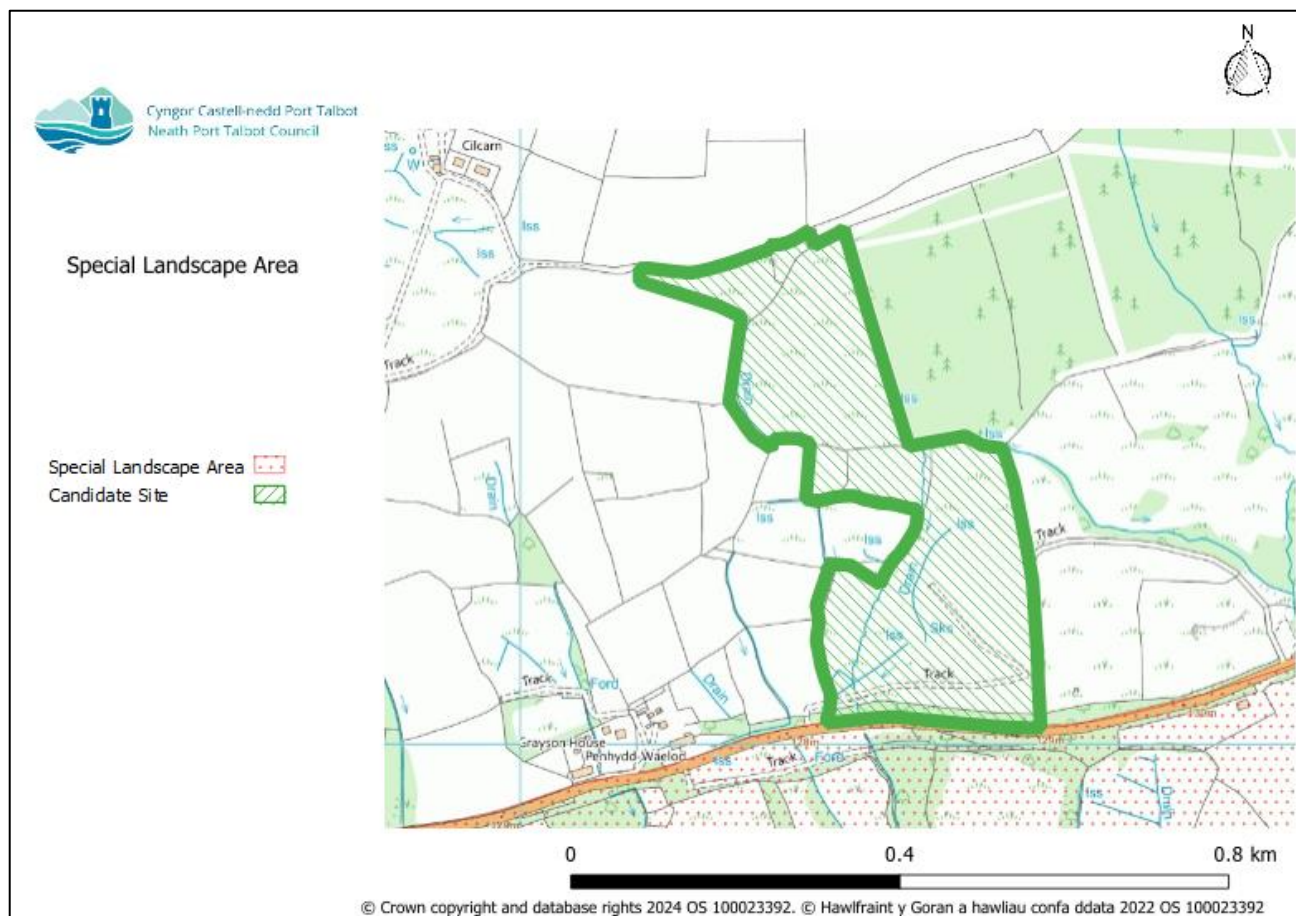
Figure 35: RLDP/PT/0022 – Nant y Boda, Bryn – Option B



RLDP/PT/0025 – Land at Bryn

5.1.22. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Margam SLA. The site itself does not fall within the SLA.

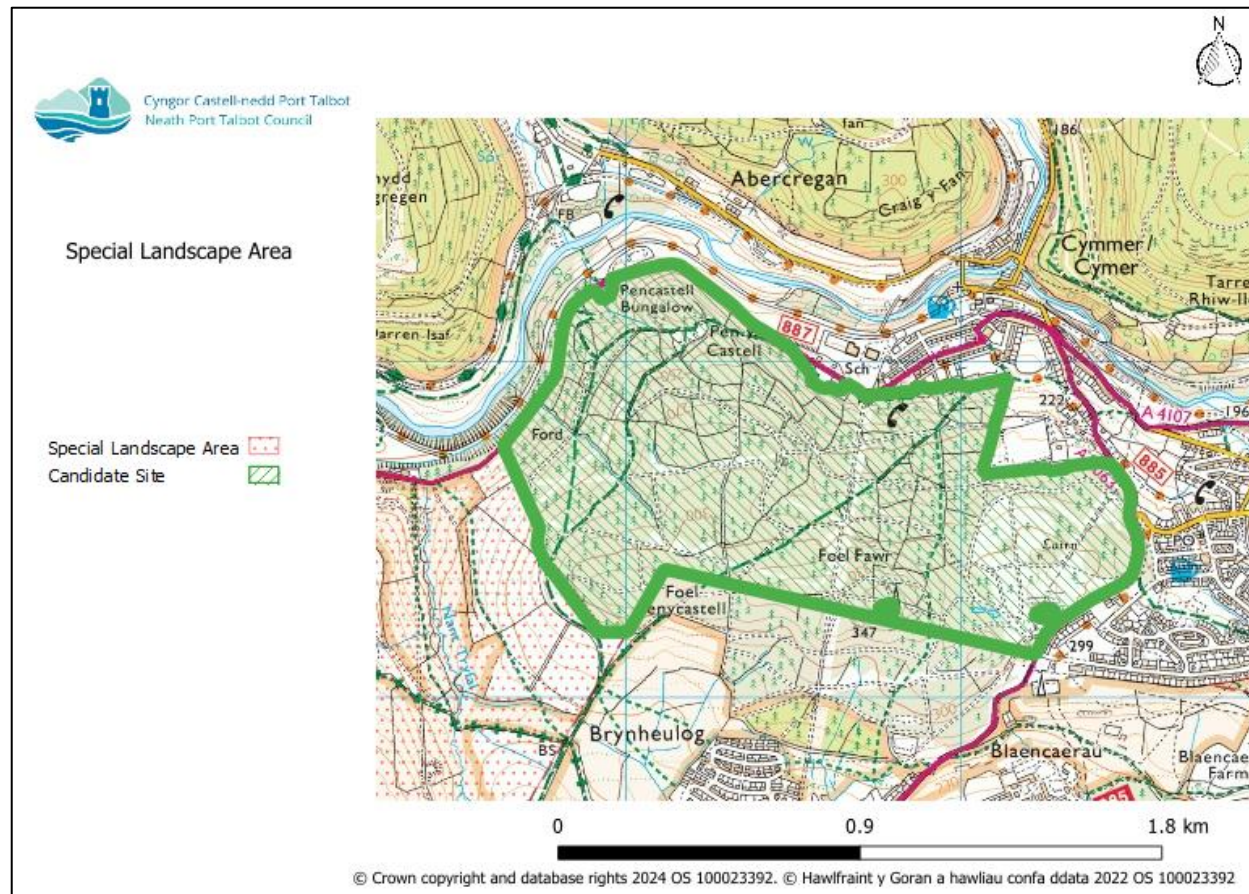
Figure 36: RLDP/PT/0025 – Land at Bryn



RLDP/AV/0001 – Land at Pen y Bryn, Croeserw

5.1.23. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Foel Trawsnant SLA. The site itself does not fall within the SLA.

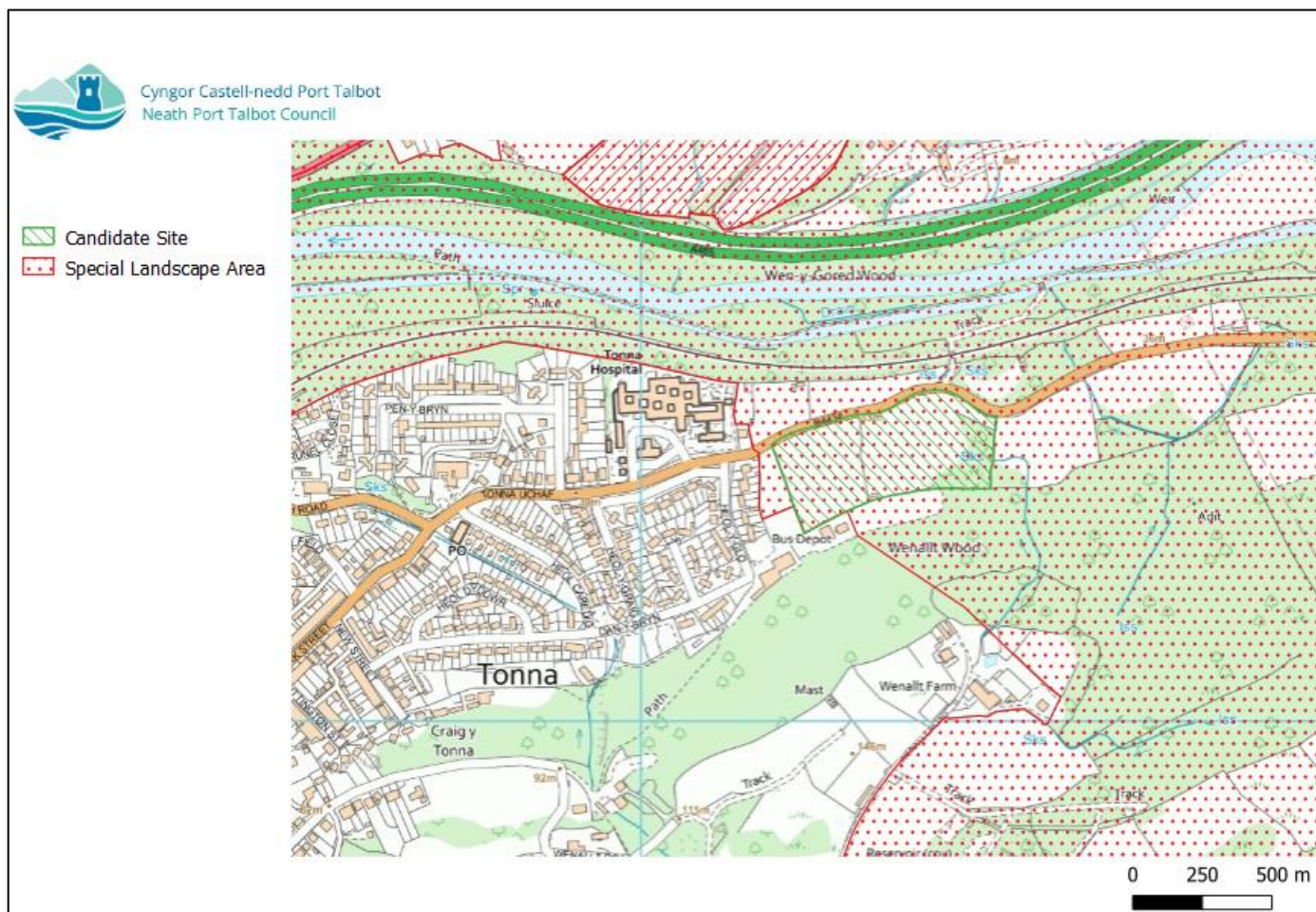
Figure 37: RLDP/AV/0001 – Land at Pen y Bryn, Croeserw



RLDP/N/0044 – Land east of Heol y Glo, Tonna

5.1.24. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

Figure 38: RLDP/N/0044 – Land east of Heol y Glo, Tonna



RLDP/N/0045 – Land at Heol y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)

5.1.25. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

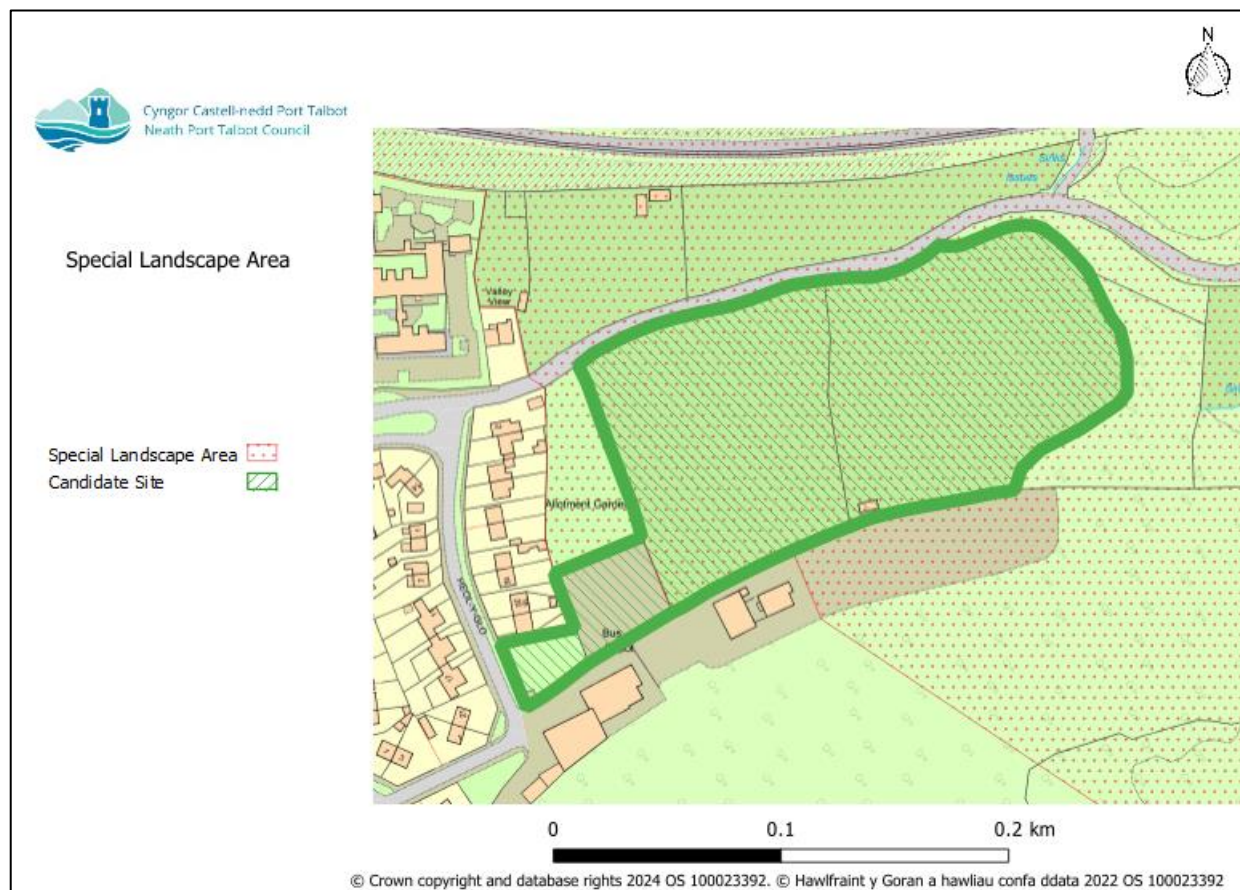
Figure 39: RLDP/N/0045 – Land at Heol y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)



RLDP/N/0046 – Land at Heol y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)

5.1.26. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

Figure 40: RLDP/N/0046 – Land at Heol y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)



RLDP/NV/0019 – Coves Field, Melincourt

5.1.27. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Vale of Neath SLA. The site itself does not lie within the SLA.

Figure 41: RLDP/NV/0019 – Coves Field, Melincourt



RLDP/NV/0017 – Land south of Neath Road, Abergarwed

5.1.28. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

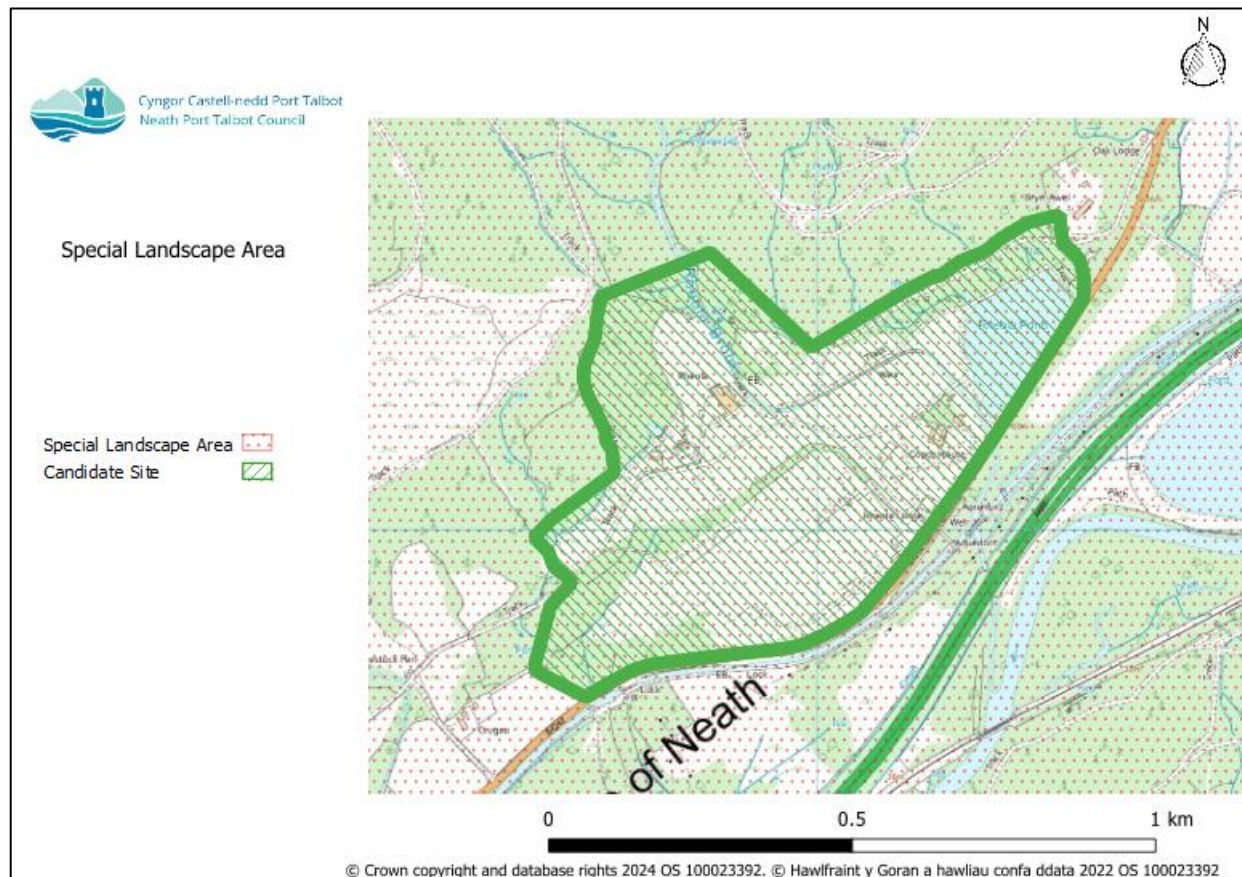
Figure 42: RLDP/NV/0017 – Land south of Neath Road, Abergarwed



RLDP/NV/0012 – Land at Rheola Estate (Option 1)

5.1.29. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

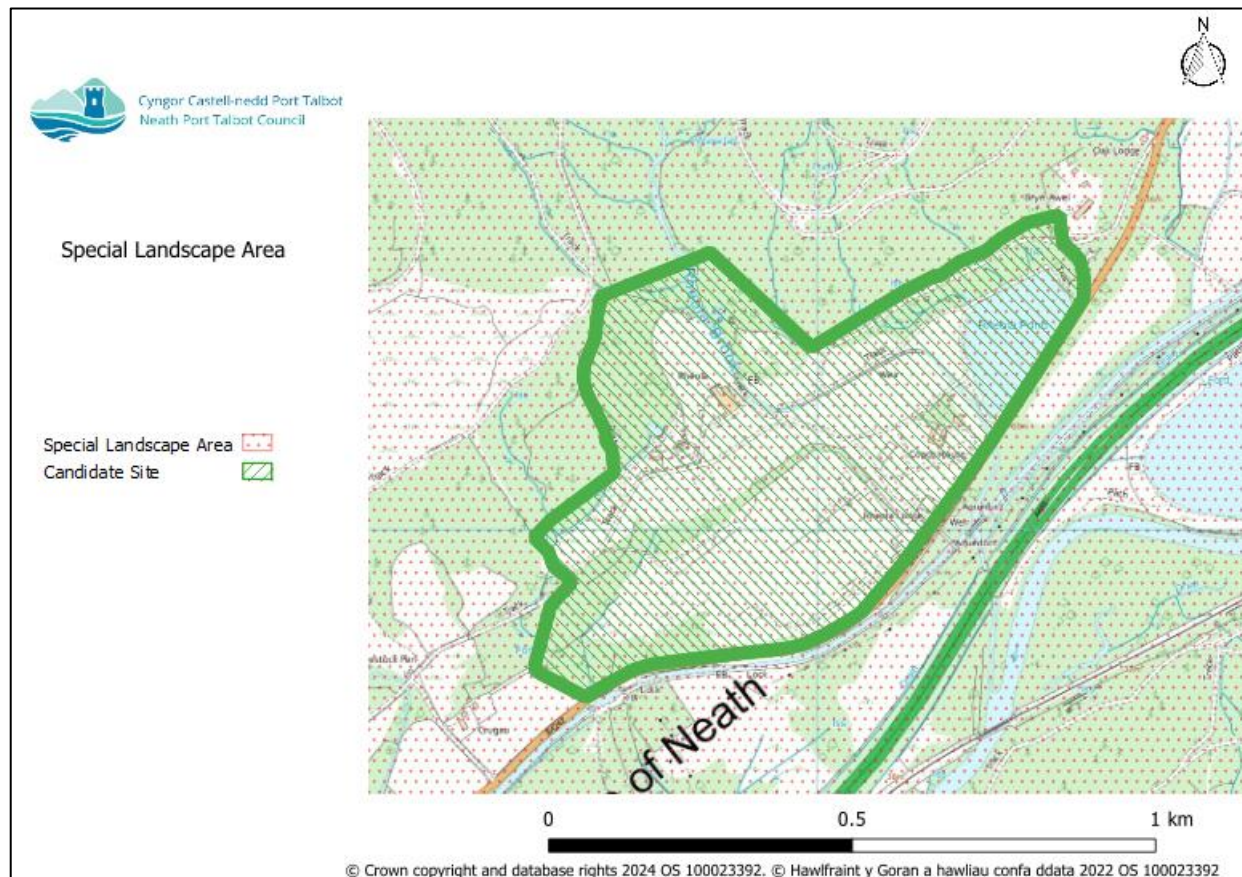
Figure 43: RLDP/NV/0012 – Land at Rheola Estate (Option 1)



RLDP/NV/0013 – Land at Rheola Estate (Option 2)

5.1.30. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

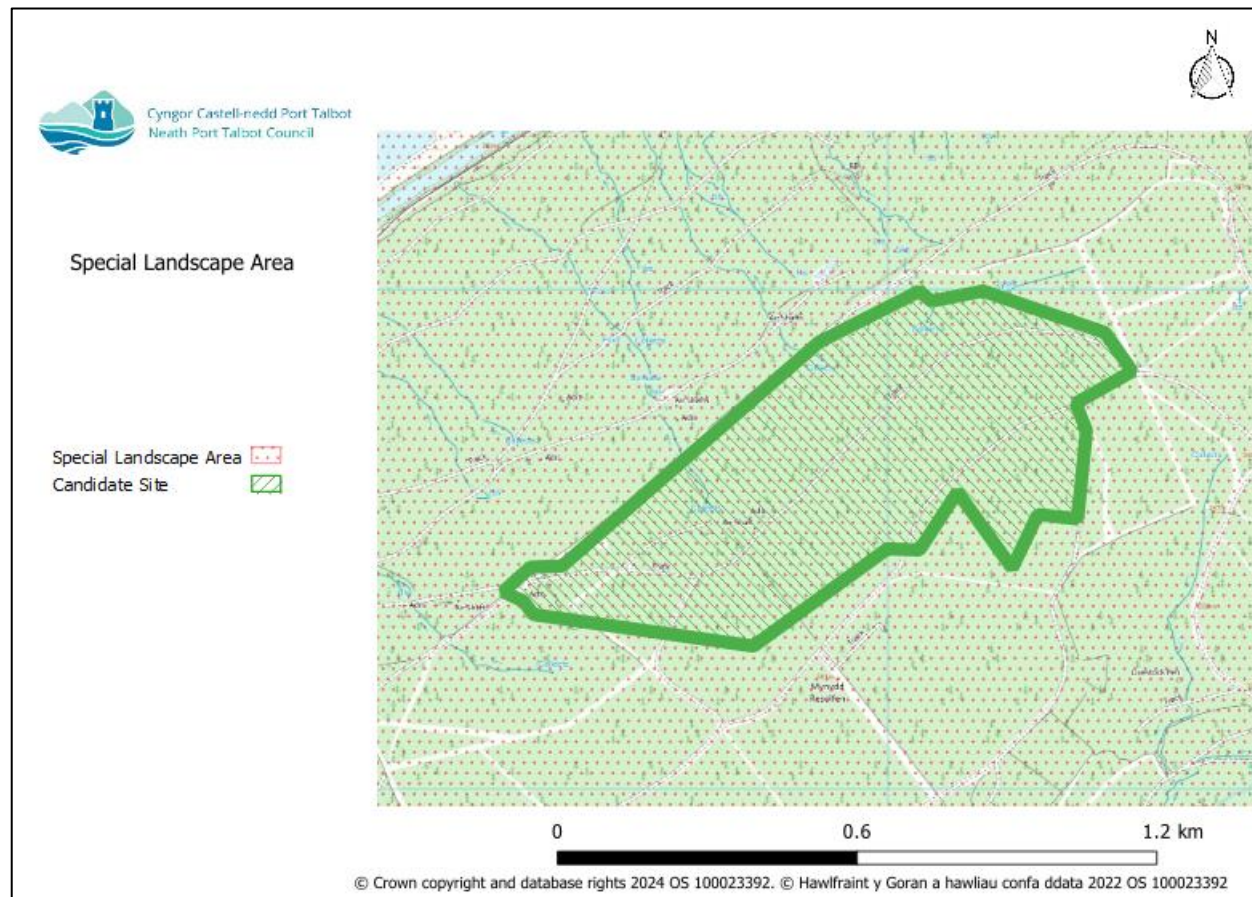
Figure 44: RLDP/NV/0013 – Land at Rheola Estate (Option 2)



RLDP/NV/0014 – Bryncwm Quarry

5.1.31. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

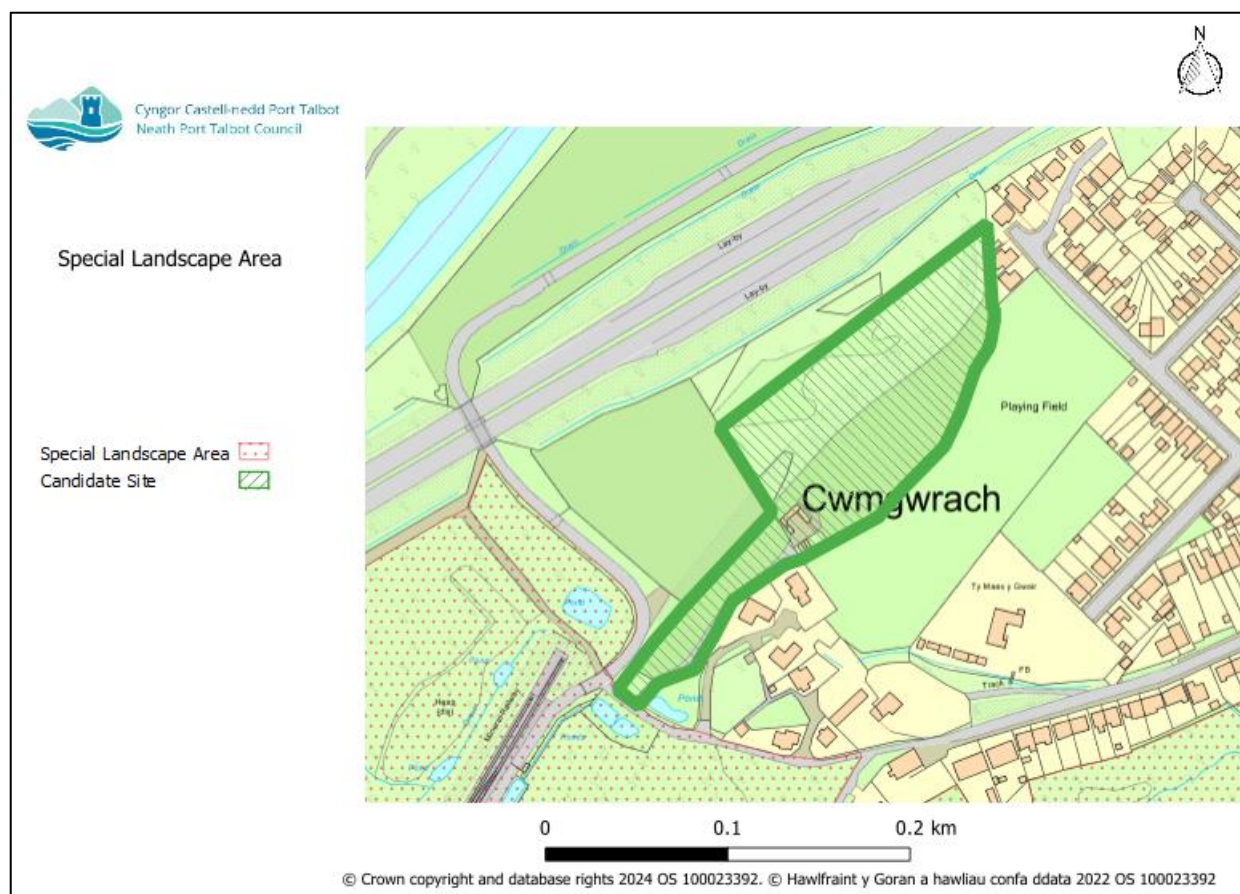
Figure 45: RLDP/NV/0014 – Bryncwm Quarry



RLDP/NV/0001 – Land at Fothergill Road, Cwmgwrach

5.1.32. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Vale of Neath SLA. The site itself does not lie within the SLA.

Figure 46: RLDP/NV/0001 – Land at Fothergill Road, Cwmgwrach



Candidate Sites 2023

Site Reference	Name	SLA
RLDP/PT/2002	Land at Bryn	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/PT/2011	Land north west of Coed Hirwaun	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/PT/2010	Land to the south of Aberbaiden Farm	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/PT/2008	Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/N/2001	Land at Ynysygerwn	Site filtered at Stage 1.
RLDP/P/2002	Land off Gwrhyd Road	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/2004	Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/2003	Land at Bethesda	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/N/2004	Land north of The Pines, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/2003	Land north of 14 Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/2001	Land East of New Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/2002	Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/2003	Land at rear of 39-76 Dulais Road	Dulais Valley
RLDP/PT/2017	Land South and West of Goytre	Margam
RLDP/PT/2019	Land South West of Goytre	Margam
RLDP/PT/2018	Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam	Margam

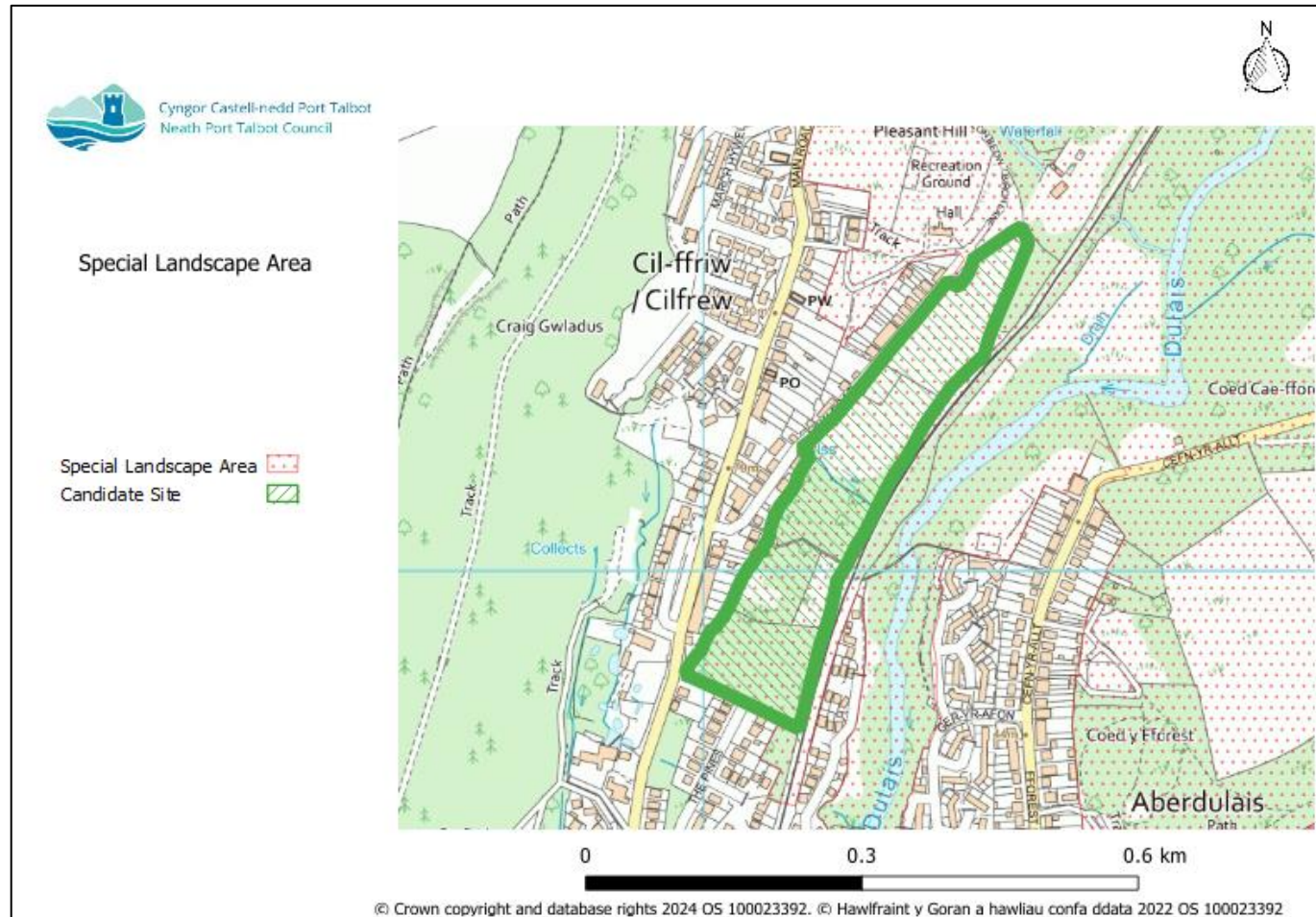
Site Reference	Name	SLA
RLDP/PT/2001	Land off Owen Jones Way, Bryn	Margam
RLDP/PT/2007	Land at Longlands Farm	Margam
RLDP/PT/2015	Land Adjacent to Coed Hirwaun	Margam
RLDP/NV/2001	Cwmgwrach Railhead	Vale of Neath

5.1.33. Maps of sites not filtered at Stage 1 are provided below:

RLDP/N/2004 – Land north of The Pines, Cilfrew

5.1.34. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

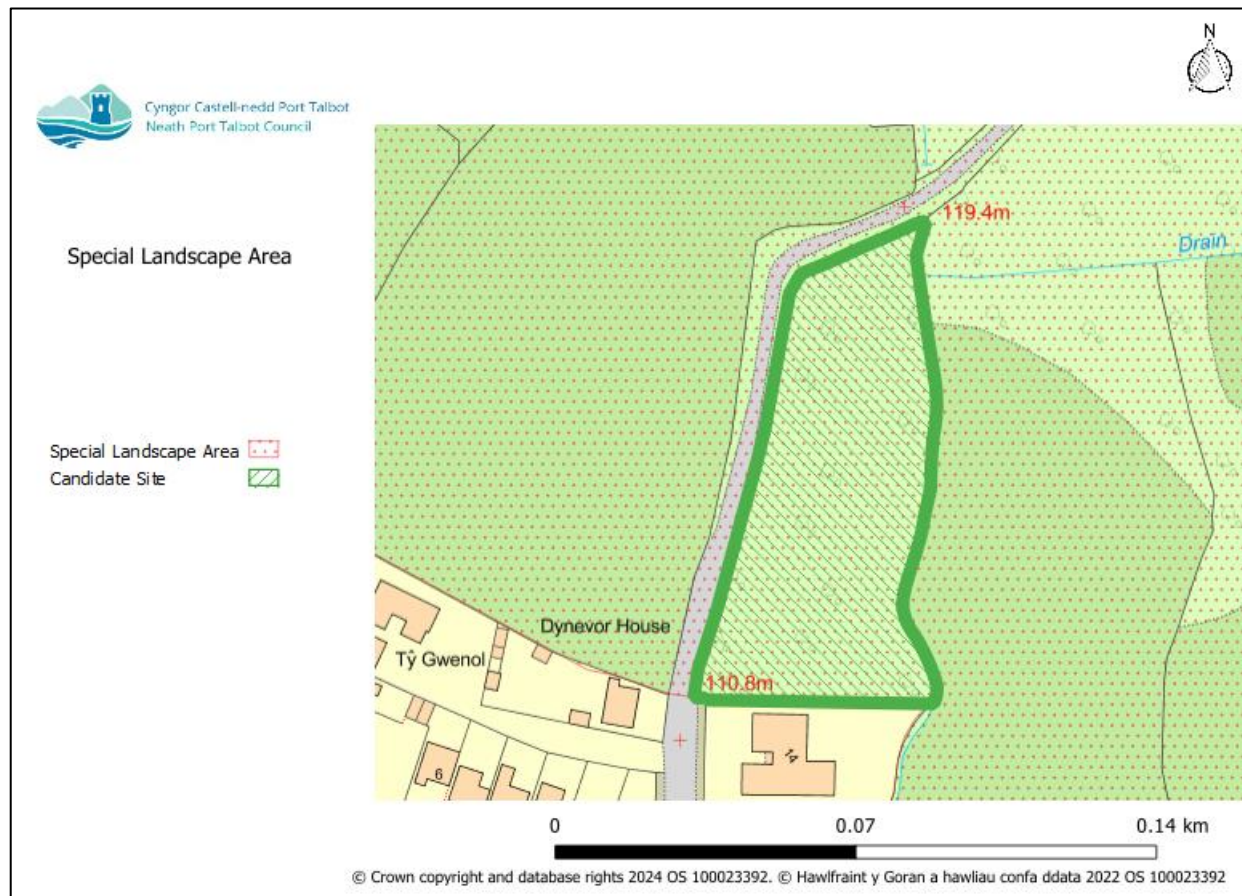
Figure 47: RLDP/N/2004 – Land north of The Pines, Cilfrew



RLDP/N/2003 – Land north of 14 Main Road, Cilfrew

5.1.35. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

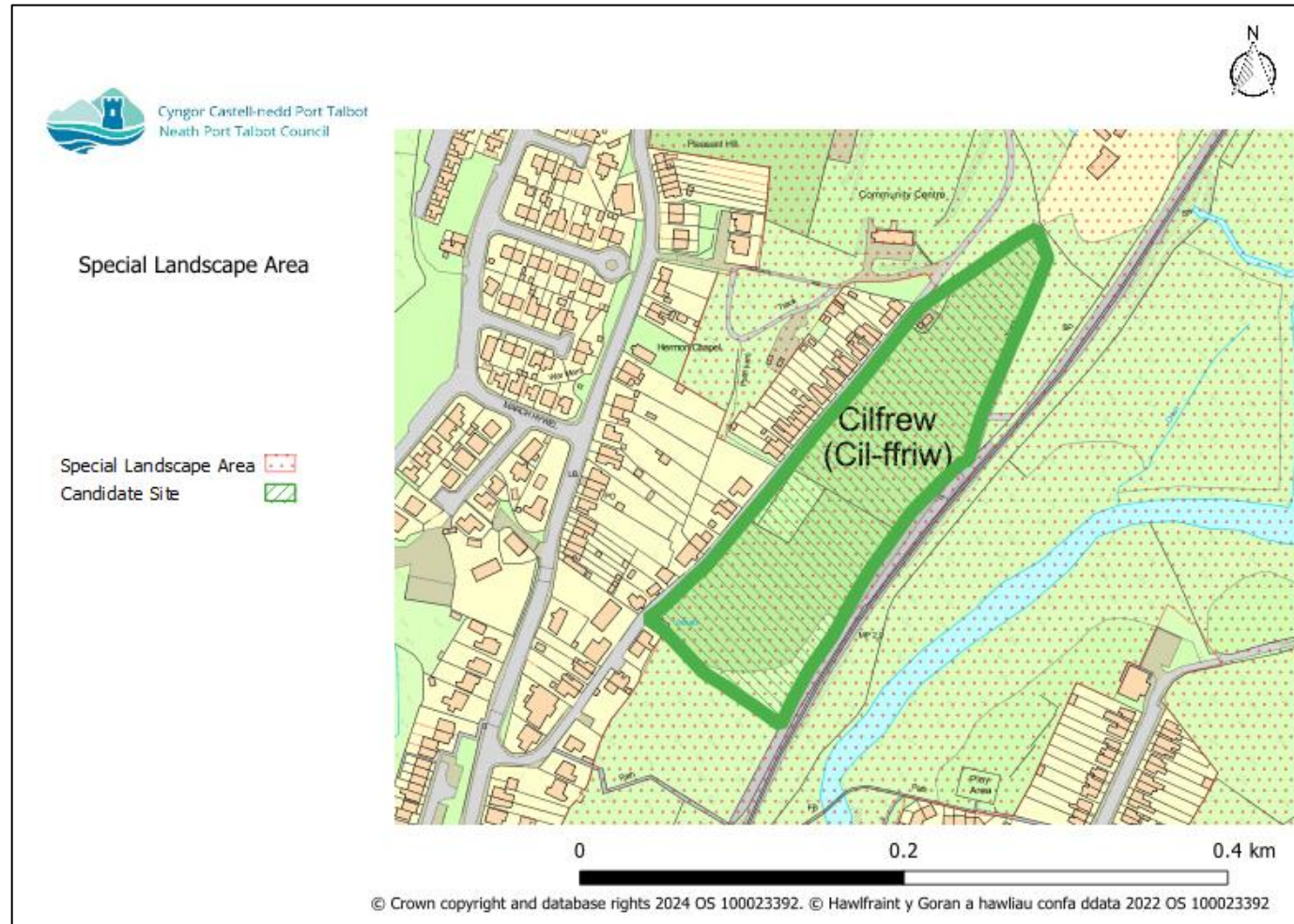
Figure 48: RLDP/N/2003 – Land north of 14 Main Road, Cilfrew



RLDP/N/2001 – Land east of New Road, Cilfrew

5.1.36. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

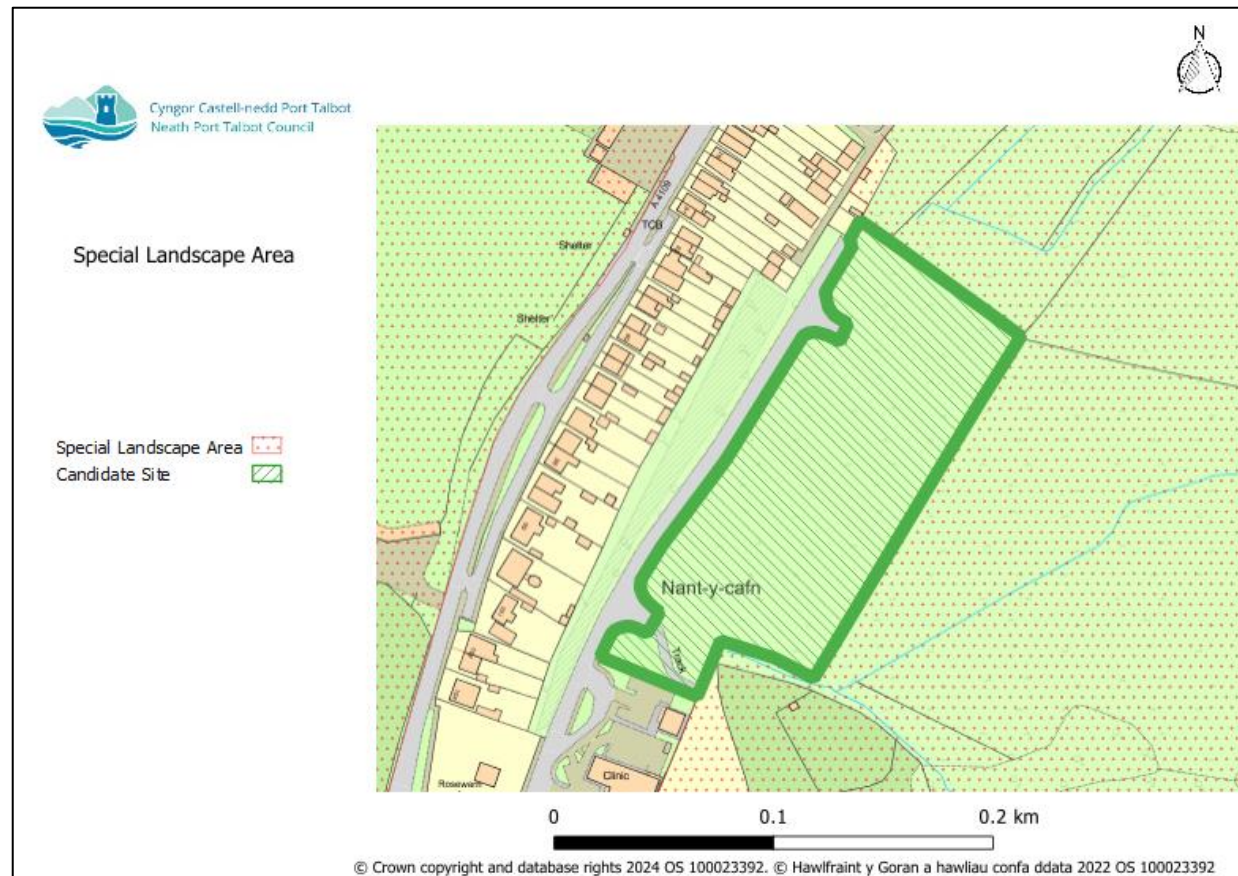
Figure 49: RLDP/N/2004 – Land east of New Road, Cilfrew



RLDP/DV/2002 – Sites 5 and 6 Nant y Cafn Business Park

5.1.37. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Dulais Valley SLA. The site itself does not lie within the SLA.

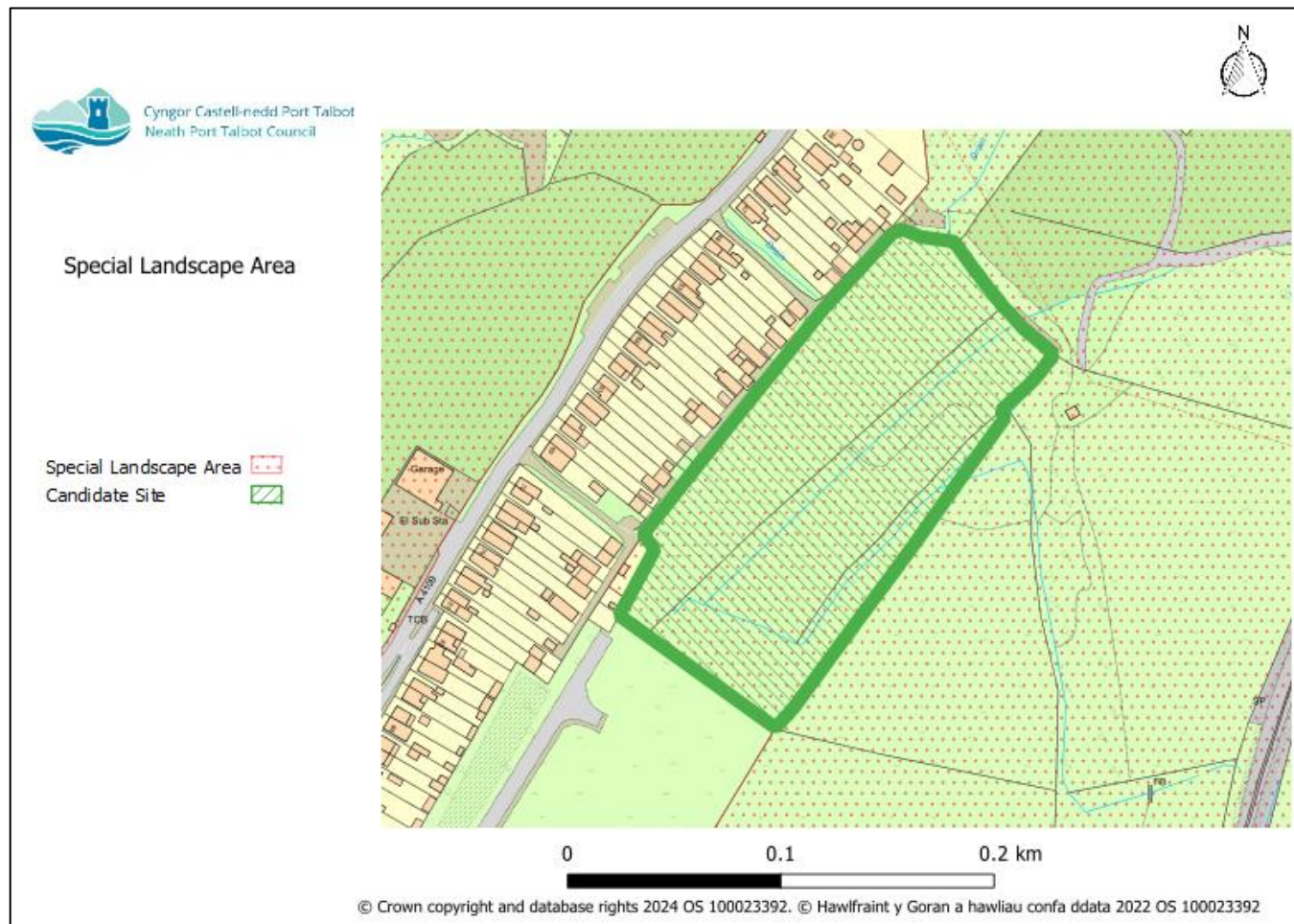
Figure 50: RLDP/DV/2002 – Sites 5 and 6 Nant y Cafn Business Park



RLDP/DV/2003 – Land rear of 39-76 Dulais Road

5.1.38. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

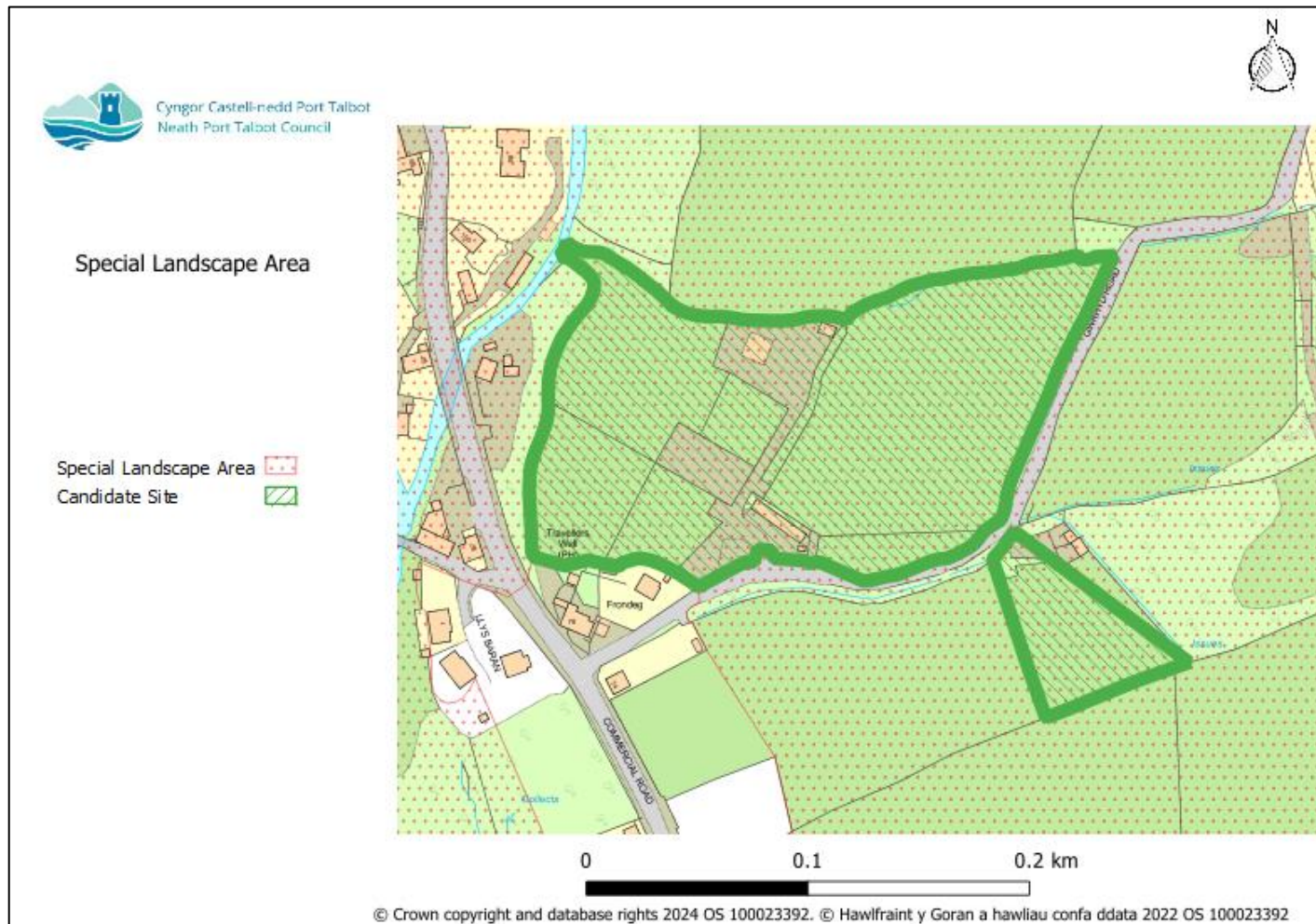
Figure 51: RLDP/DV/2003 – Land rear of 39-76 Dulais Road



RLDP/P//2002 – Land off Gwrhyd Road

5.1.39. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

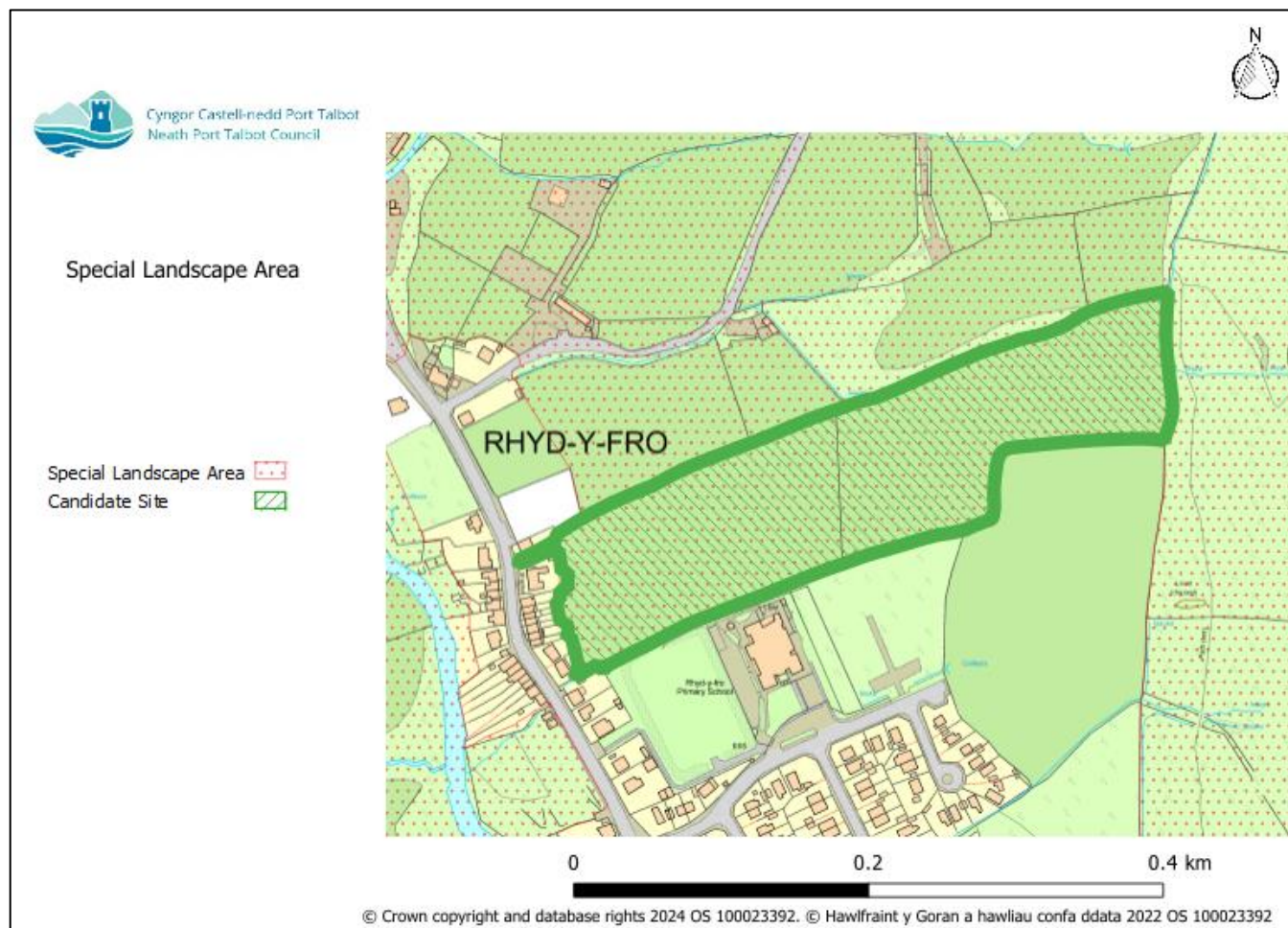
Figure 52: RLDP/P/2002 – Land off Gwrhyd Road



RLDP/P/2004 – Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro

5.1.40. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

Figure 53: RLDP/P/2004 – Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro



RLDP/P/2003 – Land at Bethesda

5.1.41. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary aligns with the boundary of the Mynydd y Garth SLA. The site itself does not lie within the SLA.

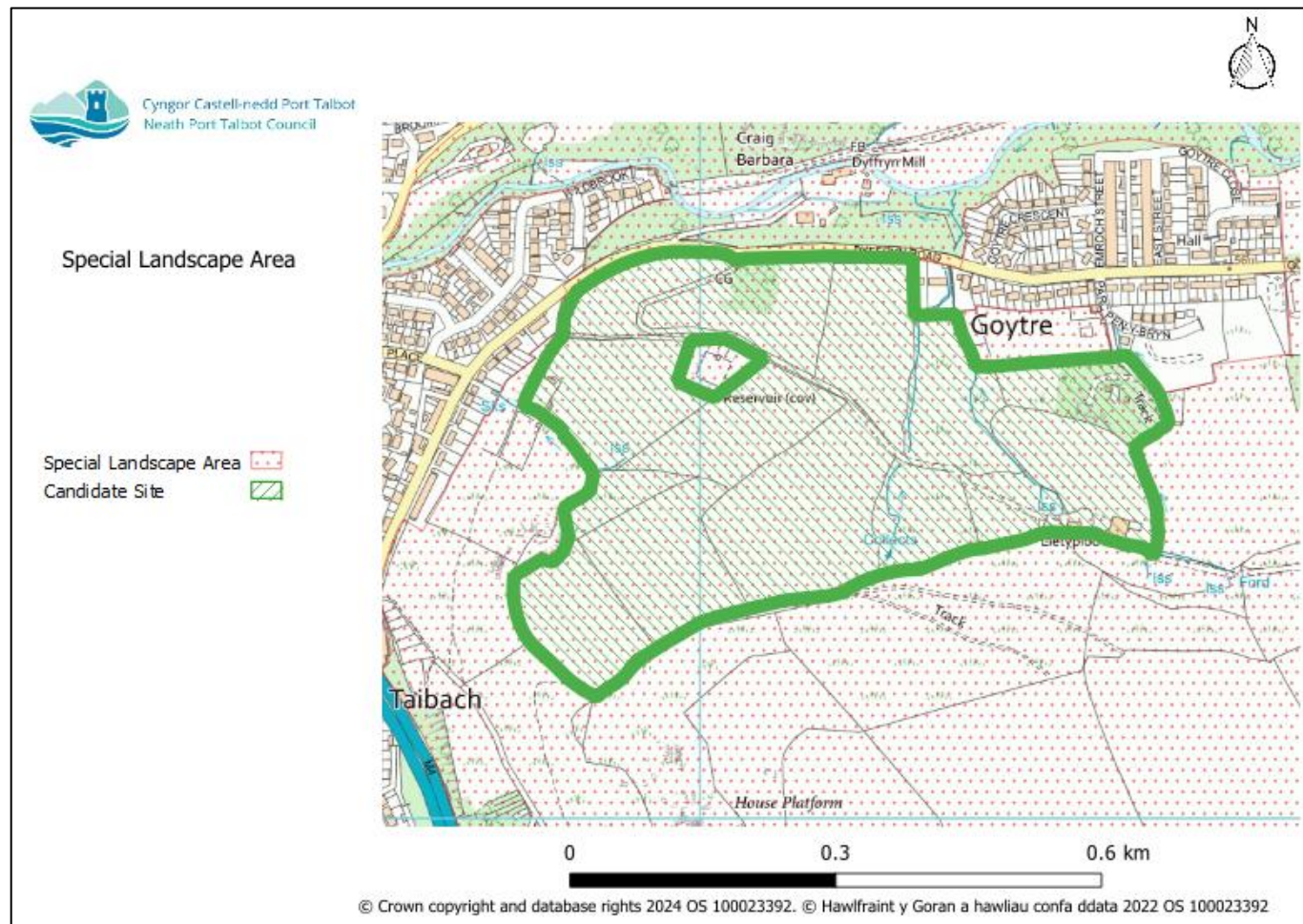
Figure 54: RLDP/P/2003 – Land at Bethesda



RLDP/PT/2017 – Land South and West of Goytre

5.1.42. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

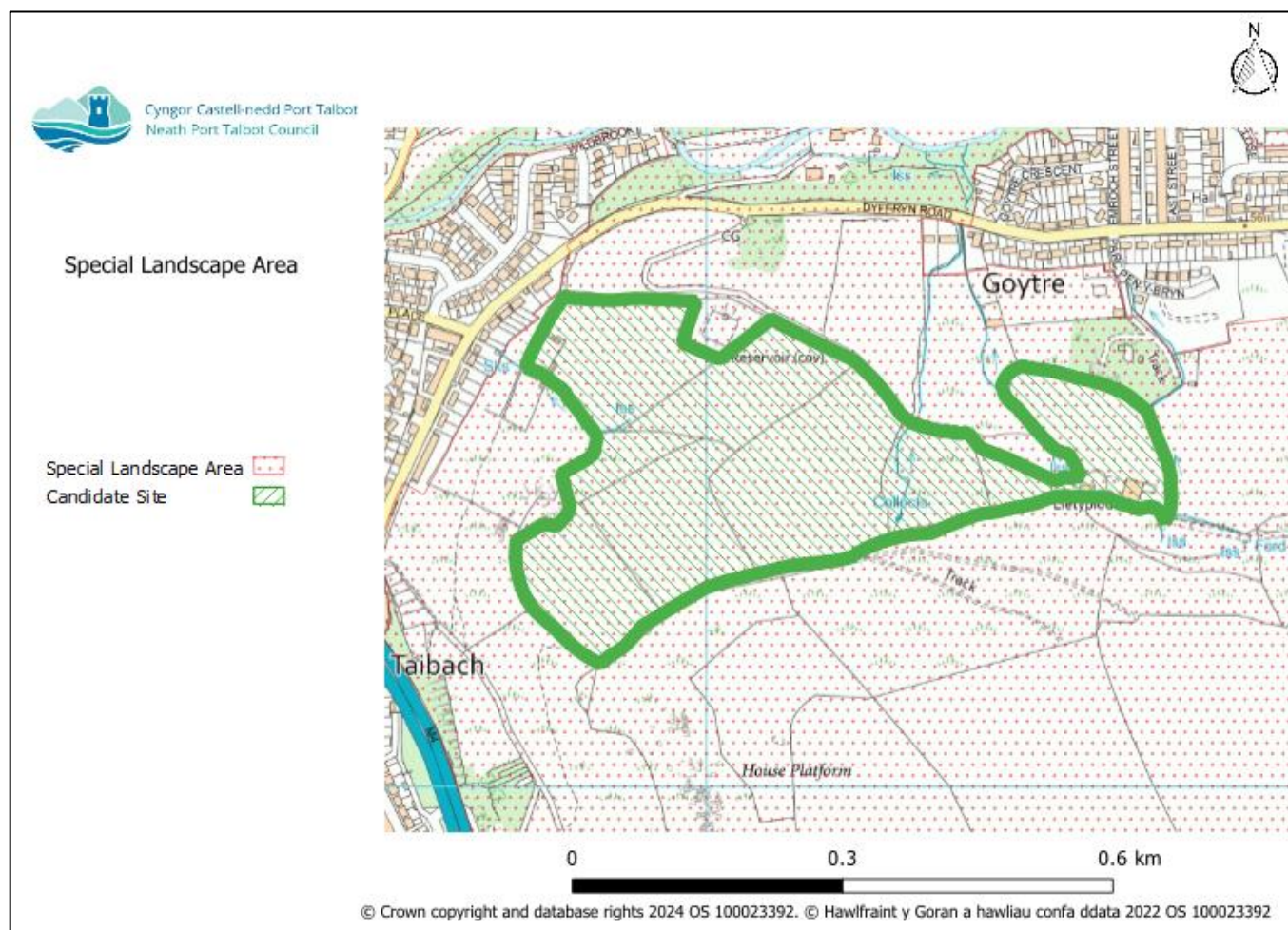
Figure 55: RLDP/PT/2017 – Land South and West of Goytre



RLDP/PT/2019 – Land south west of Goytre

5.1.43. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

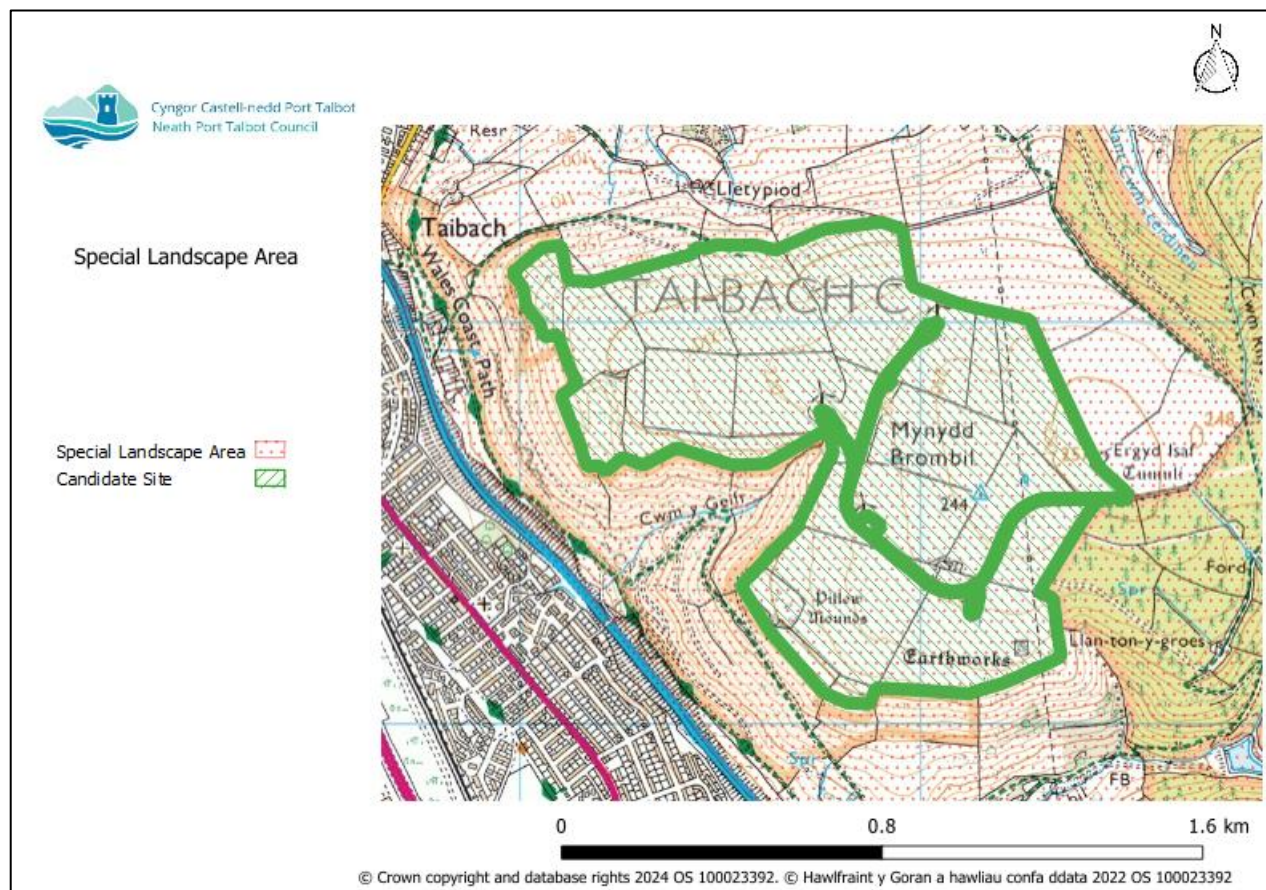
Figure 56: RLDP/PT/2019 – Land south west of Goytre



RLDP/PT/2018 – Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam

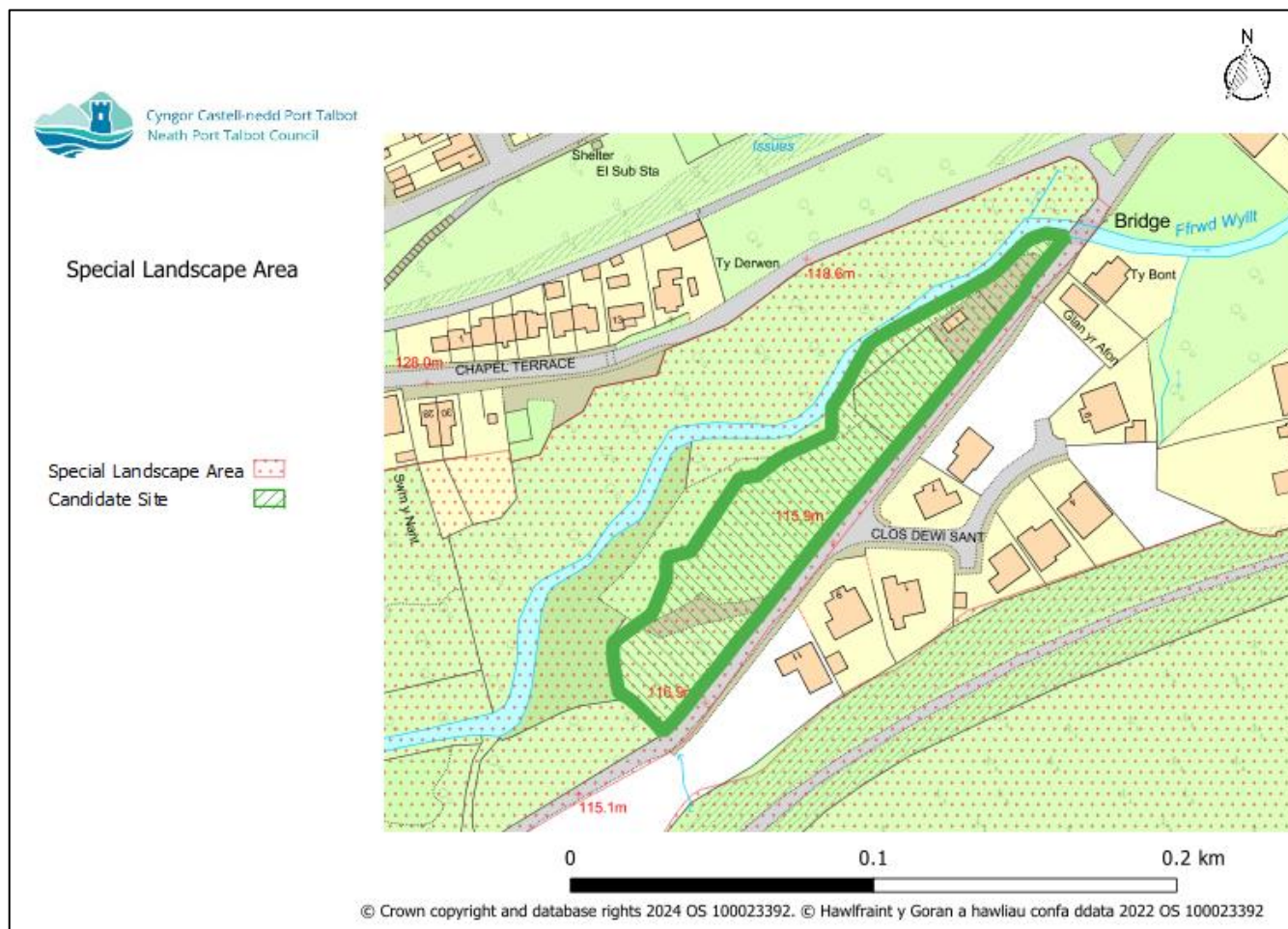
5.1.44. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 57: RLDP/PT/2018 – Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam



5.1.45. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

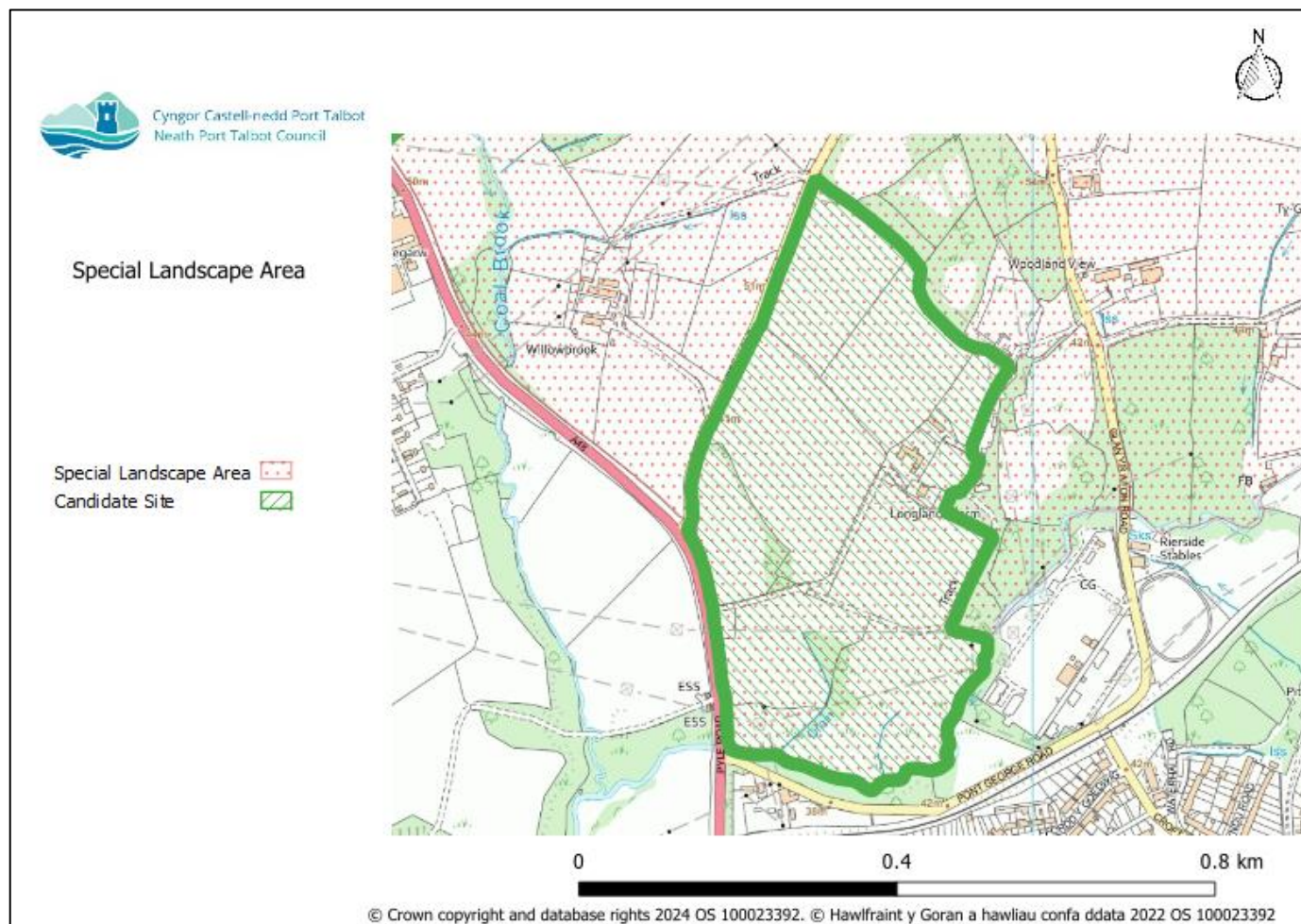
Figure 58: RLDP/PT/2001 – Land off Owen Jones Way, Bryn



RLDP/PT/2007 – Land at Longlands Farm

5.1.46. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

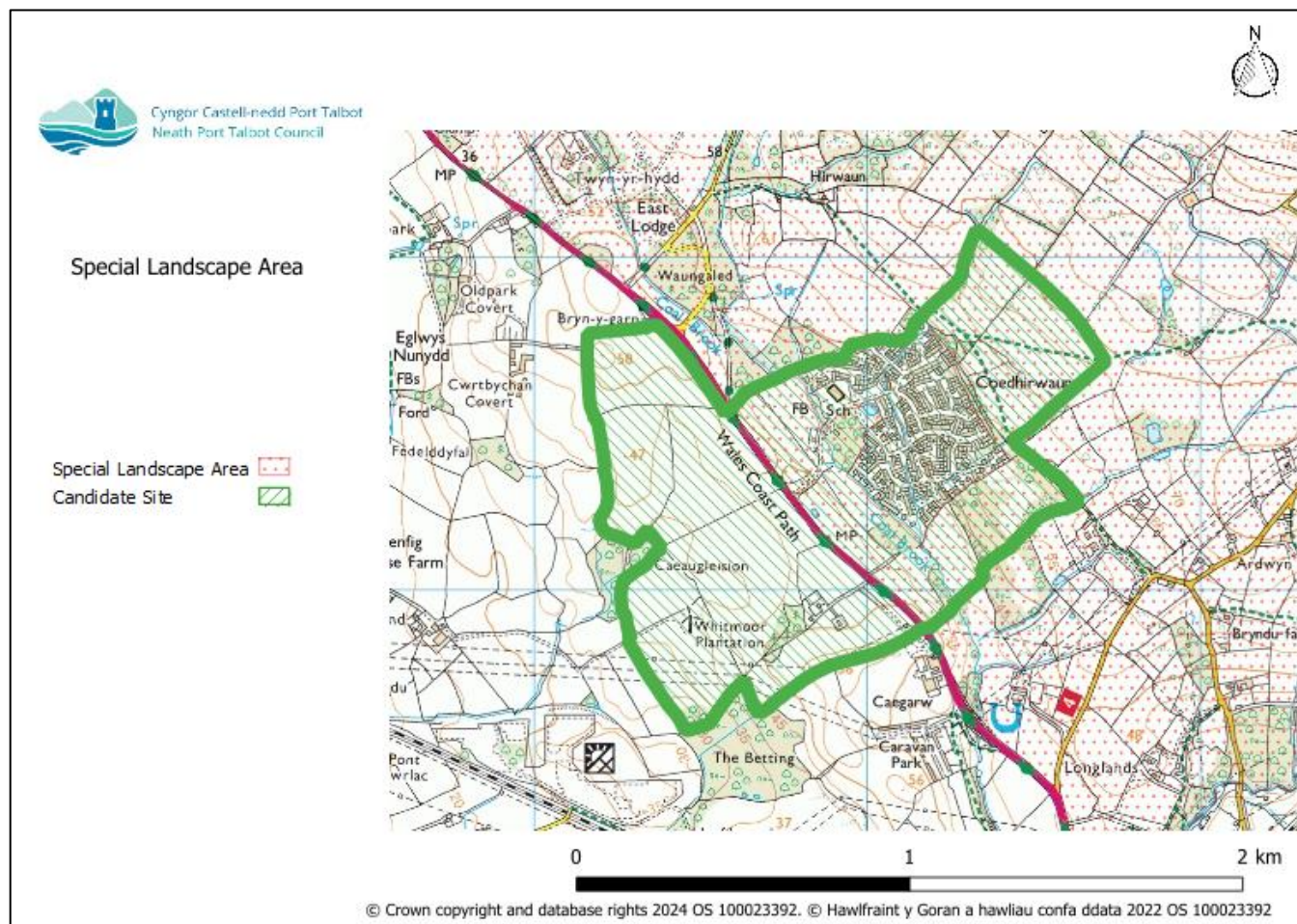
Figure 59: RLDP/PT/2007 – Land at Longlands Farm



RLDP/PT/2015 – Land adjacent to Coed Hirwaun

5.1.47. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

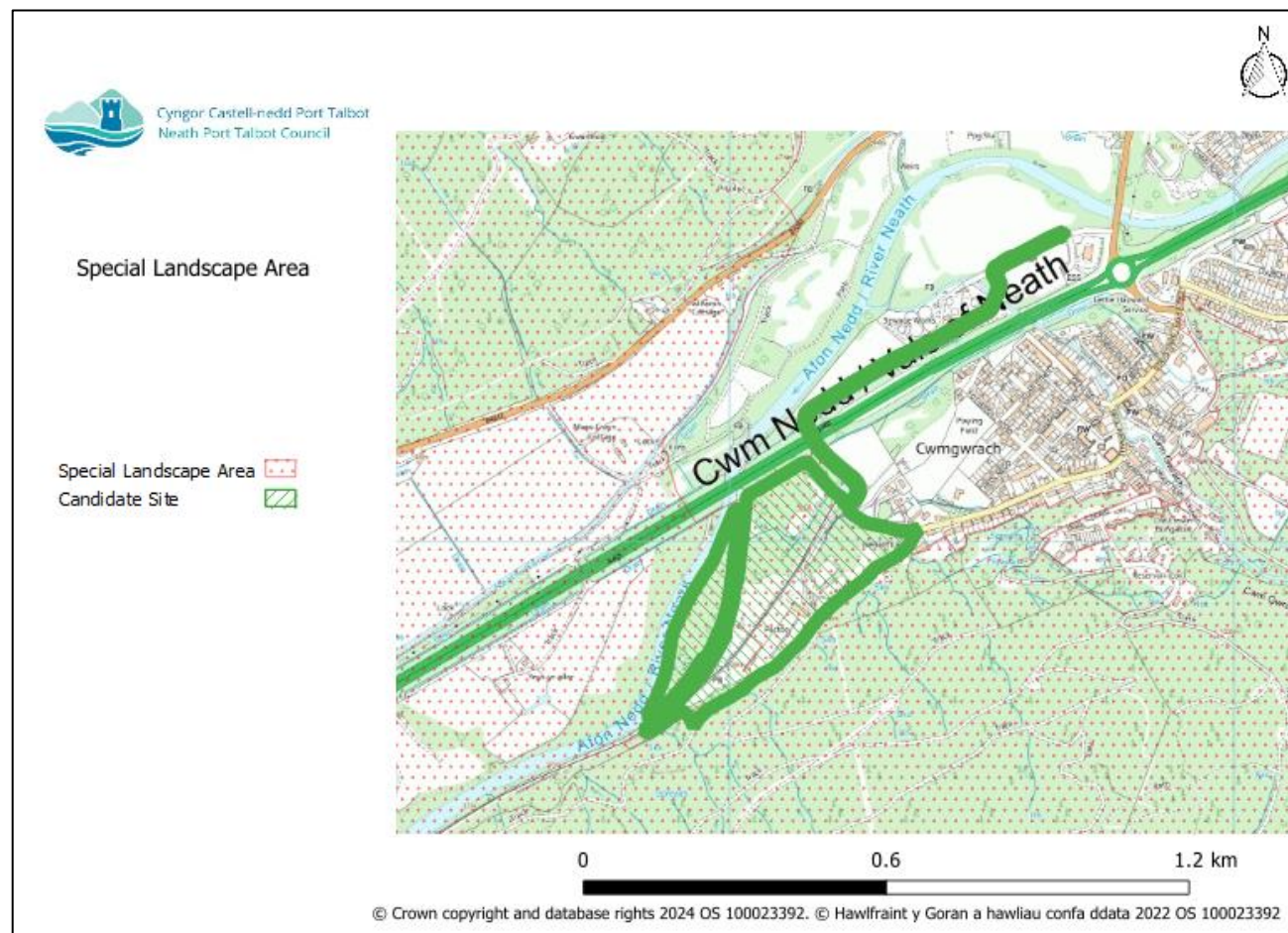
Figure 60: RLDP/PT/2015 – Land adjacent to Coed Hirwaun



RLDP/NV/2001 – Cwmgwrach Railhead

5.1.48. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

Figure 61: RLDP/NV/2001 – Cwmgwrach Railhead



Urban Capacity Sites 2023

5.1.49. The following sites submitted as part of the Urban Capacity Call for Sites are located within one of the County Borough's 6 SLAs:

Table 7: 2023 Urban Capacity Sites

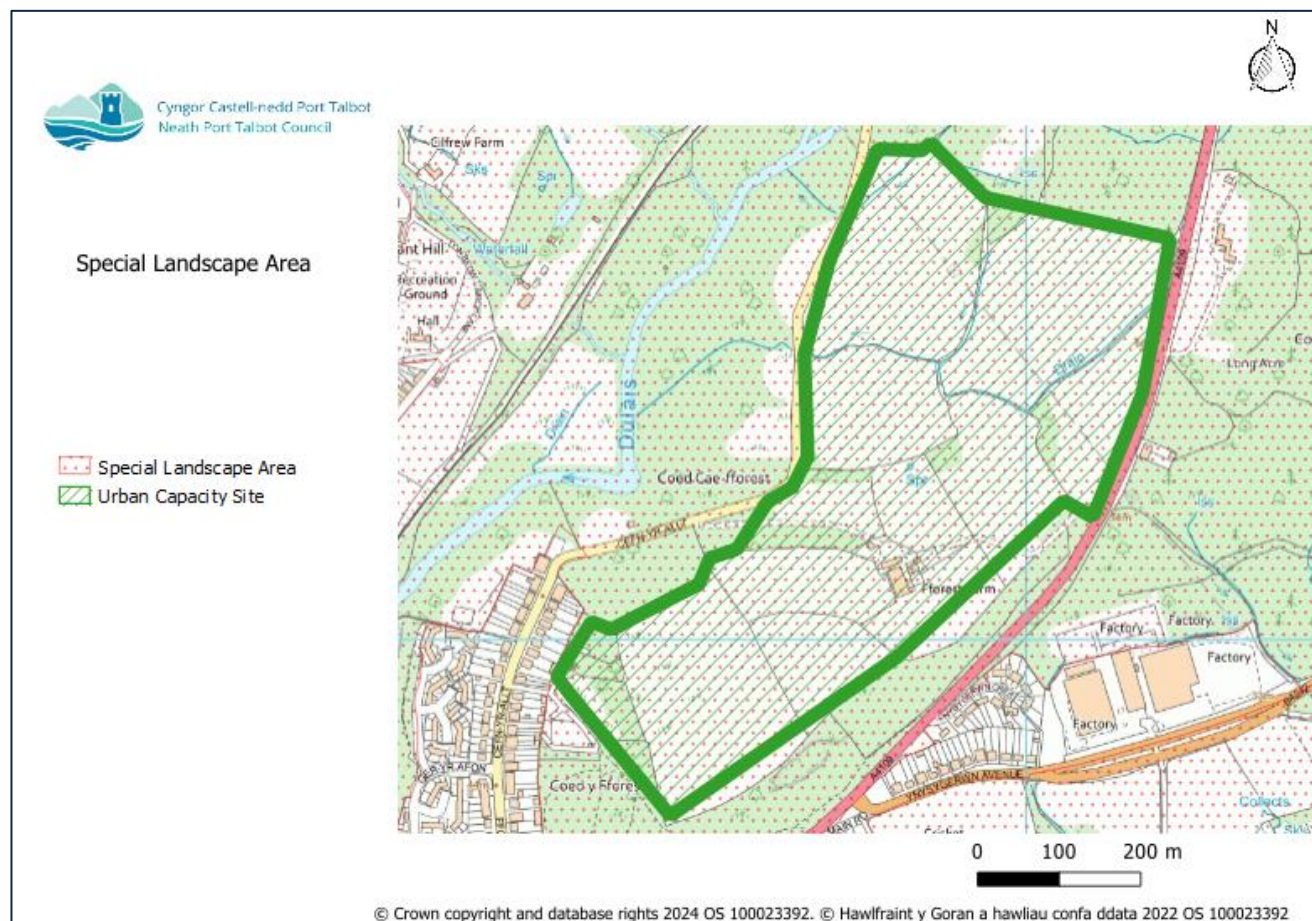
Site Reference	Site Name	SLA
RLDP/P/UC016	Glyn-meirch Road Trebanos	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/P/UC009	Land off Commercial Road	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/SV/UC012	Land at Maengwyn	Mynydd y Garth
RLDP/N/UC007	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/UC001	Land at New Road, Cilfrew, Neath	Dulais Valley
RLDP/N/UC0003	Land North of Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/UC001	Ynysfadog Farm, Crynant	Dulais Valley
RLDP/DV/UC0004	Land off Main Road, Crynant	Dulais Valley
RLDP/PT/UC0045	Land at Broomhill	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC0052	Balaclava Row, Land North of Inkerman Row	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC008	Land at Forest Lodge Lane	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC048	Land R/O Goytre Road	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC007	Land at Western Logs and Hawthorn close	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC006	Western Logs	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC046	Goytre Close (top of Parsons Lane), Goytre	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC009	Land adjoining B4282 Forest Lodge, Cwmafan	Margam

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA
RLDP/PT/UC049	Land at Pen y Bryn	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC023	Land at Ten Acre Wood	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC020	Land from Pyle Road to Longlands Farm	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC021	Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC022	Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Site B	Margam
RLDP/PT/UC054	Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend	Margam
RLDP/AV/UC002	Land adjacent to Croeserw Industrial Estate	Mynydd y Gelli
RLDP/NV/UC014	Brynfelin, Melincourt	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/UC016	Land opposite Stag House / Garwed Gardens, Abergarwed	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/UC012	Land at 1 The Bungalow, Abergarwed	Vale of Neath
RLDP/NV/UC013	The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven	Vale of Neath

5.1.50. Maps of these sites are provided below.

5.1.51. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 62: RLDP/N/UC007 - Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais



RLDP/N/UC001 – Land at New Road, Cilfrew, Neath

5.1.52. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 63: RLDP/N/UC001 – Land at New Road, Cilfrew, Neath



5.1.53. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 64: RLDP/N/UC003 – Land North of Main Road, Cilfrew



RLDP/DV/UC001 – Ynysfadog Farm, Crynant

5.1.54. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 65: RLDP/DV/UC001 – Ynysfadog Farm, Crynant



RLDP/DV/UC004 – Land off Main Road, Crynant

5.1.55. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Dulais Valley SLA.

Figure 66: RLDP/DV/UC004 – Land off Main Road, Crynant



RLDP/P/UC016 – Glyn-Meirch Road, Trebanos

5.1.56. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

Figure 67: RLDP/P/UC016 – Glyn-Meirch Road, Trebanos



RLDP/P/UC009 – Land off Commercial Road

5.1.57. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

Figure 68: RLDP/P/UC009 – Land off Commercial Road



RLDP/SV/UC012 – Land at Maengwyn

5.1.58. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Mynydd y Garth SLA.

Figure 69: RLDP/SV/UC012 – Land at Maengwyn



RLDP/PT/UC0045 – Land at Broomhill

5.1.59. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 70: RLDP/PT/UC0045 – Land at Broomhill



RLDP/PT/UC058 – Balaclarva Row, Land North of Inkerman Row

5.1.60. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 71: RLDP/PT/UC058 – Balaclarva Row, Land North of Inkerman Row



RLDP/PT/UC008 – Land at Forest Lodge Lane

5.1.61. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 72: RLDP/PT/UC008 – Land at Forest Lodge Lane



RLDP/PT/UC048 – Land R/O Goytre Road

5.1.62. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

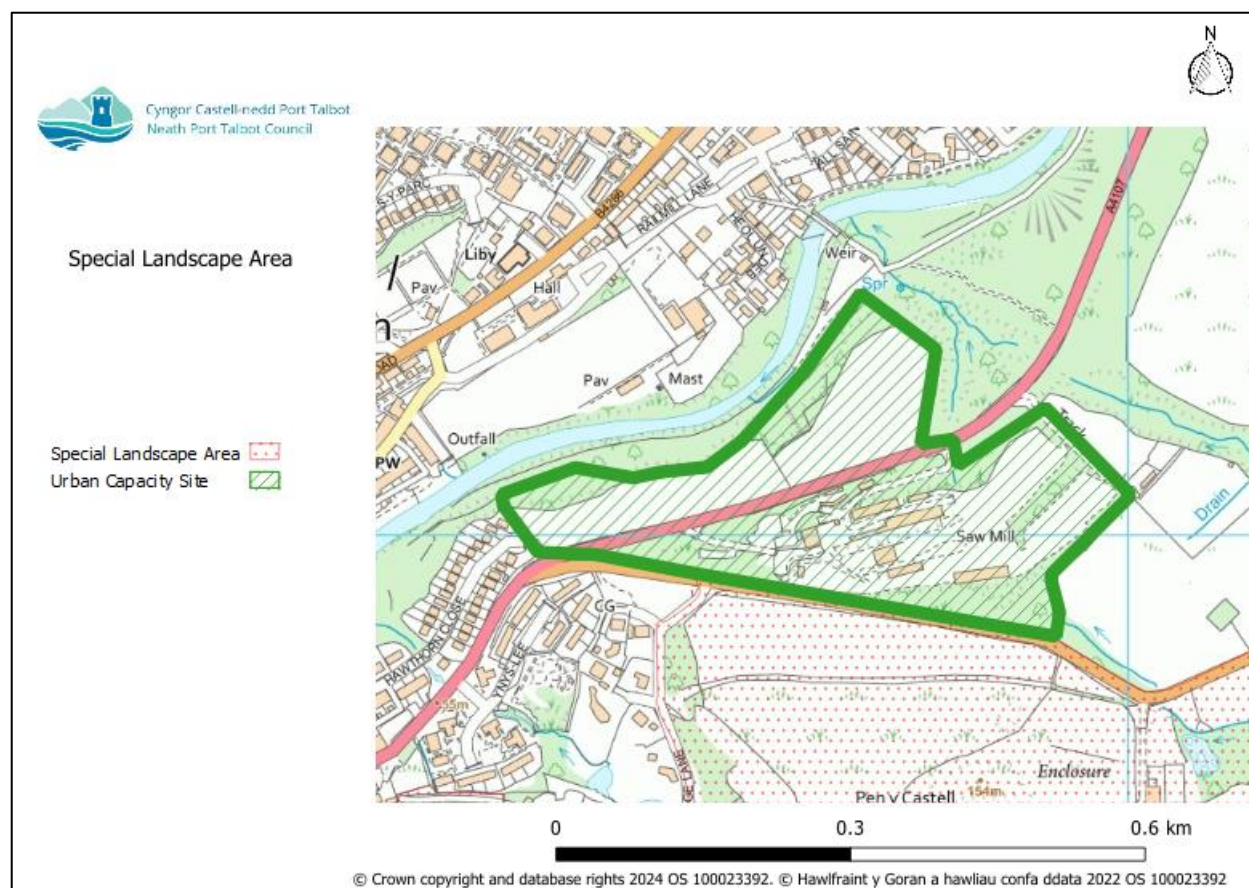
Figure 73: RLDP/PT/UC048 – Land R/O Goytre Road



RLDP/PT/UC007 – Land at Western Road and Hawthorn Close

5.1.63. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Margam SLA. The site itself does not fall within the SLA.

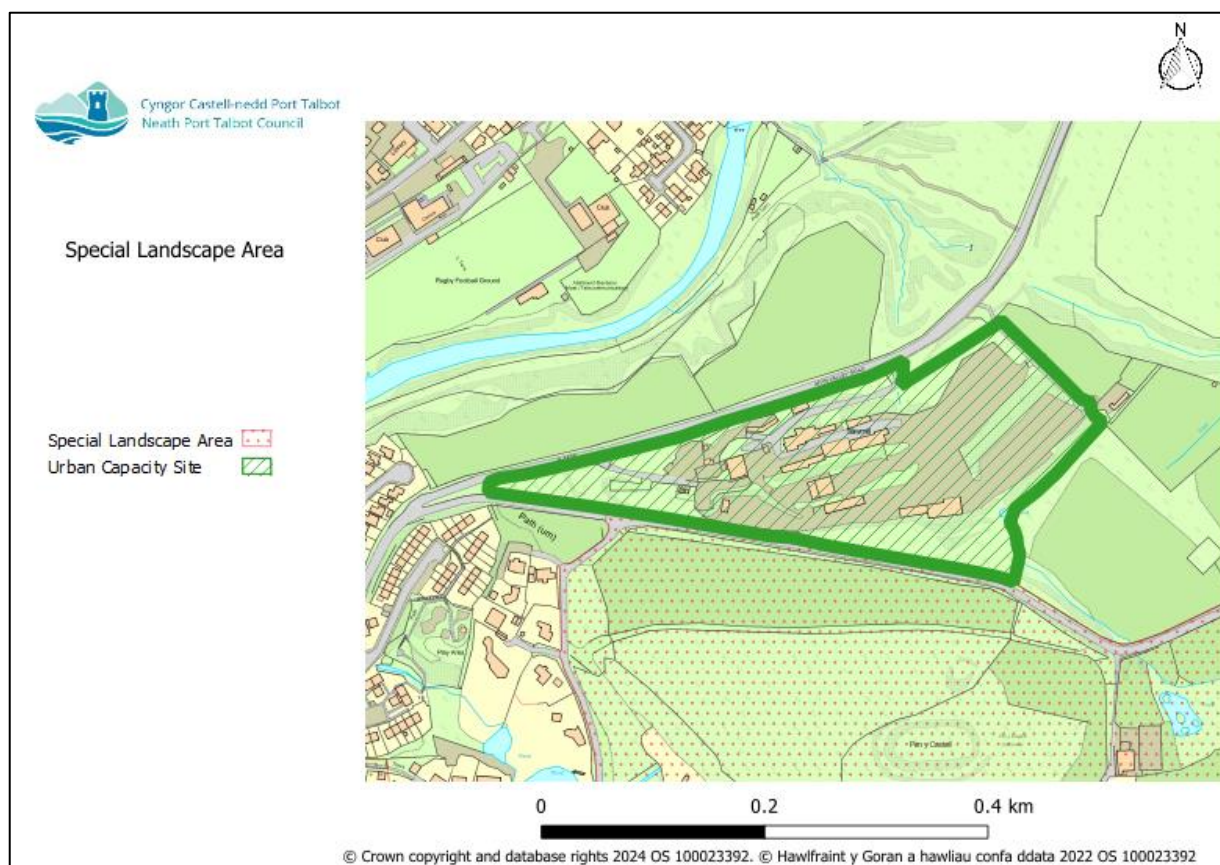
Figure 74: RLDP/PT/UC007 – Land at Western Road and Hawthorn Close



RLDP/PT/UC006 – Western Logs

5.1.64. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Margam SLA. The site itself does not fall within the SLA.

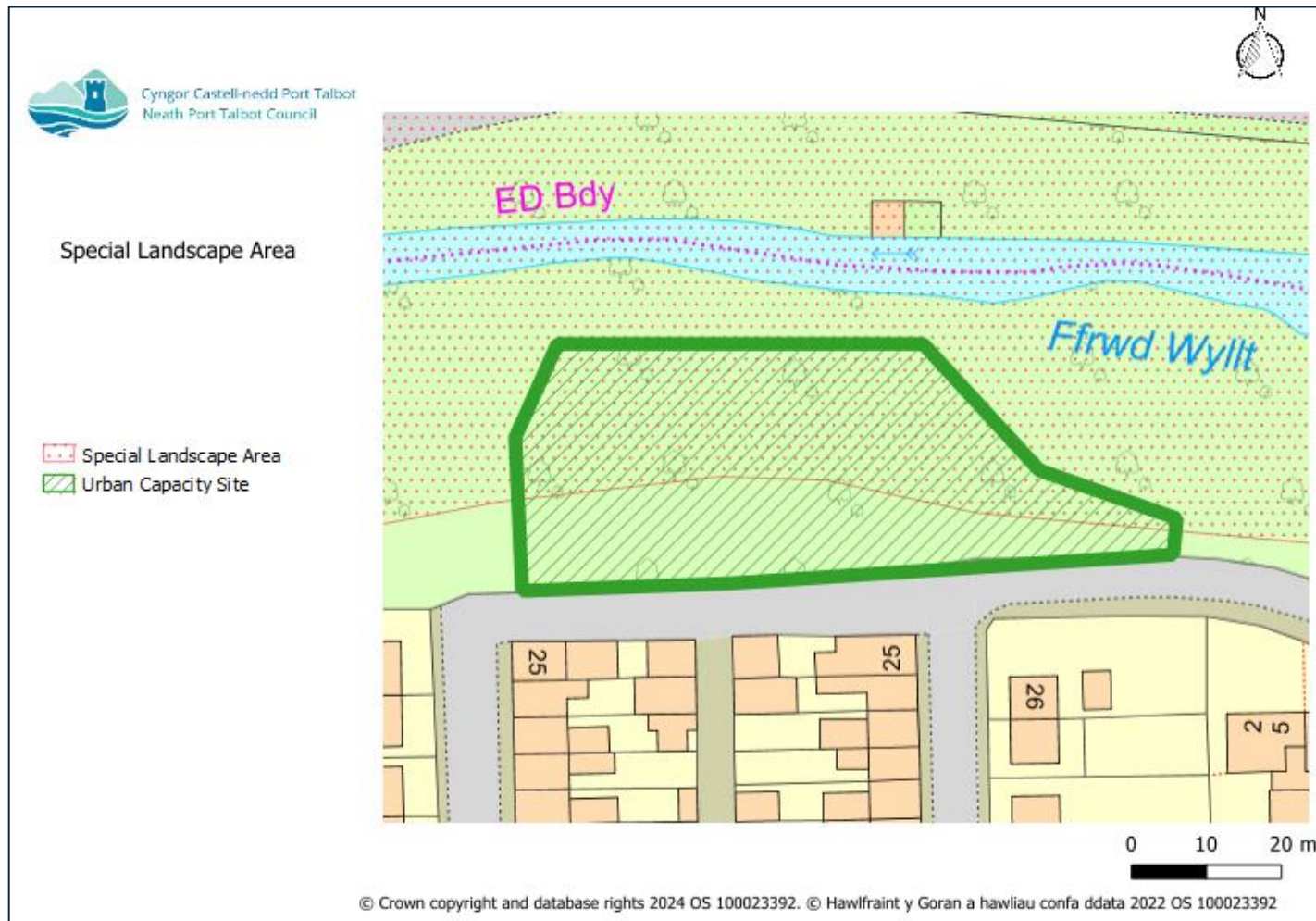
Figure 75: RLDP/PT/UC006 – Western Logs



RLDP/PT/UUC046 – Goytre Close (top of Parsons Lane), Goytre

5.1.65. The Map below shows that part of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

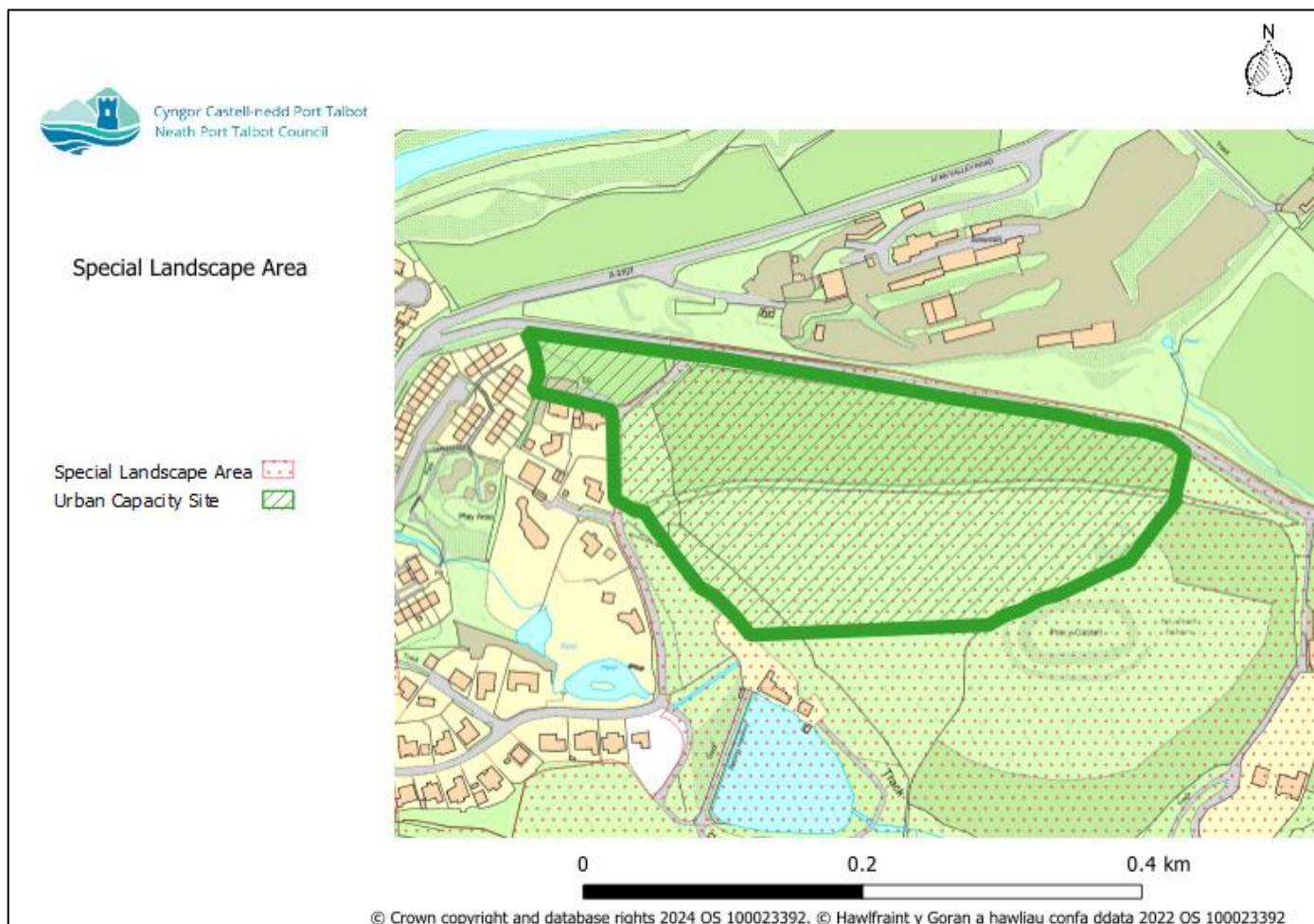
Figure 76: RLDP/PT/UUC046 – Goytre Close (top of Parsons Lane), Goytre



RLDP/PT/UC009 – Land adjoining B4282 Forest Lodge, Cwmafan

5.1.66. The Map below shows that the majority of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 77: RLDP/PT/UC009 – Land adjoining B4282 Forest Lodge, Cwmafan



RLDP/PT/UC049 – Land at Pen y Bryn

5.1.67. The Map below shows that the site adjoins/ boundary overlaps with the Margam SLA. The site itself does not fall within the SLA.

Figure 78: RLDP/PT/UC049 – Land at Pen y Bryn



RLDP/PT/UC023 – Land at Ten Acre Wood

5.1.68. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

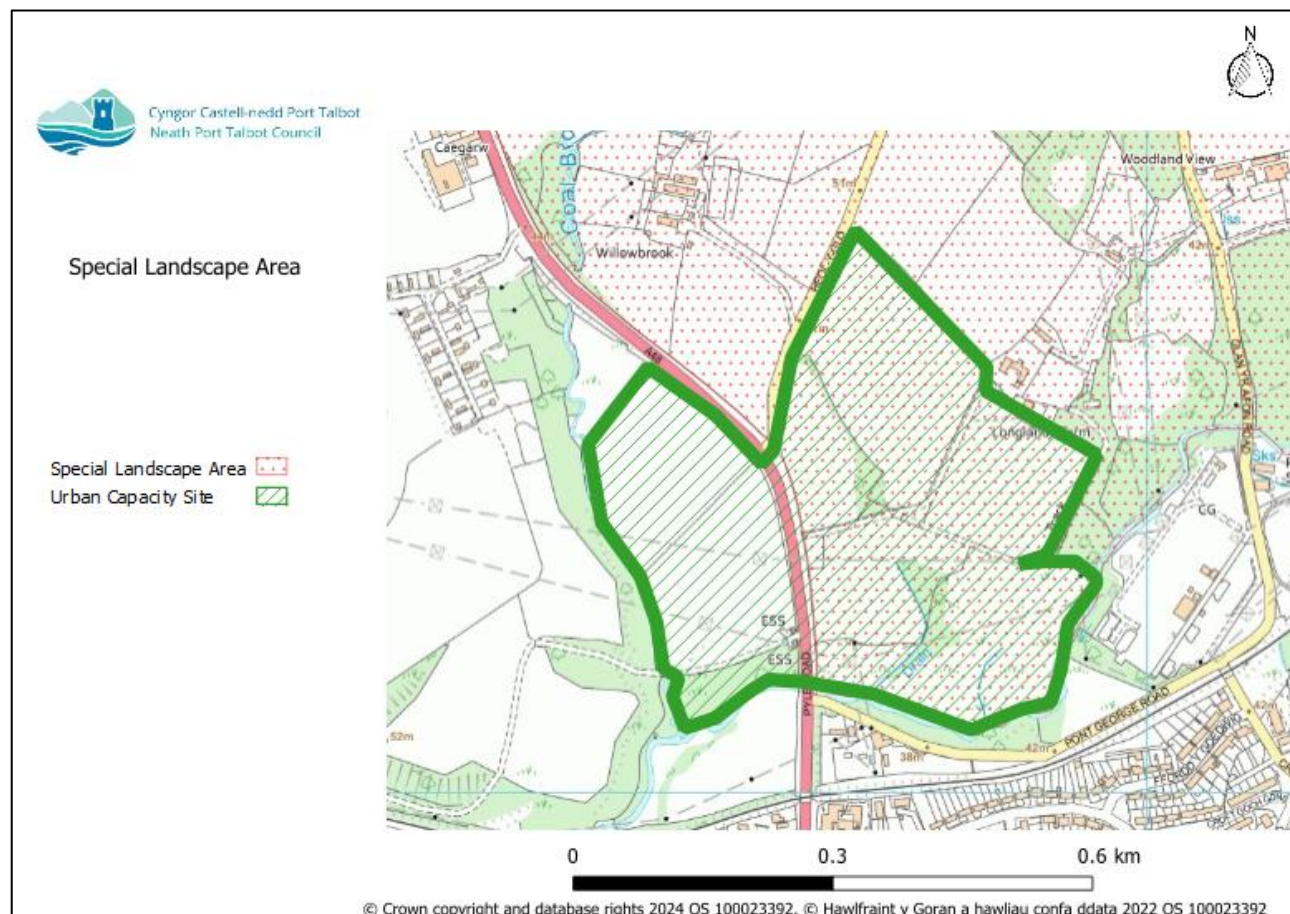
Figure 79: RLDP/PT/UC023 – Land at Ten Acre Wood



RLDP/PT/UC020 – Land from Pyle Road to Longlands Farm

5.1.69. The Map below shows that part of the site lies within the Margam SLA

Figure 80: RLDP/PT/UC020 – Land from Pyle Road to Longlands Farm



RLDP/PT/UC021 – Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle

5.1.70. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

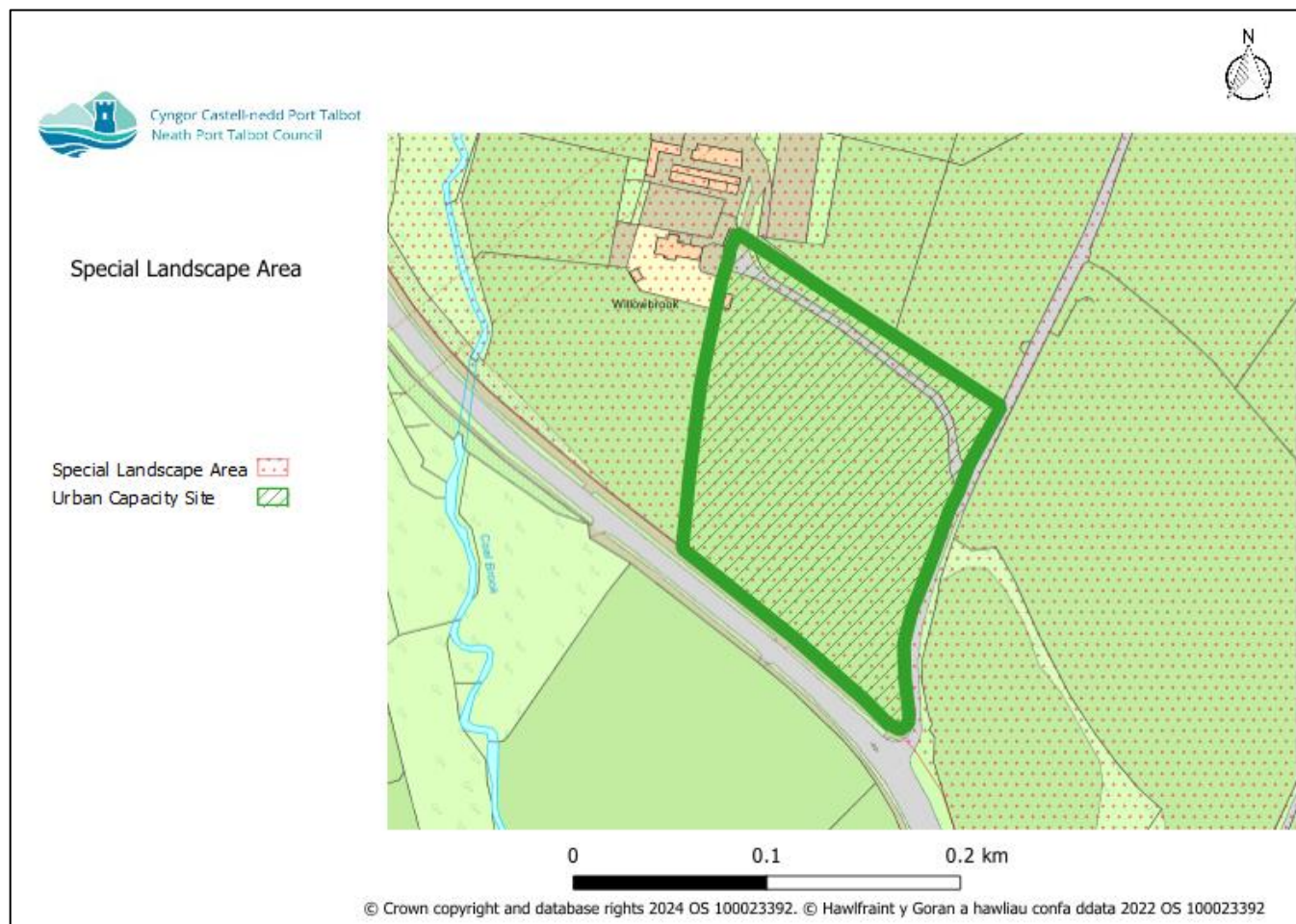
Figure 81: RLDP/PT/UC021 – Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle



RLDP/PT/UC021 – Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle, Site B

5.1.71. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 82: RLDP/PT/UC021 – Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle, Site B



RLDP/PT/UC054 – Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend

5.1.72. The Map below shows that the majority of the site lies within the Margam SLA.

Figure 83: RLDP/PT/UC054 – Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend



RLDP/AV/UC002 – Land adjacent to Croeserw Industrial Estate

5.1.73. The Map below shows that only a very small part of the site lies within the Mynydd y Gelli SLA.

Figure 84: RLDP/AV/UC002 – Land adjacent to Croeserw Industrial Estate



RLDP/NV/UC014 – Brynfelin, Melincourt

5.1.74. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

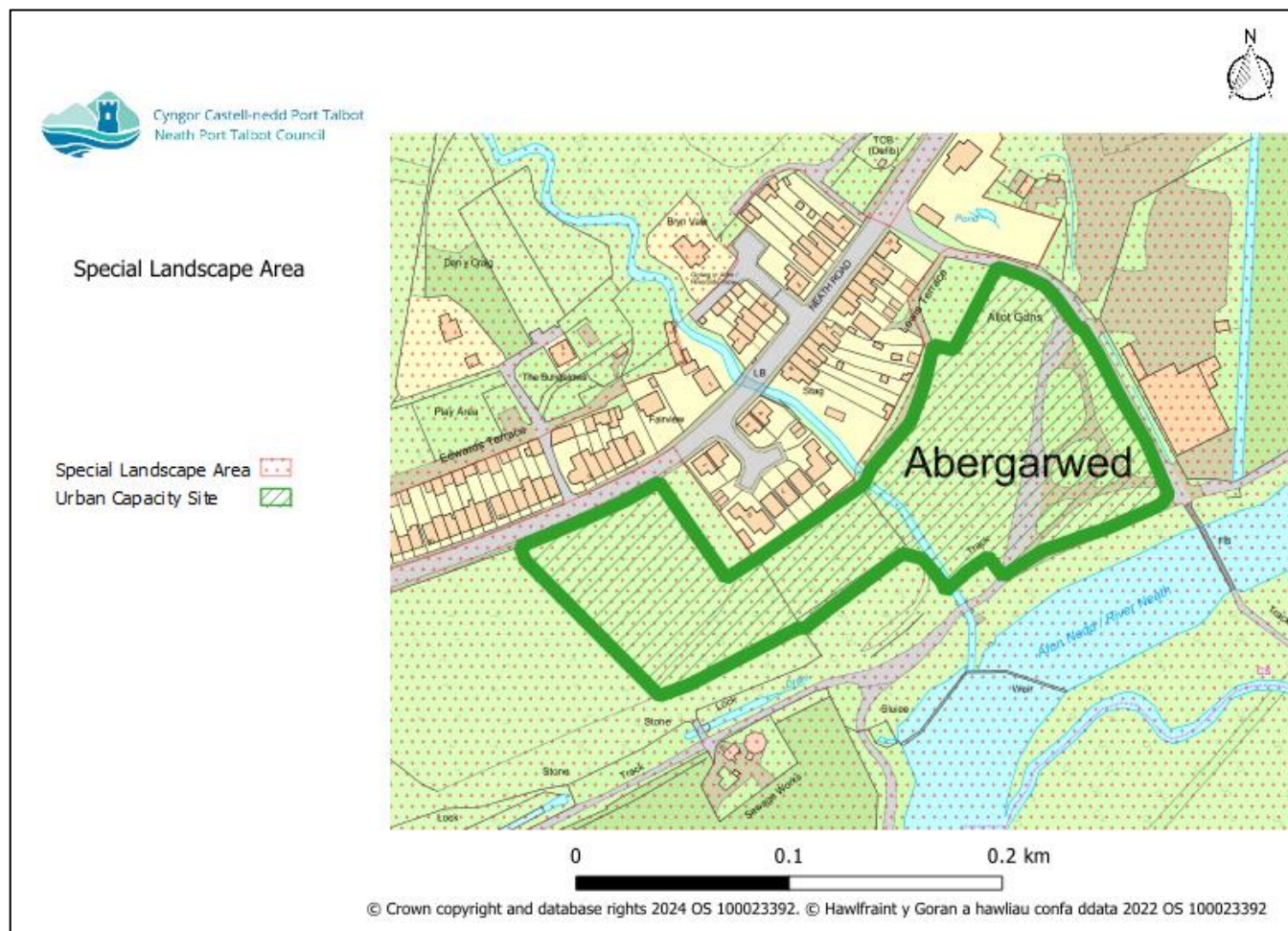
Figure 85: RLDP/NV/UC014 – Brynfelin, Melincourt



RLDP/NV/UC0016 – Land opposite Stag House/ Garwed Gardens, Abergarwed

5.1.75. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

Figure 86: RLDP/NV/UC0016 – Land opposite Stag House/ Garwed Gardens, Abergarwed



RLDP/NV/UC012 – Land at 1 The Bungalow, Abergarwed

5.1.76. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

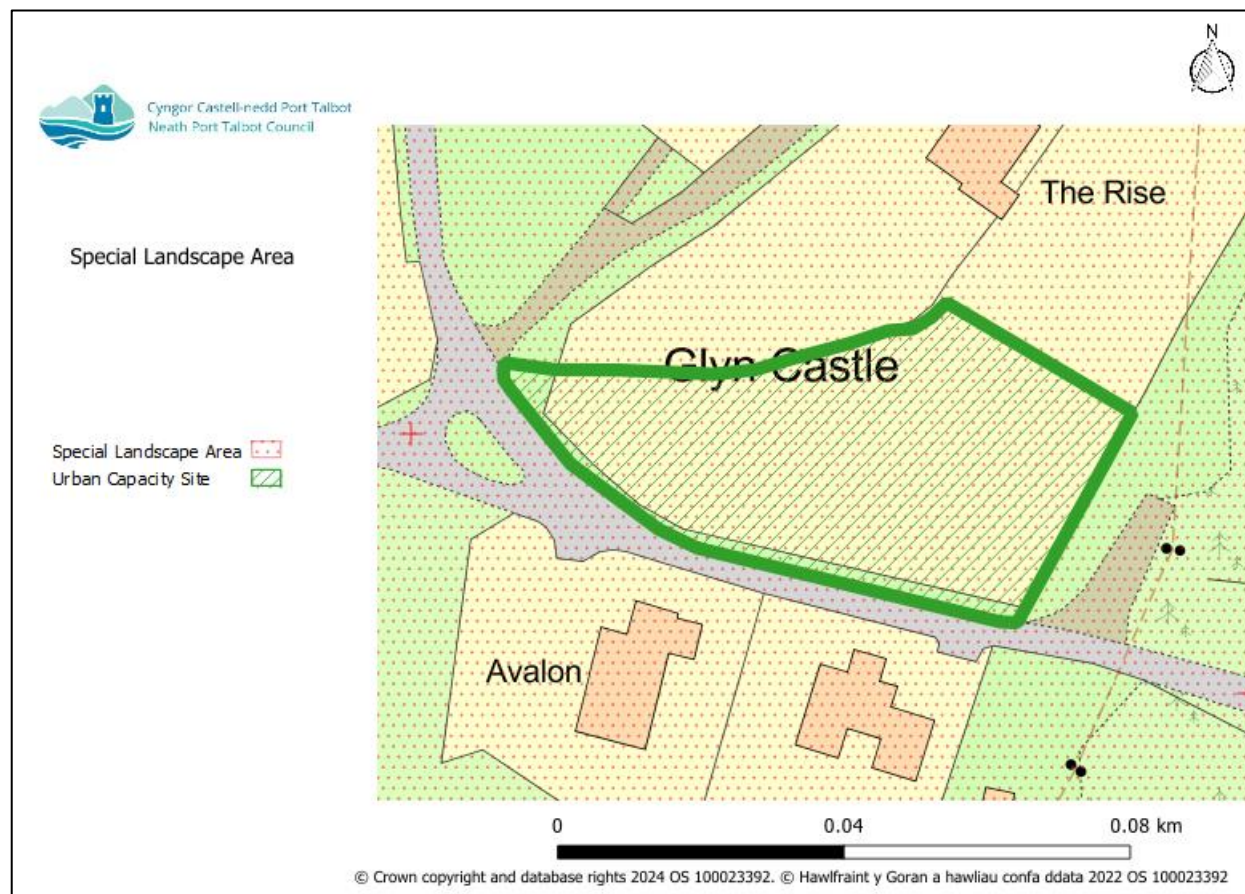
Figure 87: RLDP/NV/UC012 – Land at 1 The Bungalow, Abergarwed



RLDP/NV/UC013 – The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven

5.1.77. The Map below shows that the entirety of the site lies within the Vale of Neath SLA.

Figure 88: RLDP/NV/UC013 – The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven



5.2. ISA

- 5.2.1. As part of the assessment of all sites filtered through the Stage 1 assessment have been appraised as part of the ISA which includes the following indicators:

Figure 89: ISA Indicator – Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast

SA Objective 13: Proximity to SLA⁹ or Heritage Coast	
<u>Criteria 13(a): Proximity to SLA10 or Heritage Coast</u>	
<i>Sustainability implications:</i>	
PPW11 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.	
Table C.62: Proximity to SLA10 or Heritage Coast	
Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from SLA or Heritage Coast	++-
Within 1km - 2km of SLA or Heritage Coast	
Within 1km of SLA or Heritage Coast	-
Site within SLA or Heritage Coast	--

Figure 90: ISA Indicator - Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area

Table C.63: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	
Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	++-
Within 1km-2km of Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ DarkSkies area	
Within 1km of National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	--

Figure 91: ISA Indicator - Visual Amenity Impacts

Table C.64: Visual Amenity Impacts	
Description	Symbol
No evidence of potential adverse visual amenity impact	0
Evidence of potential minor adverse visual amenity impact	
Evidence of potential major adverse visual amenity impact	--

Figure 92: ISA Indicator - Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact

Table C.65: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	
Description	Symbol
Proposal would integrate strongly with existing settlement structure	++-
Proposal likely to integrate with existing settlement structure	
Proposal detached from existing settlements or likely to result incoalescence (minor impact)	-
Proposal detached from existing settlements or likely to result incoalescence (major impact)	--

Figure 93: ISA Indicator - Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)

Table C.66: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)	
Description	Symbol
No Change from individual site integration score	Same scoring as Individual Site Integration/Coalescence/separation Impact -
Allocation of site will have a cumulative impact	Relevant Comment/scoring

5.2.2. The findings of the ISA assessment are detailed in the following tables:

Candidate Sites 2022

Table 8: ISA – Candidate Sites 2022

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/AV/0001	Land at Pen y Bryn, Croeserw	--	++	-	-	-
RLDP/DV/0001	Land adjoining Cefn Coed Colliery Museum	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/DV/0002	Land off Nant Celyn, Crynant	--	++	-	+	+
RLDP/DV/0003	Land Opposite Ynyswen Terrace	--	++	-	-	--
RLDP/DV/0006	Treforgan Colliery Site	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/DV/0007	Land at Ynyswen, Crynant	--	++	-	--	--

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/DV/0020	Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park	--	++	-	+	+
RLDP/N/0001	Land off Main Road, Cilfrew	--	++	0	++	++
RLDP/N/0004	Land East of Main Road, Cilfrew	--	++	0	++	++
RLDP/N/0005	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 1	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/N/0006	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 2	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/N/0044	Land East of Heol Y Glo, Tonna	--	++	--	0	--

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/N/0045	Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)	--	++	--	0	--
RLDP/N/0046	Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)	--	++	--	0	--
RLDP/NV/0001	Land at Fothergill Road, Cwmgwrach	--	++	-	-	-
RLDP/NV/0012	Land at Rheola Estate (Option 1)	--	++	-	-	-
RLDP/NV/0013	Land at Rheola Estate (Option 2)	--	++	-	--	--
RLDP/NV/0014	Bryncwm Quarry	--	++	-	0	0

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/NV/0017	Land South of Neath Road, Abergarwed	--	++	0	-	-
RLDP/NV/0019	Coves Field, Melincourt	--	++	-	++	++
RLDP/P/0013	Abernant	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/P/0014	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 1)	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/P/0015	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 2)	--	++	--	+	+

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/P/0016	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 3)	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/P/0017	Land off Commercial Road & Heol Gwrhyd	--	++	-	-	--
RLDP/P/0019	Land at Waun Penlan, Pontardawe	--	++	-	0	-
RLDP/P/0020	The Former Abernant Colliery (current Pwllfawatkin Landfill land holding)	--	++	-	-	--
RLDP/PT/0021	Nant y Boda, Bryn - Option A	--	++	--	--	--

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/PT/0022	Nant y Boda, Bryn - Option B	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/PT/0025	Land at Bryn	--	++	-	0	0
RLDP/PT/0042	Land at Coed Hirwaun, Margam	--	++	--	-	--

Candidate Sites 2023

Table 9: ISA – Candidate Sites 2023

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/PT/2018	Mynyddd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/NV/2001	Cwmgwrach Railhead	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/DV/2003	Land at rear of 39-76 Dulais Road	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/PT/2015	Land Adjacent to Coed Hirwaun	--	++	--	-	--
RLDP/N/2004	Land North of The Pines	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/PT/2007	Land at Longlands Farm	--	++	--	-	-

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/P/2002	Land off Gwrhyd Road	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/P/2004	Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/PT/2019	Land South West of Goytre	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/PT/2017	Land South and West of Goytre	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/N/2003	Land north of 14 Main Road, Cilfrew	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/N/2001	Land East of New Road, Cilfrew	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/DV/2002	Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park	--	++	-	+	+

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/PT/2001	Land off Owen Jones Way, Bryn	--	++	-	+	+
RLDP/P/2003	Land at Bethesda	--	++	-	++	++

Urban Capacity Sites 2023

Table 10: ISA - Urban Capacity Sites 2023

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/DV/UC0004	Land off Main Road, Crynant	--	++	-	+	+
RLDP/N/UC0003	Land North of Main Road, Cilfrew	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/NV/UC013	The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/NV/UC014	Brynfelin, Melincourt	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/PT/UC0045	Land at Broomhill	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/PT/UC0052	Balaclava Row, Land North of Inkerman Row	--	++	-	-	-

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/DV/UC001	Ynysfadog Farm, Crynant	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/N/UC001	Land at New Road, Cilfrew, Neath	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/NV/UC012	Land at 1 The Bungalow, Abergarwed	--	++	-	-	-
RLDP/P/UC016	Glyn-meirch Road Trebanos	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/PT/UC006	Western Logs	--	++	0	-	-
RLDP/PT/UC009	Land adjoining B4282 Forest Lodge, Cwmafan	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/PT/UC008	Land at Forest Lodge Lane	--	++	--	+	+

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/PT/UC022	Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Site B	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/PT/UC021	Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle	--	++	--	-	--
RLDP/PT/UC007	Land at Western Logs and Hawthorn Close	--	++	-	-	-
RLDP/PT/UC049	Land at Pen y Bryn	--	++	0	++	++
RLDP/PT/UC054	Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend			--	-	-

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/PT/UC046	Land rear of Goytre Road	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/AV/UC002	Land adjacent to Croeserw Industrial Estate	--	++	-	+	+
RLDP/P/UC009	Land off Commercial Road	--	++	--	-	-
RLDP/SV/UC012	Land at Maengwyn	--	++	--	+	+
RLDP/PT/UC020	Land from Pyle Road to Longlands Farm	--	++	--	-	--
RLDP/P/UC007	Land adjacent to Rhyd y Fro Primary School	--	++	--	-	-

Site Reference	Site Name	13a: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast	13b: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area	13c: Visual Amenity Impacts	13d: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact	13e: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)
RLDP/N/UC007	Land At Fforest Farm, Aberdulais	--	++	--	--	--
RLDP/PT/UC023	Land at Ten Acre Wood	--	++	--	--	--

5.2.3. These results have been incorporated into the Candidate Sites/ Urban Capacity Sites Assessment, a summary of which is presented within the Candidate Sites Register.

5.2.4. Of the potential Key Sites identified in the RLDP Preferred Strategy, the following sites are identified as falling within SLAs:

Table 11: Key Sites

Potential Key Site	SLA
Land East of Rhos	No
Fforest Farm	Yes – Dulais Valley
Coed Hirwaun	Yes - Margam
Land at Blaenbaglan	No
Port Talbot Port	No
Port Talbot Steelworks	No
Baglan Energy Park	No
GCRE	No
Wildfox Adventure Resort	No

5.2.5. Where sites lie within SLAs, this has been identified as a constraint in the Preferred Strategy document. Further work will be required to be undertaken ahead of the Deposit Plan. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments will be required to be undertaken.

5.2.6. Taking into consideration the conclusion of the Stage 2 assessment detailed in the Candidate Sites Register, the following sites which are located within SLAs have been identified as being suitable/ potentially suitable for development.

5.2.7. As further work is being undertaken to inform an assessment of whether sites are suitable or not for development, Landscape and Visual Impact

Assessments will be required. Site promoters will be contacted once further work has been undertaken.

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Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/DV/0004	Land off Main Road, Crynant	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/N/0003	Land North of Main Road, Cilfrew	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/PT/0058	Balaclava Row, Land North of Inkerman Row	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/PT/0033	Manor Yard (Former Sawmill), Cwrt-y-Defaid, Margam	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/PT/0053	Land at Broomhill	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/NV/0018	Brynfelin, Melincourt	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/NV/0016	The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/DV/0001	Land adjoining Cefn Coed Colliery Museum	Dulais Valley	<p>Suitability of the site for employment uses will be determined as part of the Employment Land Review.</p> <p>The Employment Land Review concluded that the site was not suitable for employment development.</p>	No
RLDP/DV/0006	Treforgan Colliery Site	Dulais Valley	<p>Further assessment work will be undertaken to determine the suitability of the site for mixed use development.</p>	Yes

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/DV/0002	Land off Nant Celyn, Crynant	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/DV/0003	Land Opposite Ynyswen Terrace	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/DV/0007	Land at Ynyswen, Crynant	Dulais Valley	Suitability of the site for employment uses will be determined as part of the Employment Land Review.	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			The Employment Land Review concluded that the site was not suitable for development.	
RLDP/N/0004	Land East of Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/N/0001	Land off Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/N/0005	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 1	Dulais Valley	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/N/0006	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 2	Dulais Valley	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/DV/0020	Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park	Dulais Valley	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/P/0015	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 2)	Mynydd y Garth	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/P/0016	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 3)	Mynydd y Garth	Suitability of the site for renewable energy will be determined as part	Yes

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			of the Renewable Energy Assessment.	
RLDP/P/0014	Land South West Side of James Street (Submission 1)	Mynydd y Garth	Further assessment work will be required to determine the suitability of the site for tourism.	Yes
RLDP/P/0019	Land at Waun Penlan, Pontardawe	Mynydd y Garth	The site is considered to be suitable. Further viability information will be required if the site is to be allocated in the Deposit Plan.	No - the site adjoins/ is not within the SLA.

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/P/0017	Land off Commercial Road & Heol Gwrhyd	Mynydd y Garth	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/P/0020	The Former Abernant Colliery (current Pwllfawatkin Landfill land holding)	Mynydd y Garth	Further assessment work will need to be undertaken to determine the suitability of the site for tourism and recreation uses.	No. The site adjoins/ is not within the SLA.
RLDP/P/0013	Abernant	Mynydd y Garth	Suitability of the site for employment uses will be determined as part	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			of the Employment Land Review. The Employment Land Review concluded that the site was not suitable for development	
RLDP/PT/0042	Land at Coed Hirwaun, Margam	Margam	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/PT/0021	Nant y Boda, Bryn - Option A	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/PT/0022	Nant y Boda, Bryn - Option B	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/PT/0025	Land at Bryn	Margam	Suitability of the site for renewable energy will be determined as part of the Renewable Energy Assessment.	No. The site adjoins/ is not within the SLA.
RLDP/AV/0001	Land at Pen y Bryn, Croeserw	Foel Trawsnant	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	No. The site adjoins/ is not within the SLA.
RLDP/N/0044	Land East of Heol Y Glo, Tonna	Vale of Neath	The site is considered to be suitable. Further	Yes

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			viability information required should the site be allocated in the Deposit Plan	
RLDP/N/0045	Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)	Vale of Neath	The site is considered to be suitable. Further viability information required should the site be allocated in the Deposit Plan	Yes
RLDP/N/0046	Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)	Vale of Neath	Part of the site is considered to be suitable and deliverable. Further viability information	Yes

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			required should the site be allocated in the Deposit Plan.	
RLDP/NV/0019	Coves Field, Melincourt	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/NV/0017	Land South of Neath Road, Abergarwed	Vale of Neath	Suitability of the site for employment uses will be determined as part of the Employment Land Review. The Employment Land Review concluded that	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			the site was not suitable for development.	
RLDP/NV/0012	Land at Rheola Estate (Option 1)	Vale of Neath	The site is considered to be suitable for tourism uses in line with the resolution to grant planning permission. Further assessment will be required to determine the suitability of alternative tourism proposals.	Yes
RLDP/NV/0013	Land at Rheola Estate (Option 2)	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			suitable for purely residential development.	
RLDP/NV/0014	Bryncwm Quarry	Vale of Neath	Further work will be undertaken to determine the suitability of the site for mineral development.	Yes
RLDP/NV/0001	Land at Fothergill Road, Cwmgwrach	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No

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Site Reference	Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/PT/2002	Land at Bryn	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/PT/2011	Land north west of Coed Hirwaun	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/PT/2010	Land to the south of Aberbaiden Farm	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/PT/2008	Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/N/2001	Land at Ynysygerwn	Site filtered at Stage 1.	Site filtered at Stage 1.	No
RLDP/P/2002	Land off Gwrhyd Road	Mynydd y Garth	The site is considered to be partly suitable for development and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/P/2004	Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro	Mynydd y Garth	The site is considered to be suitable for	Yes

Site Reference	Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			development and deliverable.	
RLDP/P/2003	Land at Bethesda	Mynydd y Garth	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/N/2004	Land north of The Pines, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/N/2003	Land north of 14 Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No

Site Reference	Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/N/2001	Land East of New Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/DV/2002	Sites 5 & 6, Nant y Cafn Business Park	Dulais Valley	<p>Suitability of the site for employment development will be assessed as part of the Employment Land Review.</p> <p>The Employment Land Review concluded that the site is considered to be suitable for development.</p>	No – the site adjoins/ is not itself located within the SLA.

Site Reference	Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/DV/2003	Land at rear of 39-76 Dulais Road	Dulais Valley	The site is considered to be suitable for development and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/PT/2017	Land South and West of Goytre	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/PT/2019	Land South West of Goytre	Margam	Suitability of the site for renewable energy will be assessed as part of the Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Assessment.	Yes

Site Reference	Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/PT/2018	Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam	Margam	Suitability of the site for renewable energy will be assessed as part of the Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Assessment.	Yes
RLDP/PT/2001	Land off Owen Jones Way, Bryn	Margam	Suitability of the site for a settlement boundary amendment will be assessed as part of the Settlement Assessment.	Yes
RLDP/PT/2007	Land at Longlands Farm	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for housing development. Suitability of the site for renewable	Yes

Site Reference	Name	SLA	Conclusion of Candidate Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			energy will be assessed as part of the Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Assessment.	
RLDP/PT/2015	Land Adjacent to Coed Hirwaun	Margam	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/NV/2001	Cwmgwrach Railhead	Vale of Neath	Suitability of the site for minerals processing will be determined as part of our minerals assessment.	Yes

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Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/P/UC016	Glyn-meirch Road Trebanos	Mynydd y Garth	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RDLP/P/UC009	Land off Commercial Road	Mynydd y Garth	The site is considered to be suitable for development but not deliverable. Viability information would need to be provided in order to overcome deliverability constraints.	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/SV/UC012	Land at Maengwyn	Mynydd y Garth	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/N/UC007	Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais	Dulais Valley	The site is considered to be suitable and deliverable.	Yes
RLDP/N/UC001	Land at New Road, Cilfrew, Neath	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/N/UC0003	Land North of Main Road, Cilfrew	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/DV/UC001	Ynysfadog Farm, Crynant	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/DV/UC0004	Land off Main Road, Crynant	Dulais Valley	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/PT/UC0045	Land at Broomhill	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/PT/UC0052	Balaclava Row, Land North of Inkerman Row	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/PT/UC008	Land at Forest Lodge Lane	Margam	The site is considered to be suitable for development but not deliverable. Viability information would need to be provided in order to overcome	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			deliverability constraints.	
RLDP/PT/UC048	Land R/O Goytre Road	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/PT/UC007	Land at Western Logs and Hawthorn close	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/PT/UC006	Western Logs	Margam	The site is considered to be suitable for development but not deliverable. Viability information would need to be provided in order to overcome	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			deliverability constraints.	
RLDP/PT/UC046	Goytre Close (top of Parsons Lane), Goytre	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/PT/UC009	Land adjoining B4282 Forest Lodge, Cwmafan	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/PT/UC049	Land at Pen y Bryn	Margam	Whilst no viability information has been provided, planning permission has been granted for the type and a scale of development envisaged.	Yes

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/PT/UC023	Land at Ten Acre Wood	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/PT/UC020	Land from Pyle Road to Longlands Farm	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development. Further deliverability information would be required.	No
RLDP/PT/UC021	Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Pyle	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/PT/UC022	Land lying on the west side of Longlands Farm, Site B	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable nor deliverable.	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
RLDP/PT/UC054	Land adjoining Aberbaiden Farm, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend	Margam	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/AV/UC002	Land adjacent to Croeserw Industrial Estate	Mynydd y Gelli	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/NV/UC014	Brynfelin, Melincourt	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be suitable for development nor deliverable.	No
RLDP/NV/UC016	Land opposite Stag House / Garwed Gardens, Abergarwed	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No
RLDP/NV/UC012	Land at 1 The Bungalow, Abergarwed	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be suitable for	No

Site Reference	Site Name	SLA	Conclusion of Urban Capacity Site Assessment	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Required?
			development nor deliverable.	
RLDP/NV/UC013	The Rise, Glyncastle, Resolven	Vale of Neath	The site is not considered to be suitable for development.	No

5.3. Landmap Data

- 5.3.1. **Appendix 1** details the Landmap records for Key Sites.
- 5.3.2. **Appendix 2** details the Landmap records for sites identified as suitable for development above.
- 5.3.3. For the Deposit Plan, these will be reviewed.

Appendix 1: Key Sites

The following sites have been identified as Key Sites falling within SLA:

- Fforest Farm
- Coed Hirwaun

RLDP/N/0005: Land at Fforest Farm



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Built Land</p> <p>Urban</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Substantial</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...neither in or out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Urban</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The location of the town with in the Neath valley, with associated river and canal provides the context for strong character in the area. The distinct character of the centre is diminished by the overall impact of sprawling surrounding development.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 105</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL7 1.905%, CL9 2.857%, CL12 1.905%, CL15 1.905%, CL16 21.905%, CL20 19.048%, CL26 1.905%, CL29 2.857%, CL30 8.571%, CL31 4.762%, CL35 26.667%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 17</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 21</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities,</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality</u>: High</p> <p><u>Character</u>: High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW ridge of S dipping South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Pennant Measures) sandstones with coals forming W and E facing slopes, capped by resistant Hughes Beds sandstones to S. N-S and NE-SW faults. NW facing slopes form steep side of Tawe valley. Small area of Productive Coal Formation mudstones with coals in E. Bounded by NNW-SSE Nant Marl fault to E. Extensive boulder clay on dip slopes in Clydach and Dulais valleys. Peat on higher slopes. Landslip into Tawe valley at Y Darren Widdon, made ground on W slopes. Ty Draw Brook into Tawe with stepped waterfalls over sandstones.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation (Llynfi- Hughes Beds) • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, peat, head • Structural features: NE-SW, N-S and NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Upland valley slope. Mass movement. Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor afforestation (Crynant Forest) to retain landscape integrity <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nant Marl Fault to E, Rhydding Fault to W, Tawe to N, Nedd to S</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones and coals in dissected ridge, with Y Darren Widdon landslip</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The settlements of Crynant and Severn Sisters were little more than small hamlets, centred on collieries such as Severn Sisters and Maes-mawr, and spreading along the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway, by the time of the 1st edition OS survey (1884). Earlier origins are evident; the Chapel of Ease at Crynant has a medieval foundation, and several of the houses in the village appear to be of 18th century date. The Neath and Brecon Railway has been described as a typical contractor's railway, the contractor in this case being John Dickson. The railway opened from Neath to Onllwyn in 1864 and on to Brecon in 1866. Between Onllwyn and Sennybridge it closely followed the course of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. The route became part of the Swansea - Hereford line when a connection to the Swansea Vale Railway was made in 1873.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area?

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The south of</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>the aspect area generally retains a rural character of an irregular fieldscape; whilst the northern part of the aspect area is more unsettled with disused and contemporary industrial workings dominating a greater part of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: Before the 19th century, the archaeological record for this area is limited in scope; evidence for medieval settlement is represented by the chapel of St Margaret, Crynant (GGAT PRN 00525w), which contains fabric of 13th century date but was partially re • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of high value, representing a reasonably well-preserved example of an industrial communications/settlement corridor. During the late 19th-early 20th century the collieries at Seven Sisters and Cefncoed near rynant represented some of the most important anthracite collieries in the South Wales Coalfield; the extensive remains of the Cefncoed Colliery (now a museum) eloquently attest to this remarkable period of industrial growth.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Other Settlement</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. This entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically "urban and industrial" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter comprises the most extensive abbey remains in Wales. Little is visible of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum. Excavated foundations of the southeast gateway and guard chamber are preserved in Roman Way, their antiquity contrasting with the modernity of the surrounding housing estate. The double roadway through the southeast gate was flanked by towers and fronted by a ditch, implying the former existence of a bridge. Excavations in the playing fields, across the road from the southeast gate, in which the line of the northwest defences, detected</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>as a slight rise, have revealed the north angle tower and evidence for timber structures including barracks and the headquarters building. First constructed in the mid 70s AD, the earth and timber defences were rebuilt in stone in the early 120s AD, apparently after a period of abandonment, occupation ceasing around AD 150 (Newman 1995). The lands of Neath Abbey, in 1129, were granted by Richard de Granville, a lieutenant of the Norman lord of Glamorgan, to the abbey of Savigny in Normandy a tract of nearly 8,000 acres (3,240 hectares) of "virgin" Welsh lands by the "nova villa" of Neath. In 1147, when the Savigniac order merged with that of Citeaux, Neath Abbey came under Cistercian rule. Since it was part of the rule that monastic communities must not profit from rents but only from direct exploitation of their estate, each Cistercian community included a large body of lay brothers, who farmed both the lands round the abbey and the granges (Newman 1995). The town and borough of Neath (see HL18) originated in the early 12th century when the Afon Nedd formed the western boundary of Norman penetration into South Wales. Castle and borough town were established on the eastern bank of the river, and the abbey was founded shortly afterwards, on the far side of the river 2km to the west. In the later Middle Ages the town and abbey were in competition for river trade, and in 1491 the Town Hall was reported to be in ruins. The key to Neath's subsequent development as an industrial centre was the availability of coal exceptionally close to the coast. Sir Humphrey Mackworth of the Gnoll, whose mansion dominated the little town from its hilltop, pioneered both copper and lead working from the 1690's, with the celebrated Neath Abbey Iron works began operation soon after (Newman 1995). The Neath Abbey Ironworks benefited from Cornish expertise in specialized casting and engineering, which was transferred to this site by two Quaker families, the Foxes of Falmouth, who took over the site in 1792, and Joseph Tregelles Price (who had worked with James Watt at the great Canon Ironworks at</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Falkirk) from 1817. The ironworks at Neath Abbey was conveniently located alongside the waterpower resources of the River Clydach a short distance from its confluence with the navigable River Neath. Under Joseph Tregelles Price (1786-1854) the works gained a reputation for high-quality engineering products. The engine manufactory produced locomotives, stationary engines, cast iron roofs and floors, steamships and gasworks. After Price's death stagnation set in, and the works finally closed in 1885. The Vale of Neath Canal, 1794-5, and subsequent railways, opened up the hinterland of Neath. But the town remained of very modest size, clustered around St Thomas's church, held back from the riverbank by a strip of noxious industry. In 1801 there were 2,500 inhabitants, and half a century later the population had little more than doubled (Newman 1995). The historic centre of Port Talbot is at Aberavon where the Afan River exits from the mountains. The name Port Talbot was at first attached to the area further southwest, where tinplate works were established. The flat expanse of "moor" more than a 2km deep and extending for over 4.8km from Margam to the estuary of the River Neath, provided an ideal site for industry. The modern docks were constructed in 1898, and steelworks established by 1907. The Margam Works began production in 1916. Since the Second World War Port Talbot has been, with Llanwern (Gwent), one of the two major sites for a rationalized steel industry in Wales (Newman 1995). Gwalia Tinplate Works were erected in 1892 to use steel produced by the Briton Ferry Ironworks. Acquired by the Briton Ferry Steel Co. and closed in 1953. The building has been truncated, and only five of the stone-built bays survive. The chimneystacks have been dismantled and the building re-roofed, but brick flues in the walls mark the original hearths. A brick-built extension to the west carries a plaque dated 1898-9. On an adjacent site to the north was the Villiers Tinplate Works (1888), of which some modern brick-built buildings remain. An ironworks was established on the eastern bank</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>of the River Neath, at Briton Ferry, in the 1840"s. It was reconstructed in the 1890"s, still as an iron-smelter, and closed in 1958. The site has been completely cleared with the exception of the blast-engine house of 1910, which housed a Richardson-Westgarth quarter-crank blowing engine. The canal depot at Neath is the most complete survivor of its kind in the South Wales valley canals. The Pennant sandstone rubble buildings stand on either side of the Neath Canal (1791-6) at Lock number 1. They consist of the canal manager"s house and stables on the east side, and on the west side a long timber storage shed with a sawpit inside, and an open shed with block and tackle hoisting gear where lock gates were made. Attached to this are a store and a smithy (Newman 1995). Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin was constructed in 1823 by the engineer William Kirkhouse to complete the Tennant Canal. The aqueduct is 104m long, carried on ten masonry arches, and continued via a cast iron trough over an earlier navigable cut. In the basin, remains of sunken boats and at the north end a buried dry dock by a slipway. At the junction of the Tennant and Neath Canals is a roving bridge, Pont Gam "crooked bridge;" with its flanking walls carried on a corbelled series of masonry courses. The only Lock on the canal"s main line is south of the aqueduct, with the Office and Lock-Keepers House (Newman 1995). The waterfall at the Aberdulais Falls Tinplate Works probably powered the first copper-works in Southwest Wales, but the reconstructed water wheel sits in the wheelpit of a later tinplate works, founded in 1830. The site includes an impressive masonry header tank (the "bastion"), the foundations of the adjoining rolling mills, various walls and an 18m high chimney. The early copper-works may have lain south of the river, where a leat leads from the waterfall towards the rear of the 17th century Dulais Rock Public House (Newman 1995). Glyncorrwg Mineral Railway terminates at the Neath Canal in Aberdulais and is the last of the large horse-worked railways to be built in South Wales, 12km long and completed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>on a monumental scale by the notable South Wales engineer William Kirkhouse 1839-42 (Newman 1995). This aspect area contains a wealth of historical and archaeological monuments, of which a sample of the more notable has been described above. This aspect area represents a historically important and significant landscape recording 2000 years of occupation and settlement in this part of South Wales.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Military. Recreational. Horticulture</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Mortared Wall. Wooden Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban Corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. Along the way this entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically ""urban and industrial"" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter is the most extensive abbey remains in Wales.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival: This area represents a long-established urban settlement and communications corridor of considerable historic importance. The earliest evidence of settlement consists of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum (GGAT PRN 00620w) and its associated civilian sett • Condition: High • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value as representing an urban settlement/communications corridor of considerable historic importance, with evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period, and including monuments of exceptional significance, namely, the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum, the extensive remains of the Cistercian Abbey of Neath and the well-preserved remains of two nationally important industrial sites: the Neath Abbey Ironworks and the Aberdulais Tinplate Works.</p>
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Grassland & Marsh Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Review of SINC/Wildlife Site data by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Semi-improved Acid Grassland. Improved Grassland. Bracken. Acid/Neutral Flush</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Dry heaths. Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Sanguisorba officinalis, Cirsium dissectum, Osmunda regalis, Ophioglossum vulgatum, Carum verticillatum (SSSI Schedule); barn owl; lapwing (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. areas of heath, grass-heath, mire and bog; areas of spoil, quarries, disused mines, railway lines, canals, urban areas, scrub, plantation etc</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises four separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially ffridd habitats, on rolling slopes; complex mosaic of mainly grassland enclosures but with many other habitats; all essentially circum-neutral or acidic in character.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Ensure land managers engage with agri-environment schemes.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p>Long Term: Ensure land managers engage with agri-environment schemes.</p> <p>Medium Term: Ensure designated BAP features are protec</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> AA defined by default as residual mosaic when other coherent areas were segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> very large area of open farmland, comparatively unintensively managed and containing many remnant semi-natural habitats typical of the Coalfield; some smaller areas of high quality habitat; diverse range of habitats present; contains an SSSI and Coed Gawdir Wildlife Trust Reserve; good range of typical flora and fauna still in evidence</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx. 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx. 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries - many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks - also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Harmonious • Unity: Unity

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New commercial developments of cheap materials</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Grazed upland valley.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain grazing regime and prevent bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Control bracken • Immediate: maintain grazing regime • Medium Term: maintain field pattern • Medium Term: maintain outgrown hedges and mature deciduous field trees

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation • Medium Term: screen commercial development and better integrate into landscape <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, settled character • Enhanced: enclosure, settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field boundaries, grown out hedges • Enhanced: riparian vegetation • Changed: screening of commercial development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NW, woodland edge of Crynant Forest and valley side to break in topography top of valley edge; south, built form of settlements - Aberdulais. East; ridge line of Llety'r afel and fence of moorland edge, woodland and moorland edge/fence of hirfynydd. Boundary with Mynydd y Drum and severn sisters to NE, and county boundary to N.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 9.5 • Category 7: 75.2

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 8: 15.1 • Category 9: 0.2 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/N/0006: Land at Fforest Farm, Aberdulais - Site 2



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u> <u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Scenic quality</u>: High</p> <p><u>Character</u>: High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW ridge of S dipping South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennant Measures) sandstones with coals forming W and E facing slopes, capped by resistant Hughes Beds sandstones to S. N-S and NE-SW faults. NW facing slopes form steep side of Tawe valley. Small area of Productive Coal Formation mudstones with coals in E. Bounded by NNW-SSE Nant Marl fault to E. Extensive boulder clay on dip slopes in Clydach and Dulais valleys. Peat on higher slopes. Landslip into Tawe valley at Y Darren Widdon, made ground on W</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>slopes. Ty Draw Brook into Tawe with stepped waterfalls over sandstones.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation (Llynfi- Hughes Beds) • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, peat, head • Structural features: NE-SW, N-S and NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Upland valley slope. Mass movement. Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nant Marl Fault to E, Rhydding Fault to W, Tawe to N, Nedd to S</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Value: Moderate <li>• Educational Value: Unassessed <li>• Historical Value: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones and coals in dissected ridge, with Y Darren Widdon landslip</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment Other built environment Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The settlements of Crynant and Severn Sisters were little more than small hamlets, centred on collieries such as Severn Sisters and Maes-mawr, and spreading along the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway, by the time of the 1st edition OS survey (1884). Earlier origins are evident;</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>the Chapel of Ease at Crynant has a medieval foundation, and several of the houses in the village appear to be of 18th century date. The Neath and Brecon Railway has been described as a typical contractor's railway, the contractor in this case being John Dickson. The railway opened from Neath to Onllwyn in 1864 and on to Brecon in 1866. Between Onllwyn and Sennybridge it closely followed the course of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. The route became part of the Swansea - Hereford line when a connection to the Swansea Vale Railway was made in 1873.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The south of the aspect area generally retains a rural character of an irregular fieldscape; whilst the northern part of the aspect area is more unsettled with disused and contemporary industrial workings dominating a greater part of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: Before the 19th century, the archaeological record for this area is limited in scope; evidence for medieval settlement is represented by the chapel of St Margaret,

Quality	Site
	<p>Crynant (GGAT PRN 00525w), which contains fabric of 13th century date but was partially re</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of high value, representing a reasonably well-preserved example of an industrial communications/settlement corridor. During the late 19th-early 20th century the collieries at Seven Sisters and Cefncoed near Crynant represented some of the most important anthracite collieries in the South Wales Coalfield; the extensive remains of the Cefncoed Colliery (now a museum) eloquently attest to this remarkable period of industrial growth.</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: major component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: significant component, especially to north • Improved Grassland: significant component, especially to north • Bracken: minor component • Running Water: major component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> otter; kingfisher; Trollius europaeus (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Major river valley system, varying from semi-upland to north to lowland in the south; northern valley comparatively open and mostly neutral grasslands and improved pastures; southern valley steeper, mainly broadleaved woodland; some bracken slopes; some areas of revegetated mine spoil</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain semi-natural habitat; ensure that connectivity between patches of woodland is maintained.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> corridor defined by river valley, to nearest field boundary; elsewhere notional river corridor</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> major watercourse; extensive and coherent linear corridor of semi-natural habitats of high value; extensive BAP habitats BAP and other species of interest present</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Grassland & Marsh Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Review of SINC/Wildlife Site data by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Semi-improved Acid Grassland. Improved Grassland. Bracken. Acid/Neutral Flush</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Dry heaths. Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Sanguisorba officinalis, Cirsium dissectum, Osmunda regalis, Ophioglossum vulgatum, Carum verticillatum (SSSI Schedule); barn owl; lapwing (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. areas of heath, grass-heath, mire and bog; areas of spoil, quarries, disused mines, railway lines, canals, urban areas, scrub, plantation etc</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises four separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially ffridd habitats, on rolling slopes; complex mosaic of mainly grassland enclosures but with many other habitats; all essentially circum-neutral or acidic in character.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Ensure land managers engage with agri-environment schemes.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Ensure land managers engage with agri-environment schemes. • Medium Term: Ensure designated BAP features are protected.

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> AA defined by default as residual mosaic when other coherent areas were segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> very large area of open farmland, comparatively unintensively managed and containing many remnant semi-natural habitats typical of the Coalfield; some smaller areas of high quality habitat; diverse range of habitats present; contains an SSSI and and Coed Gawdir Wildlife Trust Reserve; good range of typical flora and fauna still in evidence.</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx. 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx. 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries - many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks - also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Harmonious • Unity: Unity

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New commercial developments of cheap materials</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Grazed upland valley.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain grazing regime and prevent bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Control bracken • Immediate: maintain grazing regime • Medium Term: maintain field pattern • Medium Term: maintain outgrown hedges and mature deciduous field trees

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation • Medium Term: screen commercial development and better integrate into landscape <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, settled character • Enhanced: enclosure, settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field boundaries, grown out hedges • Enhanced: riparian vegetation • Changed: screening of commercial development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NW, woodland edge of Crynant Forest and valley side to break in topography top of valley edge; south, built form of settlements - Aberdulais. East; ridge line of Llety'r afel and fence of moorland edge, woodland and moorland edge/fence of hirfynydd. Boundary with Mynydd y Drum and severn sisters to NE, and county boundary to N.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 9.5 • Category 7: 75.2

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 8: 15.1 • Category 9: 0.2 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/N/UC007: Land at Fforest Farm



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<u>Classification:</u> Development Built Land Upland Valleys

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Substantial</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...neither in or out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Urban</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The location of the town with in the Neath valley, with associated river and canal provides the context for strong character in the area. The distinct character of the centre is diminished by the overall impact of sprawling surrounding development.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or Outstanding.</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 105</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 17</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 21</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development Built Land Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...Both in or out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u>.. Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u>0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW ridge of S dipping South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennant Measures) sandstones with coals forming W and E facing slopes, capped by resistant Hughes Beds sandstones to S. N-S and NE-SW faults. NW facing slopes form steep side of Tawe valley. Small area of Productive Coal Formation mudstones with coals in E. Bounded by NNW-SSE Nant Marl fault to E. Extensive boulder clay on dip slopes in Clydach and Dulais valleys. Peat on higher slopes. Landslip into Tawe valley at Y Darren Widdon, made ground on W slopes. Ty Draw Brook into Tawe with stepped waterfalls over sandstones.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation (Llynfi- Hughes Beds) • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, peat, head • Structural features: NE-SW, N-S and NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Upland valley slope. Mass movement. Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Monitor afforestation (Crynant Forest) to retain landscape integrity.</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nant Marl Fault to E, Rhydding Fault to W, Tawe to N, Nedd to S</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones and coals in dissected ridge, with Y Darren Widdon landslip</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The settlements of Crynant and Severn Sisters were little more than small hamlets, centred on collieries such as Severn Sisters and Maes-mawr, and spreading along the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway, by the time of the 1st edition OS survey (1884). Earlier origins are evident; the Chapel of Ease at Crynant has a medieval foundation, and several of the houses in the village appear to be of 18th century date. The Neath and Brecon Railway has been described as a typical contractor's railway, the contractor in this case being John Dickson. The railway opened from Neath to Onllwyn in 1864 and on to Brecon in 1866. Between Onllwyn and Sennybridge it closely followed the</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>course of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. The route became part of the Swansea - Hereford line when a connection to the Swansea Vale Railway was made in 1873.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The south of the aspect area generally retains a rural character of an irregular fieldscape; whilst the northern part of the aspect area is more unsettled with disused and contemporary industrial workings dominating a greater part of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: Moderate • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of high value, representing a reasonably well-preserved example of an industrial communications/settlement corridor. During</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>the late 19th-early 20th century the collieries at Seven Sisters and Cefncoed near Crynant represented some of the most important anthracite collieries in the South Wales Coalfield; the extensive remains of the Cefncoed Colliery (now a museum) eloquently attest to this remarkable period of industrial growth.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment Other built environment Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. This entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Tailbach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>historically "urban and industrial" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter comprises the most extensive abbey remains in Wales. Little is visible of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum. Excavated foundations of the southeast gateway and guard chamber are preserved in Roman Way, their antiquity contrasting with the modernity of the surrounding housing estate. The double roadway through the southeast gate was flanked by towers and fronted by a ditch, implying the former existence of a bridge. Excavations in the playing fields, across the road from the southeast gate, in which the line of the northwest defences, detected as a slight rise, have revealed the north angle tower and evidence for timber structures including barracks and the headquarters building. First constructed in the mid 70s AD, the earth and timber defences were rebuilt in stone in the early 120s AD, apparently after a period of abandonment, occupation ceasing around AD 150 (Newman 1995). The lands of Neath Abbey, in 1129, were granted by Richard de Granville, a lieutenant of the Norman lord of Glamorgan, to the abbey of Savigny in Normandy a tract of nearly 8,000 acres (3,240 hectares) of "virgin" Welsh lands by the "nova villa" of Neath. In 1147, when the Savigniac order merged with that of Citeaux, Neath Abbey came under Cistercian rule. Since it was part of the rule that monastic communities must not profit from rents but only from direct exploitation of their estate, each Cistercian community included a large body of lay brothers, who farmed both the lands round the abbey and the granges (Newman 1995). The town and borough of Neath (see HL18) originated in the early 12th century when the Afon Nedd formed the western boundary of Norman penetration into South Wales. Castle and borough town were established on the eastern bank of the river, and the abbey was founded shortly afterwards, on the far side of the river 2km to the west. In the later Middle Ages the town and abbey were in competition for river trade, and in 1491 the</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Town Hall was reported to be in ruins. The key to Neath's subsequent development as an industrial centre was the availability of coal exceptionally close to the coast. Sir Humphrey Mackworth of the Gnoll, whose mansion dominated the little town from its hilltop, pioneered both copper and lead working from the 1690's, with the celebrated Neath Abbey Iron works began operation soon after (Newman 1995). The Neath Abbey Ironworks benefited from Cornish expertise in specialized casting and engineering, which was transferred to this site by two Quaker families, the Foxes of Falmouth, who took over the site in 1792, and Joseph Tregelles Price (who had worked with James Watt at the great Canon Ironworks at Falkirk) from 1817. The ironworks at Neath Abbey was conveniently located alongside the waterpower resources of the River Clydach a short distance from its confluence with the navigable River Neath. Under Joseph Tregelles Price (1786-1854) the works gained a reputation for high-quality engineering products. The engine manufactory produced locomotives, stationary engines, cast iron roofs and floors, steamships and gasworks. After Price's death stagnation set in, and the works finally closed in 1885. The Vale of Neath Canal, 1794-5, and subsequent railways, opened up the hinterland of Neath. But the town remained of very modest size, clustered around St Thomas's church, held back from the riverbank by a strip of noxious industry. In 1801 there were 2,500 inhabitants, and half a century later the population had little more than doubled (Newman 1995). The historic centre of Port Talbot is at Aberavon where the Afan River exits from the mountains. The name Port Talbot was at first attached to the area further southwest, where tinplate works were established. The flat expanse of "moor" more than a 2km deep and extending for over 4.8km from Margam to the estuary of the River Neath, provided an ideal site for industry. The modern docks were constructed in 1898, and steelworks established by 1907. The Margam Works began production in 1916. Since the Second</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>World War Port Talbot has been, with Llanwern (Gwent), one of the two major sites for a rationalized steel industry in Wales (Newman 1995). Gwalia Tinplate Works were erected in 1892 to use steel produced by the Briton Ferry Ironworks. Acquired by the Briton Ferry Steel Co. and closed in 1953. The building has been truncated, and only five of the stone-built bays survive. The chimneystacks have been dismantled and the building re-roofed, but brick flues in the walls mark the original hearths. A brick-built extension to the west carries a plaque dated 1898-9. On an adjacent site to the north was the Villiers Tinplate Works (1888), of which some modern brick-built buildings remain. An ironworks was established on the eastern bank of the River Neath, at Briton Ferry, in the 1840"s. It was reconstructed in the 1890"s, still as an iron-smelter, and closed in 1958. The site has been completely cleared with the exception of the blast-engine house of 1910, which housed a Richardson-Westgarth quarter-crank blowing engine. The canal depot at Neath is the most complete survivor of its kind in the South Wales valley canals. The Pennant sandstone rubble buildings stand on either side of the Neath Canal (1791-6) at Lock number 1. They consist of the canal manager"s house and stables on the east side, and on the west side a long timber storage shed with a sawpit inside, and an open shed with block and tackle hoisting gear where lock gates were made. Attached to this are a store and a smithy (Newman 1995). Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin was constructed in 1823 by the engineer William Kirkhouse to complete the Tennant Canal. The aqueduct is 104m long, carried on ten masonry arches, and continued via a cast iron trough over an earlier navigable cut. In the basin, remains of sunken boats and at the north end a buried dry dock by a slipway. At the junction of the Tennant and Neath Canals is a roving bridge, Pont Gam "crooked bridge;" with its flanking walls carried on a corbelled series of masonry courses. The only Lock on the canal"s main line is south of the aqueduct, with the Office and Lock-Keepers House</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>(Newman 1995). The waterfall at the Aberdulais Falls Tinplate Works probably powered the first copper-works in Southwest Wales, but the reconstructed water wheel sits in the wheelpit of a later tinplate works, founded in 1830. The site includes an impressive masonry header tank (the "bastion"), the foundations of the adjoining rolling mills, various walls and an 18m high chimney. The early copper-works may have lain south of the river, where a leat leads from the waterfall towards the rear of the 17th century Dulais Rock Public House (Newman 1995). Glynccorrwg Mineral Railway terminates at the Neath Canal in Aberdulais and is the last of the large horse-worked railways to be built in South Wales, 12km long and completed on a monumental scale by the notable South Wales engineer William Kirkhouse 1839-42 (Newman 1995). This aspect area contains a wealth of historical and archaeological monuments, of which a sample of the more notable has been described above. This aspect area represents a historically important and significant landscape recording 2000 years of occupation and settlement in this part of South Wales.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Wetland • Nucleated Settlement • Non-nucleated Settlement • Extractive • Processing/Manufacturing • Communications • Military • Recreational • Horticulture <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban Corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. Along the way this entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Tailbach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically ""urban and industrial"" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter is the most extensive abbey remains in Wales.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: Moderate • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value as representing an urban settlement/communications corridor of considerable historic importance, with evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period, and including monuments of exceptional significance, namely, the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum, the extensive remains of the</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	Cistercian Abbey of Neath and the well-preserved remains of two nationally important industrial sites: the Neath Abbey Ironworks and the Aberdulais Tinplate Works.
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: major component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: significant component, especially to north

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Grassland: significant component, especially to north • Bracken: minor component • Running Water: major component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> otter; kingfisher; Trollius europaeus (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Major river valley system, varying from semi-upland to north to lowland in the south; northern valley comparatively open and mostly neutral grasslands and improved pastures; southern valley steeper, mainly broadleaved woodland; some bracken slopes; some areas of revegetated mine spoil</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain semi-natural habitat; ensure that connectivity between patches of woodland is maintained.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> corridor defined by river valley, to nearest field boundary; elsewhere notional river corridor</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> major watercourse; extensive and coherent linear corridor of semi-natural habitats of high value; extensive BAP habitats BAP and other species of interest present</p>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Review of SINC/Wildlife Site data by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Semi-improved Acid Grassland. Improved Grassland. Bracken. Acid/Neutral Flush</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Dry heaths. Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Sanguisorba officinalis, Cirsium dissectum, Osmunda regalis, Ophioglossum vulgatum, Carum verticillatum (SSSI Schedule); barn owl; lapwing (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. areas of heath, grass-heath, mire and bog; areas of spoil, quarries, disused mines, railway lines, canals, urban areas, scrub, plantation etc</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises four separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially fridd habitats, on rolling slopes; complex mosaic of mainly grassland enclosures but with many other habitats; all essentially circum-neutral or acidic in character.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Ensure land managers engage with agri-environment schemes.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Ensure land managers engage with agri-environment schemes. • Medium Term: Ensure designated BAP features are protected. <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> AA defined by default as residual mosaic when other coherent areas were segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> very large area of open farmland, comparatively unintensively managed and containing many remnant semi-natural habitats typical of the Coalfield; some smaller areas of high quality habitat; diverse range of habitats present; contains an SSSI and and Coed Gawdir Wildlife Trust Reserve; good range of typical flora and fauna still in evidence.</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx. 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx. 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries - many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The</p>

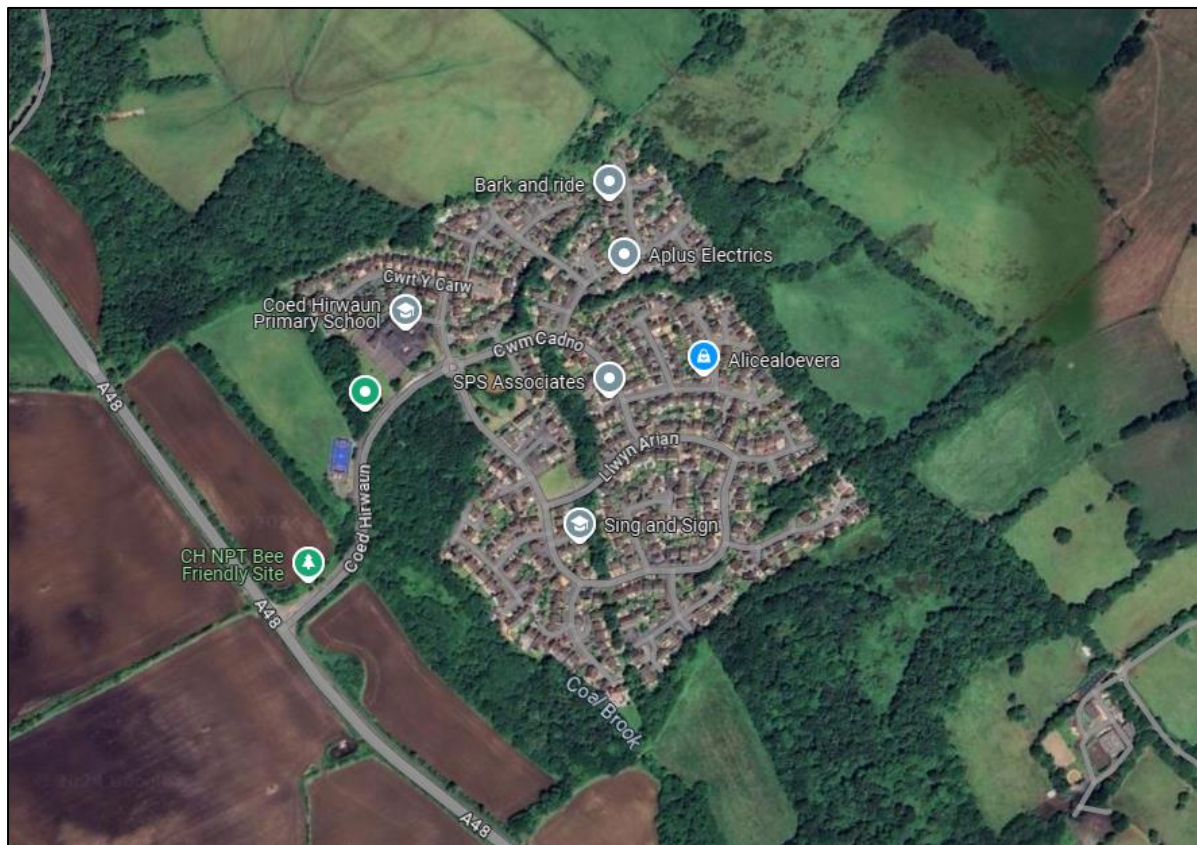
<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks - also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Harmonious • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New commercial developments of cheap materials</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive.</p> <p>Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Grazed upland valley.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain grazing regime and prevent bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Control bracken • Immediate: maintain grazing regime • Medium Term: maintain field pattern • Medium Term: maintain outgrown hedges and mature deciduous field trees • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation • Medium Term: screen commercial development and better integrate into landscape <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, settled character • Enhanced: enclosure, settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field boundaries, grown out hedges • Enhanced: riparian vegetation

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed: screening of commercial development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NW, woodland edge of Crynant Forest and valley side to break in topography top of valley edge; south, built form of settlements - Aberdulais. East; ridge line of Llety'r afel and fence of moorland edge, woodland and moorland edge/fence of hirfynydd. Boundary with Mynydd y Drum and severn sisters to NE, and county boundary to N.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 9.5 • Category 7: 75.2 • Category 8: 15.1 • Category 9: 0.2 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/PT/0042: Land at Coed Hirwaun, Margam



Quality	Site
Cultural	<u>Classification:</u>
Landscape	Lowland
Services	Rolling Lowland
	Mosaic Rolling Lowland
	<u>Details</u>
	<u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate
	<u>Attractive views:</u> ...both in and out
	<u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u>
	<u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u>
	<u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B
	<u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No
	<u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate
	<u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The area has high scenic quality to the east yet closer to the M4, from where the area is most prominent, the integrity of the rural character of the area has been affected through various developments. The majority of the area has an unspoilt character, more similar to the landscape to the east than the rest of the assessment area. This lowland agricultural character is rare within the assessment area.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, Low, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 111</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL1 1.802%, CL2 8.108%, CL10 2.703%, CL15 1.802%, CL16 24.324%, CL20 27.027%, CL30 16.216%, CL34 1.802%, CL35 7.207%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 14</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 7</p>
Geological Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland hills and valleys</p> <p>Dissected lowland plateau</p> <p>Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> Broad, low lying plateau of NE dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals between South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment and E-W Millstone Grit ridge to S. Dissected by shallow, alluvium filled valleys of tributaries and main Cynfig valley. Boulder clay extensive. Mines and quarries in coal - Margam (Parc Slip West) opencast (and proposed extension). N-S faults. Patches of glacial sand and gravel on plateau.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium • Structural features: N-S faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Active lowland river-flood plain system. Mineral workings</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Potentially destructive through proposed extension of Margam opencast</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor progress of opencast extension and conserve features if appropriate <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: High • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Glacial drift covered, dissected low plateau of Productive Coal Fm; coal mining including large opencast</p>
Geological Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland hills and valleys</p> <p>Dissected lowland plateau</p> <p>Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Broad low lying plain of glacial sand and gravel, with boulder clay covered lower ground around Llanfihangel Wood. Shallow, meandering Cynfig valley with alluvium in floor. Mine and tips from underlying Productive Coal Formation coals.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Glacial sand and gravel, alluvium, boulder clay • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mineral workings. Active upland river or stream channel system</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Coal / mineral spoil tips</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor reclamation of mining area • Long Term: Preserve GL(dissected low level plateau) integrity <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Glacial sand/gravel plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment</p> <p>Agricultural</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Regular Fieldscapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A large aspect area occupying a broad saddle of undulating farmland situated between Mynydd Margam, to the north, and Kenfig Hill, to the south. The Unitary Authority boundary defines the aspect area's eastern and southern boundary; whilst the M4 defines the western limits. The boundary with Margam Park (HL16) and Mynydd Margam occupies an elevated ridge creating the northern boundary of the aspect area. The aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape with discrete areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and modern forestry. During the Bronze Age a standing stone of fine-grained sandstone or mudstone was erected to the far west of the aspect area. Later the Romans built a road along what is now Water Street. In the centuries after the Romans many Early Christian crosses were erected across the aspect area, most have been moved and now reside in the</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Margam Estate. Without a doubt the main historical character of this landscape is medieval.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large aspect area occupying a broad saddle of undulating farmland situated between Mynydd Margam, to the north, and Kenfig Hill, to the south. The aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape with discrete areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and modern forestry.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: High • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value, representing a rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Of particular note are some extremely</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	important medieval ecclesiastical sites, including the early medieval monastic site of Eglwys Nunydd and three later medieval granges belonging to Margam Abbey at Cwrt-y-defaid, Llanmihangel and Hafodheulog.
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Built Up Areas</p> <p>Residential/Green Space</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Amenity Grassland. Gardens. Buildings. Bare Ground</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other - urban area; domestic and commercial uses; garden management; management of amenity areas</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u>Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development built on site of former semi-natural woodland; mostly houses with gardens; also amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Improved Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Review of SINC/Wildlife Site data by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: major component • Improved Grassland: main component • Marshy Grassland: major component • Bracken: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> hedgerow birds, e.g. linnet, song thrush; Carum verticillatum, Cirsium dissectum</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises three separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>level; large areas of lowland farmland on boulder clay geology, mainly comprising neutral pastures and marshy grasslands on heavy soils, with frequent semi-natural woodland and hedgerows; pasture extensively improved.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn by default when other coherent areas had been segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> contains numerous remnant areas of rhos pasture vegetation, semi-natural woodlands (including ancient woodlands) and hedgerows, many of which are Priority Habitats</p>
<p>Visual Sensory</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland Rolling Lowland Mosaic Rolling Lowland</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Attractive low lying mixed agriculture dominated by grazed land. The rural quality of this area is disrupted to the west, with new small-scale development and a golf course abutting the M4. Blocks of woodland and hedges (dominated by hazel) restrict large views and add to a feeling of intimacy. The new settlement of Coed Hirwaun sits low in a valley this landscape and is not widely visible although it does not appear to be integrated into the landscape with planting. There are a scattering of smaller settlements, dwellings and commercial units through the area which are beginning to suburbanise the character in parts. The latter chiefly to the west and constructed from inappropriate materials. Settlements are connected by numerous narrow deep-set lanes and bank hedgerows, which along with disused railway lines provide green corridors through the area. The A48 runs through the area and the area is highly visible from the M4 to the west. Pockets of coarse vegetation have encroached on under managed agricultural areas although the majority of the area is well managed farmland. Power lines and further development disrupt the rural character of the area towards Pyle in the south. Change detection 2014: Quarry in east excluded.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Rolling/Undulating • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New housing and commercial development do not reflect the vernacular of the area.</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> lowland mixed agricultural management.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain hedges and hedgerow trees.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Maintain hedgerows and hedgerow trees • Medium Term: enhance character of corridor adjacent to motorway to be in keeping with east of area through planting and development control • Long Term: maintain and enhance deciduous woodland blocks • Medium Term: maintain sunken lanes with rural character • Immediate: restrict development • Immediate: provide design guidance for area <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, tranquillity • Enhanced: enclosure • Changed: suburbanisation <p><u>Define the key elements that should be.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: hedges, trees, woodland, rural pastoral landscape • Enhanced: rural pastoral landscape • Changed: edge against motorway <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area</u></p> <p><u>boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> to west motorway, to north deer park boundary, to north east break in ground to scarp and county border, south east - fence line at break of slope on top of ridge. 2014 - boundary changed to exclude quarry in east.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The area has high scenic quality to the east yet closer to the M4, from where the area is most prominent, the integrity of the rural character of the area has been affected through various developments. The majority of the area has an unspoilt character, more similar to the landscape to the east than the rest of the assessment area. This lowland agricultural character is rare within the assessment area.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Valleys and rolling lowland (mosaic 20-50% wooded, hedgerow character)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Lowland mosaic >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0.1 • Category 6: 18 • Category 7: 73.5 • Category 8: 8.4 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/PT/2015: Land Adjacent to Coed Hirwaun



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland</p> <p>Rolling Lowland</p> <p>Mosaic Rolling Lowland</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The area has high scenic quality to the east yet closer to the M4, from where the area is most prominent, the integrity of the rural character of the area has been affected through various developments. The majority of the area has an unspoilt character, more similar to the landscape to the east than the rest of the assessment area. This lowland agricultural character is rare within the assessment area.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, Low, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 111</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL1 1.802%, CL2 8.108%, CL10 2.703%, CL15 1.802%, CL16 24.324%, CL20 27.027%, CL30 16.216%, CL34 1.802%, CL35 7.207%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 14</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 7</p>
Geological Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland hills and valleys</p> <p>Dissected lowland plateau</p> <p>Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Broad, low lying plateau of NE dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals between South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment and E-W Millstone Grit ridge to S. Dissected by shallow, alluvium filled valleys of tributaries and main Cynfig valley. Boulder clay extensive. Mines and quarries in coal - Margam (Parc Slip West) opencast (and proposed extension). N-S faults. Patches of glacial sand and gravel on plateau.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium • Structural features: N-S faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Active lowland river-flood plain system. Mineral workings</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Potentially destructive through proposed extension of Margam opencast</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor progress of opencast extension and conserve features if appropriate <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: High • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall Evaluation: High <u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Glacial drift covered, dissected low plateau of Productive Coal Fm; coal mining including large opencast
Geological Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland hills and valleys</p> <p>Dissected lowland plateau</p> <p>Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Broad low lying plain of glacial sand and gravel, with boulder clay covered lower ground around Llanfihangel Wood. Shallow, meandering Cynfig valley with alluvium in floor. Mine and tips from underlying Productive Coal Formation coals.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation Superficial deposits: Glacial sand and gravel, alluvium, boulder clay Active processes: Fluvial Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mineral workings. Active upland river or stream channel system</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Coal / mineral spoil tips</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor reclamation of mining area • Long Term: Preserve GL(dissected low level plateau) integrity <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Glacial sand/gravel plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u> <u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining</p>
<p>Historic Landscape</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u> Rural environment Agricultural Regular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u> <u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A large aspect area occupying a broad saddle of undulating farmland situated between Mynydd Margam, to the north, and Kenfig Hill, to the south. The Unitary Authority boundary defines the aspect area's eastern and southern boundary; whilst the M4 defines the western limits. The boundary with Margam Park (HL16) and Mynydd Margam occupies an elevated ridge creating the northern boundary of the aspect area. The aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape with discrete areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and modern forestry. During the Bronze Age a standing stone of fine-grained sandstone or mudstone was erected to the far west of the aspect area. Later the Romans built a road along what is now Water Street. In the centuries after the Romans many Early Christian crosses were erected across the aspect area, most have been moved and now reside in the Margam Estate. Without a doubt the main historical character of this landscape is medieval.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Unassessed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large aspect area occupying a broad saddle of undulating farmland situated between Mynydd Margam, to the north, and Kenfig Hill, to the south. The aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape with discrete areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and modern forestry.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: High • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value, representing a rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Of particular note are some extremely important medieval ecclesiastical sites, including the early medieval monastic site of Eglwys Nynydd and three later medieval granges belonging to Margam Abbey at Cwrt-y-defaid, Llanmihangel and Hafodheulog.</p>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Built Up Areas</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Residential/Green Space</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Amenity Grassland. Gardens. Buildings. Bare Ground</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development built on site of former semi-natural woodland; mostly houses with gardens; also amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Improved Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Review of SINC/Wildlife Site data by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: major component • Improved Grassland: main component • Marshy Grassland: major component • Bracken: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> hedgerow birds, e.g. linnet, song thrush; Carum verticillatum, Cirsium dissectum</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises three separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; large areas of lowland farmland on boulder clay geology, mainly comprising neutral pastures and marshy grasslands on heavy</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>soils, with frequent semi-natural woodland and hedgerows; pasture extensively improved</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn by default when other coherent areas had been segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> contains numerous remnant areas of rhos pasture vegetation, semi-natural woodlands (including ancient woodlands) and hedgerows, many of which are Priority Habitats</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (3)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Improved Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Improved Grassland: main component • Marshy Grassland: minor component • Arable: major component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> .</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of comparatively intensive lowland farmland, much of it arable, on well drained Triassic geology; semi-natural habitats scarce</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Condition</u>: Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend</u>: Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management</u>: Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations</u>: E.</p> <p><u>Guideline</u>:</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn to convenient boundaries which more-or-less coincide with the area of Triassic geology</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Low • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Low • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> semi-natural habitats scarce; only remnants of Priority Habitats left; no records of Priority Species</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland</p> <p>Rolling Lowland</p> <p>Mosaic Rolling Lowland</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Attractive low lying mixed agriculture dominated by grazed land. The rural quality of this area is disrupted to the west, with new small-scale development and a golf course abutting the M4. Blocks of woodland and hedges (dominated by hazel) restrict large views and add to a feeling of intimacy. The new settlement of Coed Hirwaun sits low in a valley this landscape and is not widely visible although it does not appear to be integrated into the landscape with planting. There are a scattering of smaller settlements, dwellings and commercial units through the area which are beginning to suburbanise the character in parts. The latter chiefly to the west and constructed from inappropriate materials. Settlements are connected by numerous narrow deep-set lanes and bank hedgerows, which along with disused railway lines provide green corridors through the area. The A48 runs through the area and the area is highly visible from the M4 to the west. Pockets of coarse vegetation have encroached on under managed agricultural areas although the majority of the area is well managed farmland. Power lines and further development disrupt the rural character of the area towards Pyle in the south. Change detection 2014: Quarry in east excluded.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Rolling/Undulating • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New housing and commercial development do not reflect the vernacular of the area.</p> <p><u>There are attractive views....:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views....:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> lowland mixed agricultural management.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain hedges and hedgerow trees.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Maintain hedgerows and hedgerow trees • Medium Term: enhance character of corridor adjacent to motorway to be in keeping with east of area through planting and development control • Long Term: maintain and enhance deciduous woodland blocks • Medium Term: maintain sunken lanes with rural character • Immediate: restrict development • Immediate: provide design guidance for area <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, tranquillity • Enhanced: enclosure • Changed: suburbanisation <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: hedges, trees, woodland, rural pastoral landscape • Enhanced: rural pastoral landscape • Changed: edge against motorway <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> to west motorway, to north deer park boundary, to north east break in ground</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>to scarp and county border, south east - fence line at break of slope on top of ridge. 2014 - boundary changed to exclude quarry in east</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The area has high scenic quality to the east yet closer to the M4, from where the area is most prominent, the integrity of the rural character of the area has been affected through various developments. The majority of the area has an unspoilt character, more similar to the landscape to the east than the rest of the assessment area. This lowland agricultural character is rare within the assessment area</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Valleys and rolling lowland (mosaic 20-50% wooded, hedgerow character)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Lowland mosaic >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0.1 • Category 6: 18 • Category 7: 73.5 • Category 8: 8.4 • Category 9: 0.0 • Category 10: 0

Appendix 2 – Sites identified as being potentially suitable for development

Candidate Sites 2022

RLDP/DV/0006: Treforgan Colliery Site, Crynant

Figure 1: RLDP/DV/0006: Treforgan Colliery Site, Crynant



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural	<u>Classification:</u> Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Wooded Upland & Plateaux <u>Details</u> <u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight
Landscape	
Services	
(1)	

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Attractive views</u>:...neither in or out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities</u>: Tranquil</p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban)</u>: Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve</u>: No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness</u>: Weak</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value</u>: The forestry management is uniform across the area. The area contains small pockets of open land which add varied character to the area, this woodland contributes significantly to the character of the Dulais valley and provides much of the southern skyline for the Swansea valley.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Character</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 54</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 16.667%, CL16 62.963%, CL20 1.852%, CL27 1.852%, CL31 1.852%, CL32 11.111%, CL34 1.852%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 0</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW ridge of S dipping South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennant Measures) sandstones with coals forming W and E facing slopes, capped by resistant Hughes Beds sandstones to S. N-S and NE-SW faults. NW facing slopes form steep side of Tawe valley. Small area of Productive Coal Formation mudstones with coals in E. Bounded by NNW-SSE Nant Marl fault to E. Extensive boulder clay on dip slopes in Clydach and Dulais valleys. Peat on higher slopes. Landslip into Tawe valley at Y Darren Widdon, made ground on W slopes. Ty Draw Brook into Tawe with stepped waterfalls over sandstones.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation (Llynfi- Hughes Beds) • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, peat, head • Structural features: NE-SW, N-S and NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Upland valley slope. Mass movement. Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor afforestation (Crynant Forest) to retain landscape integrity <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nant Marl Fault to E, Rhydding Fault to W, Tawe to N, Nedd to S</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones and coals in dissected ridge, with Y Darren Widdon landslip</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The settlements of Crynant and Severn Sisters were little more than small hamlets, centred on collieries such as Severn Sisters and Maes-mawr, and spreading along the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway, by the time of the 1st edition OS survey (1884). Earlier origins are evident; the Chapel of Ease at Crynant has a medieval foundation, and several of the houses in the village appear to be of 18th century date. The Neath and Brecon Railway has been described as a typical</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>contractor's railway, the contractor in this case being John Dickson. The railway opened from Neath to Onllwyn in 1864 and on to Brecon in 1866. Between Onllwyn and Sennybridge it closely followed the course of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. The route became part of the Swansea - Hereford line when a connection to the Swansea Vale Railway was made in 1873.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The south of the aspect area generally retains a rural character of an irregular fieldscape; whilst the northern part of the aspect area is more unsettled with disused and contemporary industrial workings dominating a greater part of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of high value, representing a reasonably well-preserved example of an industrial communications/settlement corridor. During the late 19th-early 20th century the collieries at Seven Sisters and Cefncoed near Crynant represented some of the most important anthracite collieries in the South Wales Coalfield; the extensive remains of the Cefncoed Colliery (now a museum) eloquently attest to this remarkable period of industrial growth.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Irregular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> Discontinuous area of similar landscape character and historical identity to the Dulais Valley; please refer to HL048 for technical information.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>pattern of this area?</u> Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Irregular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Non-nucleated Settlement</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The Dulais Valley aspect area is defined as the extent of enclosure flanking the Crynant and Severn Sisters industrial communication corridor (HL46). The aspect area is characterised by a heavily industrialised, irregular, agricultural fieldscape, with dispersed and isolated farmsteads. The overriding character of field boundaries is one of drystone walls.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity: Moderate <li>• Survival: The irregular upland fieldscape, defined by drystone walls and hedge banks, has survived to a greater extent in the central part of the aspect area; however, in the northern part of the area, the pattern of enclosure has partially broken down as a result <li>• Condition: Moderate <li>• Rarity: Moderate <li>• Potential: High <li>• Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The moderate overall value assigned to this area reflects the relatively modest scope of the archaeological record and the fact that the coherence of this upland fieldscape has been significantly disturbed by modern forestry</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	plantation and the designed recreational landscape of the Neath Golf Course.
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: major component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: significant component, especially to north • Improved Grassland: significant component, especially to north

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracken: minor component • Running Water: major component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> otter; kingfisher; Trollius europaeus (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Major river valley system, varying from semi-upland to north to lowland in the south; northern valley comparatively open and</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>mostly neutral grasslands and improved pastures; southern valley steeper, mainly broadleaved woodland; some bracken slopes; some areas of revegetated mine spoil</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain semi-natural habitat; ensure that connectivity between patches of woodland is maintained.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> corridor defined by river valley, to nearest field boundary; elsewhere notional river corridor</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> major watercourse; extensive and coherent linear corridor of semi-natural habitats of high value; extensive BAP habitats BAP and other species of interest present</p>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: major component • Improved Grassland: significant component • Marshy Grassland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> reed bunting recorded (Rhos Common - Common Land Survey)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. Areas of revegetated mine spoil</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises two separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level, lying on either side of a major river valley; Large areas of semi-upland "ffridd" habitats on the valley sides of the upper Dulais river, comprising a mosaic of mainly grassland habitats, mostly of neutral or acid character; interspersed by deciduous woodland and flush areas.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain unimproved state of semi-natural grassland habitats and hedgerows creating connectivity between wooded patches.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn largely by default following segregation of major plateau, plantation and river valley areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> subject to some improvement and degradation, but still mainly comprising semi-natural habitats characteristic of the S Wales coalfield, and containing numerous features of value</p>
Landscape Habitats (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Woodland & Scrub</p> <p>Coniferous Woodland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted Coniferous Woodland: main component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Improved Grassland: minor component • Bracken: minor component • Dry Acid Heath: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> may be of value to nesting birds</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Rock Outcrops. Mine Shafts</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of secondary semi-upland conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conversion to semi-natural broadleaves, or restoration to open upland habitats</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> discrete area of conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Low • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Unassessed

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> large area of secondary semi-upland conifer plantation; no known Priority Habitats of Species</p>
Visual Sensory (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Almost continuous coniferous plantation, with occasional clearings covering much of the higher ground of the shoulder between Dulais and Swansea valley, from approx. 100m AOD in Dulais valley and 150m AOD in the Swansea Valley to 418m AOD at highest peak. The landform creates a dominant element from both the Dulais and Swansea valleys. There are no settlements or roads in the area, although there are a number of tracks and paths including St Illtyd's way. In many places the edges of the woodland are regular and geometric, forming an abrupt edge to the surrounding open areas. Change detection 2014: some conversion to broadleaf.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographic Form: Plateaux Landcover Pattern: Woodland Settlement pattern: No settlements Boundary type: None <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale: Large Sense of Enclosure: Confined Diversity: Simple Texture: Coarse Lines: Angular

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Autumn <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Tranquil</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Improving</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> commercial woodland.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> manage forestry to enhance scenic quality through selective thinning felling and planting of deciduous.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance edge of forestry to improve integration with open landscape` • Medium Term: plant deciduous trees along stream corridors

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Vary composition of species to include deciduous and larch • Medium Term: maintain open areas • Medium Term: manage felling to minimise impact on skyline when viewed from surrounding valleys <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: tranquillity • Enhanced: tranquillity • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: open areas • Enhanced: woodland edge • Changed: N/A <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> extent of woodland to south, to east woodland including mixed woodland of valley side, north - county boundary, west extent of coniferous plantation and break in contour.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The forestry management is uniform across the area. The area contains small pockets of open land which add varied character to the area, this woodland contributes significantly to the character of the Dulais valley and provides much of the southern skyline for the Swansea valley.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 0 • Category 7: 25.7 • Category 8: 72.9 • Category 9: 1.4 • Category 10: 0

Quality	Site
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx. 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx. 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries - many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks - also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Harmonious • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New commercial developments of cheap materials</p> <p><u>There are attractive views....:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views....:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Grazed upland valley.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain grazing regime and prevent bracken encroachment.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Control bracken • Immediate: maintain grazing regime • Medium Term: maintain field pattern • Medium Term: maintain outgrown hedges and mature deciduous field trees • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation • Medium Term: screen commercial development and better integrate into landscape <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, settled character • Enhanced: enclosure, settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field boundaries, grown out hedges • Enhanced: riparian vegetation • Changed: screening of commercial development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NW, woodland edge of Crynant Forest and valley side to break in topography top of valley edge; south, built form of settlements - Aberdulais. East; ridge line of Llety'r afel and fence of moorland</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>edge, woodland and moorland edge/fence of hirfynydd. Boundary with Mynydd y Drum and severn sisters to NE, and county boundary to N.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 9.5 • Category 7: 75.2 • Category 8: 15.1 • Category 9: 0.2 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/DV/2020: Sites 5 & 6 Nant Y Cafn Business Park, Nant Y Cafn Business Park, Seven Sisters

Figure 2: RLDP/DV/2020: Sites 5 & 6 Nant Y Cafn Business Park, Nant Y Cafn Business Park, Seven Sisters



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Lower lying plateau of NE-SW regional antiform in Productive Coal Measures mudstones with coals, dissected by NE-SE upper Dulais river valley. Broad slopes covered extensively by boulder clay and cut by NNW-SSE to N-S faults. Coal mines and areas of made ground along valley. Alluvium in broad valley floor.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Westphalian Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay • Structural features: N-S to NNW-SSE faults, NE-SW regional antiform • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Ancient upland river / stream systems. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor land reclamation after mining activities • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to retain GL character <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NNW-SSE faults to E, Upper Cwmgorse Marine Band, Edge of Neath Port Talbot to N</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Glacial drift covered Productive Coal Fm with extensive mining</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment Other built environment Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The settlements of Crynant and Severn Sisters were little more than small hamlets, centred on collieries such as Severn Sisters and Maes-mawr, and spreading along the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway, by the time of the 1st edition OS survey (1884). Earlier origins are evident; the Chapel of Ease at Crynant has a medieval foundation, and several of the houses in the village appear to be of 18th century date. The Neath and Brecon Railway has been described as a typical contractor's railway, the contractor in this case being John Dickson. The railway opened from Neath to Onllwyn in 1864 and on to Brecon in 1866. Between Onllwyn and Sennybridge it closely followed the course of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. The route became part of the Swansea - Hereford line when a connection to the Swansea Vale Railway was made in 1873.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The south of the aspect area generally retains a rural character of an irregular fieldscape; whilst the northern part of the aspect area is more</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>unsettled with disused and contemporary industrial workings dominating a greater part of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of high value, representing a reasonably well-preserved example of an industrial communications/settlement corridor. During the late 19th-early 20th century the collieries at Seven Sisters and Cefncoed near Crynant represented some of the most important anthracite collieries in the South Wales Coalfield; the extensive remains of the Cefncoed Colliery (now a museum) eloquently attest to this remarkable period of industrial growth.</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <p>Habitats</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Change indicated by:</u> Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: major component • Improved Grassland: significant component • Marshy Grassland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> reed bunting recorded (Rhos Common - Common Land Survey)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. Other</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises two separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level, lying on either side of a major river valley; Large areas of semi-upland "ffridd" habitats on the valley sides of the upper Dulais river, comprising a mosaic of mainly grassland habitats, mostly of neutral or acid character; interspersed by deciduous woodland and flush areas.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain unimproved state of semi-natural grassland habitats and hedgerows creating connectivity between wooded patches.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn largely by default following segregation of major plateau, plantation and river valley areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> subject to some improvement and degradation, but still mainly comprising semi-natural habitats characteristic of the S Wales coalfield, and containing numerous features of value</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx. 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx. 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries - many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks - also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Harmonious

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New commercial developments of cheap materials</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Grazed upland valley.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain grazing regime and prevent bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Control bracken • Immediate: maintain grazing regime • Medium Term: maintain field pattern

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: maintain outgrown hedges and mature deciduous field trees • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation • Medium Term: screen commercial development and better integrate into landscape <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, settled character • Enhanced: enclosure, settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field boundaries, grown out hedges • Enhanced: riparian vegetation • Changed: screening of commercial development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NW, woodland edge of Crynant Forest and valley side to break in topography top of valley edge; south, built form of settlements - Aberdulais. East; ridge line of Llety'r afel and fence of moorland edge, woodland and moorland edge/fence of hirfynydd. Boundary with Mynydd y Drum and severn sisters to NE, and county boundary to N.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 6: 9.5 • Category 7: 75.2 • Category 8: 15.1 • Category 9: 0.19 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/P/0014 and RLDP/P/0016: Land South West side of James Street Submission 1 and 3

Figure 3: RLDP/P/0014 and RLDP/P/0016: Land South West side of James Street Submission 1 and 3



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...within</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Urban, Zone C, Undisturbed</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The settled enclosed quality of the area engendered by topography woodland</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>and grown out hedges provides an intimate scenic quality which is relatively consistent throughout.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 26</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 42.308%, CL14 7.692%, CL15 3.846%, CL16 7.692%, CL20 23.077%, CL32 7.692%, CL35 7.692%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Built Land</p> <p>Urban</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>....out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Urban</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Low</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> although there are a number of elements within the town which have scenic quality [significant buildings, river, canal], they are diminished by juxtaposition of detracting elements [industry, road]. The general sprawl of dwellings and commercial units and the dominance of roads produce a poor quality area.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate, Low</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 36</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u> The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 8.333%, CL15 5.556%, CL16 25%, CL20 27.778%, CL31 5.556%, CL35 27.778%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Upland plateau in S-dipping sandstone dominated South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennant Measures) and underlying</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>mudstone dominated Productive Coal Formation dissected by S draining Upper Clydach and tributary Egel valley and Cwm Du valley. Steep valley slopes covered with boulder clay in lower parts. Valley floors broad, with alluvium in channels. N-S and NNW-SSE faults; Cwm Du valley partly fault controlled. Mines in Clydach valley (Cwm Gors) and Cwm Du valley. Landslips below sandstones on valley slopes; large landslips at Pant y ffynnon, Pantteg, and Craig Trebanos in Tawe valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Westphalian Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennnant Formation - Brithdir Beds. • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, head, peat, terrace gravels • Structural features: N-S - NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Conserve large periglacial landsliip settings <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NNW-SSE fault to W, Tawe to S, Upper Cwmgorse marine band to N (Near top of mudstones dominated Coal Measures Group)</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Productive Coal Fm - South Wales Pennant Fm succession with large landslips at base of sandstones; coal mines</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment</p> <p>Agricultural</p> <p>Other fieldscapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A quite extensive and predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL029). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL029). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Fieldscapes. Regular Fieldscapes. Horticulture. Woodland. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area?

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Industrial. Recent. Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+)</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>The aspect area is quite extensive, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL29). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL29). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west following the Nant Melyn into an almost discrete valley of elevated irregular shaped fields centred on the Hafod Wennol Farm; the name may reflect the former use of this area as seasonal upland pasture.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: This extensive upland valley fieldscape with elements of irregular and regular enclosure depicted on the OS 1st edition map, defined by a mixture of hedgerows, hedge banks and drystone walls, has remained largely intact and probably dates from the medieval • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as high, representing a well-preserved, extensive upland valley fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval origin with evidence of</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	prehistoric ritual/funerary activity, medieval/early post-medieval upland settlement and 19th-early 20th century industrial extractive activity and associated settlement.
Historic Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebanos. The aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley sides (HL41 and HL40). The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north and south respectively, are conjoined by a relatively late ribbon development along both the Swansea Canal and the Midland Railway. The Swansea Canal, a speculative venture designed to open up the coal trade at the head of the Tawe Valley, was the last of</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>the major canals built in South Wales; it began construction in 1794 and was fully operational by 1798. It was bought in 1873 by Great Western railway and worked by them in competition to the Midland Railway's Swansea Valley line. The line closed to traffic during the 1930's and much of its length has been taken by modern road construction; although a length at Pontardawe survives.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Fieldscapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebanos. The aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley sides (HL41 and HL40). The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north and south respectively, are anchored together by a relatively late ribbon development built along the both the Swansea Canal and Midland Railway.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed being of high value as an historically important industrial communications corridor, represented by the remains of the late 18th century Swansea Canal and associated structures, including some of national importance. The area has lost some coherence due to the demolition and clearance of the substantial iron and tinplate works at Ystalyfera and Pontardawe and the infilling of much of the northern section of the Swansea Canal extending from Ystradgynlais to Godre'r Graig (mostly built over by the present A4067 road). Moreover, certain sites within the aspect area are in an increasingly overgrown, ruinous condition (including the Crimea Colliery and a number of the surviving docks on the Swansea Canal). On this basis, the overall assessment for this area has been gauged as high rather than outstanding, although it certainly contains a number of relict industrial buildings of exceptional importance and rarity (e.g. the Ystalyfera Aqueduct and the Crimea Colliery).</p>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Built Up Areas Residential/Green Space</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Grassland • Gardens • Buildings • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> LNR. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? Other</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area? Yes</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development; mostly houses with gardens; also amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Wet Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Open Water</p> <p>River Corridors</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Semi-improved Acid Grassland. Acid/Neutral Flush. Running Water. Quarry</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Upland Oakwood. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 11-20%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> probably otter; kingfisher (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Major river valley with extensive areas of broadleaved woodland on steep valley sides in some sections; other sections with adjacent flush habitats, drier areas with some acid grassland. Quarry area with bare ground.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain semi natural habitats, particularly where deciduous woodland is located between the bare ground of the quarry site and the water course.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn to include valleyside habitats, to nearest field boundary where possible, otherwise in notional corridor</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Undisturbed upland - semi-upland river valley system with extensive semi-natural habitats, including large areas of Priority Habitats</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley rising from approx. 50 AOD at Pontardawe to approx. 260m AOD. The area is predominantly pastoral, with heavily wooded riparian corridors and lower valley sides. Field boundaries are mainly overgrown hedges, although walls and fences are also present. There are a scattering of settlements, mostly along the A474, and a network of single track roads and</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>PROWs. There are pleasant contained views within the valley, especially along the valley floor, where deciduous woodland restricts views out. There are minor localised detractors associated with scattered settlements.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New agricultural buildings</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...within</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> mixed grazing.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain field pattern.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: maintain grazing pattern • Long Term: allow hedges to grow out • Long Term: maintain deciduous tree cover <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: settlement • Enhanced: enclosure • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous tree cover • Enhanced: hedges • Changed: edge of development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> west, county boundary and edge of common land; north disturbed land in Cwm Gors; east, edge of common land and ridge line with river Egel.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: High • Character: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The settled enclosed quality of the area engendered by topography woodland and grown out hedges provides an intimate scenic quality which is relatively consistent throughout.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 1.7

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 7: 57.4 • Category 8: 40.8 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development Built Land Urban</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Settlements straddling the River Tawe. The core of Pontardawe sits within the Tawe valley, while newer developments climb up the valley sides and stretch up the adjacent valleys. The centre of the town, which has industrial roots, has undergone environment improvements. Relatively recent road schemes now separate the core from surrounding residential areas and have a considerable impact on the town. Industrial development dominates the area around the river and the Swansea canal. Rhos is linked to Pontardawe by the A474 and a ribbon of associated developments. Change detection 2014: Tesco in south has extended boundary.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Disturbed • Landcover Pattern: Development • Settlement pattern: Urban • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texture: Coarse • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Discordant • Unity: Disunity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New development - commercial poor material and detail</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Inappropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> poor boundary treatment and connection with landscape and river.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> integrate better with surrounding landscape and river.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: develop visual and physical connections between settlement and river/canal • Medium Term: screen commercial developments and better integrate into landscape • Medium Term: enhance physical connection between residential areas and centre • Medium Term: improve riverside treatment and access <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: settled • Enhanced: N/A • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: core of settlement • Enhanced: river and canal • Changed: industrial estates <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> edge of built form; sw, county boundary; ne, extent of Pontardawe. 2014 - Tesco on valley floor in south has extended boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Low • Integrity: Low • Character: Low • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> although there are a number of elements within the town which have scenic quality [significant buildings, river, canal], they are diminished by juxtaposition of detracting elements [industry, road]. The general sprawl of dwellings and commercial units and the dominance of roads produce a poor quality area.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Built land - communities</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Built Land</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.8 • Category 6: 41.6 • Category 7: 49.2 • Category 8: 6.3 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/P/0017: Land off Commercial Road & Heol Gwrhyd

Figure 4: RLDP/P/0017: Land off Commercial Road & Heol Gwrhyd



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight <u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out <u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil <u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed, Urban <u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No <u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Strong <u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This area has a high scenic quality with its mosaic landscape, mixture of boundaries and deciduous tree cover. The feeling of isolation from minimal access to the area adds to its character.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 41</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.195%, CL16 34.146%, CL20 19.512%, CL30 9.756%, CL32 2.439%, CL35 19.512%, CL37 2.439%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Built Land</p> <p>Urban</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>....out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Urban</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> although there are a number of elements within the town which have scenic quality [significant buildings, river, canal], they are diminished by juxtaposition of detracting elements [industry, road]. The general sprawl of dwellings and commercial units and the dominance of roads produce a poor quality area.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate, Low</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 36</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u> The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 8.333%, CL15 5.556%, CL16 25%, CL20 27.778%, CL31 5.556%, CL35 27.778%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Upland plateau in S-dipping sandstone dominated South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennant Measures) and underlying mudstone dominated Productive Coal Formation dissected by S draining Upper Clydach and tributary Egel valley and Cwm Du valley. Steep valley slopes covered with boulder clay in lower parts. Valley floors broad, with alluvium in channels. N-S and NNW-SSE faults; Cwm Du valley partly fault controlled. Mines in Clydach valley (Cwm Gors) and Cwm Du valley. Landslips below sandstones on valley slopes; large landslips at Pant y ffynnon, Pantteg, and Craig Trebanos in Tawe valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Westphalian Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation - Brithdir Beds. • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, head, peat, terrace gravels • Structural features: N-S - NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial <p>Past processes: Glacial, periglacial, mass movement</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Conserve large periglacial landsliip settings</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NNW-SSE fault to W, Tawe to S, Upper Cwmgorse marine band to N (Near top of mudstones dominated Coal Measures Group)</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Productive Coal Fm - South Wales Pennant Fm succession with large landslips at base of sandstones; coal mines</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment</p> <p>Agricultural</p> <p>Other fieldscapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A quite extensive and predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL029). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL029). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Fieldscapes. Regular Fieldscapes. Horticulture. Woodland. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area?

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Industrial. Recent. Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+)</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland. The aspect area is quite extensive, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL29). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL29). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west following the Nant Melyn into an almost discrete valley of elevated irregular shaped fields centred on the Hafod Wennol Farm; the name may reflect the former use of this area as seasonal upland pasture.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: High

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as high, representing a well-preserved, extensive upland valley fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval origin with evidence of prehistoric ritual/funerary activity, medieval/early post-medieval upland settlement and 19th-early 20th century industrial extractive activity and associated settlement.</p>
Historic Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebanos. The aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley valley sides (HL41 and HL40). The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>and south respectively, are conjoined by a relatively late ribbon development along both the Swansea Canal and the Midland Railway. The Swansea Canal, a speculative venture designed to open up the coal trade at the head of the Tawe Valley, was the last of the major canals built in South Wales; it began construction in 1794 and was fully operational by 1798. It was bought in 1873 by Great Western railway and worked by them in competition to the Midland Railway's Swansea Valley line. The line closed to traffic during the 1930's and much of its length has been taken by modern road construction; although a length at Pontardawe survives.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Landscapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebanos. The aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley sides (HL41 and HL40). The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north and south respectively, are anchored together by a relatively late ribbon development built along the both the Swansea Canal and Midland Railway.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed being of high value as an historically important industrial communications corridor, represented by the remains of the late 18th century Swansea Canal and associated structures, including some of national importance. The area has lost some coherence due to the demolition and clearance of the substantial iron and tinsplate works at Ystalyfera and Pontardawe and the infilling of much of the northern section of the Swansea Canal extending from Ystradgynlais to Godre'r Graig (mostly built over by the present A4067 road). Moreover, certain sites within the aspect area are in an increasingly overgrown, ruinous condition (including the Crimea Colliery and a number of the surviving docks on the Swansea Canal). On this basis, the overall assessment for this area has been gauged as high rather than outstanding, although it certainly contains a number of relict industrial buildings of exceptional importance and rarity (e.g. the Ystalyfera Aqueduct and the Crimea Colliery).</p>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: main component • Improved Grassland: significant component • Marshy Grassland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Upland Oakwood. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Good range of Rhos pasture plants including <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>, <i>Serratula tinctoria</i>, <i>Carum verticillatum</i>, <i>Genista anglica</i>, <i>G. tinctoria</i>, <i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>, <i>Carex montana</i>, <i>C. pallescens</i>, <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>, <i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>, <i>Osmunda regalis</i> and <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>; associated invertebrates include marsh fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary and <i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i> (SSSI Schedules); barn owl (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. small areas of heath, spoil habitats, mines, quarries, residential and industrial areas, roads, railway lines etc</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Cutting. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises twelve separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; Extensive areas of rural semi-upland, mostly</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>conforming to current concept of "ffridd habitats" and mainly comprising rhos pastures</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> area defined by default as not falling into other defined areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: High • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Extensive areas of neutral grasslands and marshy grasslands, including many undegraded areas supporting a wide range of typical rhes pasture species; both the habitats and many of the associated species are BAP Priorities</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Wet Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Open Water</p> <p>River Corridors</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Semi-improved Acid Grassland. Acid/Neutral Flush. Running Water. Quarry</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Upland Oakwood. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 11-20%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> probably otter; kingfisher (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Major river valley with extensive areas of broadleaved woodland on steep valley sides in some sections; other sections with adjacent flush habitats, drier areas with some acid grassland. Quarry area with bare ground.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain semi natural habitats, particularly where deciduous woodland is located between the bare ground of the quarry site and the water course.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn to include valleyside habitats, to nearest field boundary where possible, otherwise in notional corridor</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Undisturbed upland - semi-upland river valley system with extensive semi-natural habitats, including large areas of Priority Habitats</p>
Visual Sensory (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Rolling upland valleys of River Egel, Cwm Du and northern Swansea valley sides. The elevation varies from around 250m AOD below the moorland of Mynydd Allt y Grug, to Approx. 100m AOD at Pontardawe. The land cover is predominantly grazed pasture with significant deciduous tree cover, especially along riparian corridors. Many hedges are outgrown throughout the area, leaving trees with fences as definitions of the field pattern. Walls are present on higher ground, generally in poor state of disrepair. In the more settled lower areas, boundaries are generally more intensively maintained. Farmsteads are scattered and there is only one minor road which passes through the area - numerous other terminate at farmsteads. The restricted access provides a remote yet settled and tranquil feel. The area contains two large blocks of coniferous plantation which form a contrast to the grain of the rest of the area. Encroachment of bracken has occurred on higher ground.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm • Boundary type: Fences with Trees

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> Most developments to farmsteads appear in keeping with vernacular. fencing is often used over hedges and traditional walls - which would appear more appropriate</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Tranquil. Sheltered. Safe. Remote</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> upland grazing.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> control bracken.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: control bracken • Medium Term: enhance field pattern of hedges and stone walls maintaining altitudinal distinction between them • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation and boundary trees • Long Term: enhance edges of forest to improve integration with open landscape adjacent • Long Term: maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: tranquillity, remoteness • Enhanced: settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous tree cover • Enhanced: field boundaries • Changed: coniferous plantations <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> much of the area is bounded by the fence against the common land; to the north the boundary runs from the built extent of Pen-Rhiw-Fawr along edge of disturbed ground to Ystalyfera; south east edge follows the built form of linear development along the Swansea Valley. The east boundary follows the ridge between Cwm Gors and Cwm Egel</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: High • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has a high scenic quality with its mosaic landscape, mixture of boundaries and deciduous tree cover. The feeling of isolation from minimal access to the area adds to its character. Panoramic views are afforded from higher elevations within the valleys, while in the lower valleys there is an intimate character. The area has an relatively unspoilt upland mosaic valley character, with a strong sense of place.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland valleys, hillsides, lower plateau and scarps (grassland >50%, open, predominantly unwooded)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland open >50% grassland</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 0.2 • Category 7: 25.3 • Category 8: 73.2 • Category 9: 1.3 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development Built Land Urban</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Settlements straddling the River Tawe. The core of Pontardawe sits within the Tawe valley, while newer developments climb up the valley sides and stretch up the adjacent valleys. The centre of the town, which has industrial roots, has undergone environmental improvements. Relatively recent road schemes now separate the core from surrounding residential areas and have a considerable impact on the town. Industrial development dominates the area around the river and the Swansea canal. Rhos is linked to Pontardawe by the A474 and a ribbon of associated developments. Change detection 2014: Tesco in south has extended boundary</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Disturbed • Landcover Pattern: Development • Settlement pattern: Urban • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Coarse • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Discordant • Unity: Disunity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New development - commercial poor material and detail</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Trend</u>: Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management</u>: Generally Inappropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks</u>: poor boundary treatment and connection with landscape and river.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation</u>: integrate better with surrounding landscape and river.</p> <p><u>Guideline</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: develop visual and physical connections between settlement and river/canal • Medium Term: screen commercial developments and better integrate into landscape • Medium Term: enhance physical connection between residential areas and centre • Medium Term: improve riverside treatment and access <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: settled • Enhanced: N/A • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: core of settlement • Enhanced: river and canal • Changed: industrial estates <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> edge of built form; sw, county boundary; ne, extent of Pontardawe. 2014 - Tesco on valley floor in south has extended boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Low • Integrity: Low • Character: Low • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> although there are a number of elements within the town which have scenic quality [significant buildings, river, canal], they are diminished by juxtaposition of detracting elements [industry, road]. The general sprawl of dwellings and commercial units and the dominance of roads produce a poor quality area.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Built land - communities</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Built Land</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.8 • Category 6: 41.6 • Category 7: 49.2 • Category 8: 6.3 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/N/0044: Land east of Heol Y Glo, Tonna

Figure 5: RLDP/N/0044: Land east of Heol Y Glo, Tonna



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural	<u>Classification:</u>
Landscape	Upland
Services	Exposed Upland/Plateau
	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux
	<u>Details</u>
	<u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight
	<u>Attractive views:</u> ...both in and out
	<u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u>
	<u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u>
	<u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B
	<u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No
	<u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate
	<u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate
	<u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The area has both small scale scenic qualities in its field pattern and hedged lanes etc and also panoramic views across the coastal plain and to adjacent valleys. It is also visible from both the Neath and Afan valleys. This area is relatively unspoilt.

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Scenic quality</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Character</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 107</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 9.346%, CL7 6.542%, CL10 12.15%, CL11 1.869%, CL16 24.299%, CL20 9.346%, CL32 5.607%, CL34 2.804%, CL35 17.757%, CL37 4.673%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 3</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Steep upland slopes in NE-SW striking N and NE dipping sandstones and coals of the South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi-Brithdir Beds (Lower Pennant Measures), dissected by NE-SW Afon Afan river valley and tributaries. Deeply dissected U-shaped valley with steep slopes, anastomosing course and deep tributary valleys with cwms at heads. Valley slopes with boulder clay, alluvium in floors; glacial sand and gravel terraces in Afon valley. Broad gentle slopes covered with</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>boulder clay, facing NW into Nedd in W of area. Coal mines and levels, landslips along Cwm Correg N-facing slopes and Cwm yr Argoed. NNW-SSE faults.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi- Brithdir Beds • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, glacial sand and gravel • Structural features: NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Active upland river or stream channel system. Ancient upland river / stream systems. Mountain glacial-erosion terrain. Glacial mountain valley. Mineral workings. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Cwm/corrie. Glacial U-shaped valley. Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor land reclamation from mining and conserve landslip settings • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to retain GL integrity <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Llynfi-Brithdir Beds of upper Afan valley, Nedd to NW</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Pennant (Llynfi-Brithdir Beds) sandstones with coals in dissected plateau; glacial valleys with cwms at heads; landslips (including Duffryn), mining.</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Regular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A large aspect area characterised by enclosed upland of a moderately late date. The aspect area consists of three distinct topographical areas of almost identical character. To the north, the uplands and broad hillslopes of Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Dinas and Foel Fynyddau define a regular fieldscape of large enclosures. These areas of upland have since been partially covered by modern forestry obscuring the relict post-medieval fieldscape. The Cwmafan Pontrhydyfen corridor (HL013) dissects the continuity of this landscape, separating Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Bychan, two more areas of enclosed upland defined by a broadly similar pattern, from their northern counterparts. The landscape of Mynydd Brombil to the south, in a much similar way to those areas farther north, has had the continuity of this landscape pattern interrupted by Cwm Duffryn (HL054 and HL031).</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large aspect area characterised by enclosed upland of a moderately late date. The aspect area consists of three distinct topographical areas of almost identical character. To the north, the uplands and broad hillslopes of Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Dinas and Foel Fynddau define a regular fieldscape of large enclosures. These areas of upland have since been partially covered by modern forestry obscuring the relict post-medieval fieldscape. The Cwmafan Pontrhydyfen corridor (HL13) dissects the continuity of this landscape, separating Mynydd</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Emroch and Mynydd Bychan, two more areas of enclosed upland defined by a broadly similar pattern, from their northern counterparts. The landscape of Mynydd Brombil to the south, in a much similar way to those areas farther north, has had the continuity of this landscape pattern interrupted by Cwm Duffryn (HL54 and HL31). These upland areas form a broad elevated barrier from Neath (HL54) to the Margam Moors (HL01) separating the coastal littoral from the interior. Each distinct topographical area retains the same pattern concerning the distribution of historical and archaeological monuments.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: The regular pattern of enclosure in this area, of late 19th-early 20th century date, has survived largely unchanged from that depicted on the OS 2nd edition map of 1900, although tracts of modern forestry plantation on Mynydd Dinas, Foel Fynyddau and to • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of outstanding value, representing an exceptionally rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of activity ranging from the Bronze Age up to the present day.</p>
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Improved Grassland: main component • Marshy Grassland: minor component • Bracken: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> LNR. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 11-20%</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Carum verticillatum, Cirsium dissectum; hedgerow birds such as linnet, song thrush; marsh fritillary; kingfisher</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. areas of semi-natural woodland, scrub, ponds, built up areas etc</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially "ffridd" habitats, on rolling land between hill areas, comprising a mosaic of mainly improved grassland enclosures but including significant remnant rhos pastures and semi-natural habitats typical of the S Wales coalfield.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management: Unassessed</u></p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations: E.</u></p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed? Level 3</u></p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise? Most</u></p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries? mainly</u> drawn by default</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> area contains numerous remnant areas of rhos pasture, as well as hedgerows, supporting Priority Species</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Exposed Upland/Plateau</p> <p>Mosaic Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Ridge between Neath valley and Afan valley, a mosaic field pattern of upland grazing and coniferous plantations. The area rises from approx. 50m AOD to 370m AOD at Foel Fynyddan. The shoulder/ridge is dominated by the mass of Foel Fynyddan and communication masts on top. There are numerous field boundary types including stone walls, but most are in a poor state of repair and fences dominate. Riparian corridors are lined with deciduous trees and riparian vegetation. Individual dwellings are scattered through the area, connected by a number of minor, hedge lined roads, a single road connect the Afan and Neath valley, straddling the ridge at its lowest point. Encroachment of bracken and scrub has occurred predominantly on the upper ground and along riparian corridors. Edges of coniferous woodland tend to appear abrupt against the open landscape. The lower ground tends to have a settled feel which gradually dissipates on high ground, where management input appears to decrease. There are panoramic views across the coastal plain and to adjacent valleys.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Plateaux • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> Use of fences replacing other types of boundary.</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Exposed. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> mix of upland grazing and production forestry.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> control bracken.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: enhance field boundaries by planting gaps in hedges and rebuilding walls • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation to emphasise watercourses

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance edges of forest to improve integration with open landscape adjacent • Medium Term: enhance woodland composition throughout by including deciduous and larch <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: pastoral quality of lower land • Enhanced: pastoral quality of lower land and altitudinal variation in character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: riparian vegetation, panoramic views • Enhanced: field boundaries • Changed: plantation edges and species composition <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Edge of build form of Cwmavon, Baglan, Neath; top of scarp and associated woodland between the settlements; extent of Foel Fynyddan woodland to east; edge of visual envelope from Pelenna valley (break in topography); north, edge of Pelenna forest; edge of neath valley, boundary of associated valley side vegetation.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The area has both small scale scenic qualities in its field pattern and hedged lanes etc and also panoramic views across the coastal plain and to adjacent valleys. It is also visible from both the Neath and Afan valleys. This area is relatively unspoilt with consistent character except for the blocks of coniferous woodland whose abrupt edges disrupt the flow of the landscape.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0.1 • Category 6: 10.2 • Category 7: 69.7

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 8: 19.9 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/N/0045: Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)

Figure 6: RLDP/N/0045: Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 1)



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Substantial</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Urban, Undisturbed</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Mosaic valley sides provide a settled and diverse contrast to the heavily, coniferous, wooded nature of the rest of the valley sides. The areas</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>have consistent characteristics and are in relatively good condition. They are an important contributor to the character of the Neath valley over which pleasant views are possible. The Gnoll Park is a fine landscape of high quality.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Character</u>: High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate, Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 47</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 8.511%, CL10 2.128%, CL14 14.894%, CL16 27.66%, CL20 27.66%, CL26 2.128%, CL27 2.128%, CL29 2.128%, CL30 6.383%, CL31 2.128%, CL35 4.255%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 3</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution</u>: Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views</u>:...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities</u>:</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However, the presence of commercial developments and and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 22.5%, CL23 5%, CL30 10%, CL35 25%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Tectonically controlled valley (Valley following folds, fault-controlled gorges, or scarps)</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW fault controlled U-shaped broad valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes, broadening below Neath to plain with sand flats. Alluvium in valley floor. Terraces of sand and gravel flank floodplain in upper stretch, with fans at valley mouths. Glacial sand and gravel terraces, recessional moraine at Tonna, Aberdulais and Clyne, lake sediments at Resolven. Fluvioglacial terrace below Aberdulais, broadening at Neath. Sand flats on both sides and widely meandering channel at Briton Ferry.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area? Other</u></p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial deposits: Sand, gravel and alluvium • Structural features: NW-SE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, fluvioglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable? Active</u> upland river or stream channel system. Ancient upland river / stream systems. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area? River terrace.</u> Alluvial fan (ancient)</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Conserve integrity of regional tectonic feature and glacial depositional features in valley</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nedd floodplain, channel and estuary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: High • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Neath Fault Zone tectonically controlled, major glacial valley</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Irregular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Policies, plans & information resources</p> <p><u>What has changed? Description. Condition & Trend. Boundaries</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape along the southern valley side of the Vale of Neath, from Tonna to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pont Walby. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043) and to the south by Blaengwrach Opencast (NPTHL004), Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017). In terms of recorded historic assets, this aspect area is most notable for its post medieval farms and houses and its industrial heritage. There are many examples of old coal workings here and the scheduled Melincourt Ironworks lies within its boundaries.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Other Settlement. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow.</p> <p>Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL27) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL26), Cefn</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Morfudd (HL55) and the Gnoll Estate (HL17). The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area presents some problems in assessment; while the appearance of the heavily wooded valley may well superficially resemble that captured by late 18th-early 19th century landscape painters such as Hornor, it should be emphasised that much of existing woodland represents modern coniferous plantation, not the ancient and semi-natural woodland which is shown on the OS 1st edition map. Much of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown in this area on historic maps has survived; however, there has been limited loss of field boundaries and some farmsteads are in a ruined, derelict state or have completely vanished. However, while taking this serious loss of coherence into account, it has been decided to categorise this area as being of overall outstanding importance, in view of the presence of industrial remains of exceptional rarity and national importance, in particular the remains of the early ironworking site at Melincwrt and the remarkably well preserved remains of the Glynneath inclined plane on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad, the second oldest steam-powered incline known to have been built in the United Kingdom.</p>

Quality	Site
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>If Classification is "Other", specify here:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39). The Neath valley bottom</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history. However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys. The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads. The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have been built on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Landscapes. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39).</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: High • Rarity: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential: Outstanding Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of outstanding overall value as an historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally well-preserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10-arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).</p>
Historic Landscape (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment Settlement Other Settlement</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. This entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically "urban and industrial" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter comprises the most extensive abbey remains in Wales. Little is visible of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum. Excavated foundations of the southeast gateway and guard chamber are preserved in Roman Way, their antiquity contrasting with the modernity of the surrounding housing estate. The double roadway through the southeast gate was flanked by towers and fronted by a ditch, implying the former existence of a bridge. Excavations in the playing fields, across the road from the southeast gate, in which the line of the northwest defences, detected as a slight rise, have revealed the north angle tower and evidence for timber structures including barracks and the headquarters building. First constructed in the mid 70s AD, the earth and timber defences were rebuilt in stone in the early 120s AD, apparently after a period of abandonment, occupation ceasing around AD 150 (Newman 1995). The lands of Neath Abbey, in 1129, were granted by Richard de Granville, a lieutenant of the Norman lord of Glamorgan, to the abbey of Savigny in Normandy a tract of nearly 8,000 acres (3,240 hectares) of "virgin" Welsh lands by the "nova villa" of Neath. In 1147, when the Savigniac order merged with that of Citeaux, Neath Abbey came under Cistercian rule. Since it was part of the rule that monastic communities must not profit from rents but only from direct exploitation of their estate, each Cistercian community included a large body of lay brothers, who farmed both the lands round the abbey and the granges (Newman 1995). The town and borough of Neath (see HL18) originated in the early 12th century when the Afon Nedd formed the</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>western boundary of Norman penetration into South Wales. Castle and borough town were established on the eastern bank of the river, and the abbey was founded shortly afterwards, on the far side of the river 2km to the west. In the later Middle Ages the town and abbey were in competition for river trade, and in 1491 the Town Hall was reported to be in ruins. The key to Neath's subsequent development as an industrial centre was the availability of coal exceptionally close to the coast. Sir Humphrey Mackworth of the Gnoll, whose mansion dominated the little town from its hilltop, pioneered both copper and lead working from the 1690's, with the celebrated Neath Abbey Iron works began operation soon after (Newman 1995). The Neath Abbey Ironworks benefited from Cornish expertise in specialized casting and engineering, which was transferred to this site by two Quaker families, the Foxes of Falmouth, who took over the site in 1792, and Joseph Tregelles Price (who had worked with James Watt at the great Canon Ironworks at Falkirk) from 1817. The ironworks at Neath Abbey was conveniently located alongside the waterpower resources of the River Clydach a short distance from its confluence with the navigable River Neath. Under Joseph Tregelles Price (1786-1854) the works gained a reputation for high-quality engineering products. The engine manufactory produced locomotives, stationary engines, cast iron roofs and floors, steamships and gasworks. After Price's death stagnation set in, and the works finally closed in 1885. The Vale of Neath Canal, 1794-5, and subsequent railways, opened up the hinterland of Neath. But the town remained of very modest size, clustered around St Thomas's church, held back from the riverbank by a strip of noxious industry. In 1801 there were 2,500 inhabitants, and half a century later the population had little more than doubled (Newman 1995). The historic centre of Port Talbot is at Aberavon where the Afan River exits from the mountains. The name Port Talbot was at first attached to the area further southwest, where</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>tinplate works were established. The flat expanse of "moor" more than a 2km deep and extending for over 4.8km from Margam to the estuary of the River Neath, provided an ideal site for industry. The modern docks were constructed in 1898, and steelworks established by 1907. The Margam Works began production in 1916. Since the Second World War Port Talbot has been, with Llanwern (Gwent), one of the two major sites for a rationalized steel industry in Wales (Newman 1995). Gwalia Tinplate Works were erected in 1892 to use steel produced by the Briton Ferry Ironworks. Acquired by the Briton Ferry Steel Co. and closed in 1953. The building has been truncated, and only five of the stone-built bays survive. The chimneystacks have been dismantled and the building re-roofed, but brick flues in the walls mark the original hearths. A brick-built extension to the west carries a plaque dated 1898-9. On an adjacent site to the north was the Villiers Tinplate Works (1888), of which some modern brick-built buildings remain. An ironworks was established on the eastern bank of the River Neath, at Briton Ferry, in the 1840"s. It was reconstructed in the 1890"s, still as an iron-smelter, and closed in 1958. The site has been completely cleared with the exception of the blast-engine house of 1910, which housed a Richardson-Westgarth quarter-crank blowing engine. The canal depot at Neath is the most complete survivor of its kind in the South Wales valley canals. The Pennant sandstone rubble buildings stand on either side of the Neath Canal (1791-6) at Lock number 1. They consist of the canal manager"s house and stables on the east side, and on the west side a long timber storage shed with a sawpit inside, and an open shed with block and tackle hoisting gear where lock gates were made. Attached to this are a store and a smithy (Newman 1995). Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin was constructed in 1823 by the engineer William Kirkhouse to complete the Tennant Canal. The aqueduct is 104m long, carried on ten masonry arches, and continued via a cast iron trough over an earlier navigable cut. In</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>the basin, remains of sunken boats and at the north end a buried dry dock by a slipway. At the junction of the Tennant and Neath Canals is a roving bridge, Pont Gam "crooked bridge;" with its flanking walls carried on a corbelled series of masonry courses. The only Lock on the canal's main line is south of the aqueduct, with the Office and Lock-Keepers House (Newman 1995). The waterfall at the Aberdulais Falls Tinplate Works probably powered the first copper-works in Southwest Wales, but the reconstructed water wheel sits in the wheelpit of a later tinplate works, founded in 1830. The site includes an impressive masonry header tank (the "bastion"), the foundations of the adjoining rolling mills, various walls and an 18m high chimney. The early copper-works may have lain south of the river, where a leat leads from the waterfall towards the rear of the 17th century Dulais Rock Public House (Newman 1995). Glyncorrwg Mineral Railway terminates at the Neath Canal in Aberdulais and is the last of the large horse-worked railways to be built in South Wales, 12km long and completed on a monumental scale by the notable South Wales engineer William Kirkhouse 1839-42 (Newman 1995). This aspect area contains a wealth of historical and archaeological monuments, of which a sample of the more notable has been described above. This aspect area represents a historically important and significant landscape recording 2000 years of occupation and settlement in this part of South Wales.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Military. Recreational. Horticulture</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area?

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Mortared Wall. Wooden Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban Corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. Along the way this entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically ""urban and industrial"" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter is the most extensive abbey remains in Wales.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity: Outstanding <li>• Survival: This area represents a long-established urban settlement and communications corridor of considerable historic importance. The earliest evidence of settlement consists of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum (GGAT PRN 00620w) and its associated civilian sett <li>• Condition: High <li>• Rarity: Outstanding <li>• Potential: Outstanding <li>• Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value as representing an urban settlement/communications corridor of considerable historic importance, with evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period, and including monuments of exceptional significance, namely, the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum, the extensive remains of</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	the Cistercian Abbey of Neath and the well-preserved remains of two nationally important industrial sites: the Neath Abbey Ironworks and the Aberdulais Tinplate Works.
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Built Up Areas Residential/Green Space</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Amenity Grassland. Gardens. Buildings. Bare Ground</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development; mostly houses with gardens; also amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas</p>
<p>Visual Sensory (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Mosaic sides of Neath valley, running from valley floor to moorland (approx. 20m AOD to approx. 250m AOD). The area is a pastoral and deciduous mosaic providing diversity within the valley and contrasting with the heavily coniferous wooded nature of much of the valley. The land is primarily sheep grazed. The Gnollpark above Neath provides a fine setting to the town. Field boundaries vary altitudinally, from hedges to walls - many of which are now replaced or supplemented by fences. The areas are settled by a scattering of dwellings. Footpaths and bridleways facilitate views across the valley. Some encroachment of bracken has occurred especially on higher ground.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm • Boundary type: Mixture <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Diverse

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Safe.</p> <p>Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> grazed pastoral hillside.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> control bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: control bracken

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Maintain deciduous tree cover and enhance riparian vegetation to emphasise water courses • Long Term: enhance field pattern of hedges and stone walls maintaining altitudinal distinction between them • Long Term: maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: settled nature • Enhanced: altitudinal variation • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous cover • Enhanced: grass sward, boundaries • Changed: bracken <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> To break in topography with valley bottom; woodland and open unenclosed landscape</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Mosaic valley sides provide a settled and diverse contrast to the heavily, coniferous, wooded nature of the rest of the valley sides. The areas have consistent characteristics and are in relatively good condition. They are an important contributor to the character of the Neath valley over which pleasant views are possible. The Gnoll Park is a fine landscape of high quality.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Substantial</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 32.1 • Category 7: 53.1 • Category 8: 14.8 • Category 9: 0

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx. 20m AOD at Neath to approx. 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal - both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys Landcover Pattern: Mixture Settlement pattern: Village Boundary type: Fences

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views....:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views....:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Noisy. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> grazed valley floor with commercial development.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain field pattern and pasture and natural river course.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance field pattern by replanting gaps in hedges • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation to emphasise watercourse • Long Term: retain field trees and replant to provide continuity • Medium Term: enhance and protect canal corridor and historical industrial heritage elements • Medium Term: Maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure • Enhanced: settled • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field trees and hedges • Enhanced: canal corridor • Changed: relation to road corridors and settlements <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> east, bridge across river at neath (castle); north break in topography and woodland edge of Hirfynydd; west built form of Glynnedd; south break in topography</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercail developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.4 • Category 6: 76.5 • Category 7: 20.5 • Category 8: 1.1 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/N/0046: Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)

Figure 7: RLDP/N/0046: Land at Heol Y Glo, Tonna (Development Option 2)



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Substantial</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Urban, Undisturbed</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Mosaic valley sides provide a settled and diverse contrast to the heavily,</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>coniferous, wooded nature of the rest of the valley sides. The areas have consistent characteristics and are in relatively good condition. They are an important contributor to the character of the Neath valley over which pleasant views are possible. The Gnoll Park is a fine landscape of high quality.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Character</u>: High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate, Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 47</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 8.511%, CL10 2.128%, CL14 14.894%, CL16 27.66%, CL20 27.66%, CL26 2.128%, CL27 2.128%, CL29 2.128%, CL30 6.383%, CL31 2.128%, CL35 4.255%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 3</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime light pollution</u>: Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views</u>: ... both in and out</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercial developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 22.5%, CL23 5%, CL30 10%, CL35 25%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Tectonically controlled valley (Valley following folds, fault-controlled gorges, or scarps)</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW fault controlled U-shaped broad valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes, broadening below Neath to plain with sand flats. Alluvium in valley floor. Terraces of sand and gravel flank floodplain in upper stretch, with alluvial fans at valley mouths. Glacial sand and gravel terraces, recessional moraine at Tonna, Aberdulais and Clyne, lake sediments at Resolven. Fluvioglacial terrace below Aberdulais, broadening at Neath. Sand flats on both sides and widely meandering channel at Briton Ferry.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area? Other</u></p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial deposits: Sand, gravel and alluvium • Structural features: NW-SE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, fluvioglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable? Active</u> upland river or stream channel system. Ancient upland river / stream systems. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area? River terrace.</u> Alluvial fan (ancient)</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Conserve integrity of regional tectonic feature and glacial depositional features in valley</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nedd floodplain, channel and estuary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: High • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Neath Fault Zone tectonically controlled, major glacial valley</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Irregular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Policies, plans & information resources</u></p> <p><u>What has changed? Description. Condition & Trend. Boundaries</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape along the southern valley side of the Vale of Neath, from Tonna to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pont Walby. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043) and to the south by Blaengwrach Opencast (NPTHL004), Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017). In terms of recorded historic assets, this aspect area is most notable for its post medieval farms and houses and its industrial heritage. There are many examples of old coal workings here and the scheduled Melincourt Ironworks lies within its boundaries.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Other Settlement. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL27) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL26), Cefn</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Morfudd (HL55) and the Gnoll Estate (HL17). The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area presents some problems in assessment; while the appearance of the heavily wooded valley may well superficially resemble that captured by late 18th-early 19th century landscape painters such as Hornor, it should be emphasised that much of the existing woodland represents modern coniferous plantation, not the ancient and semi-natural woodland which is shown on the OS 1st edition map. Much of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown in this area on historic maps has survived; however, there has been limited loss of field boundaries and some farmsteads are in a ruined, derelict state or have completely vanished. However, while taking this serious loss of coherence into account, it has been decided to categorise this area as being of overall outstanding importance, in view of the presence of industrial remains of exceptional rarity and national importance, in particular the remains of the early ironworking site at Melincwrt and the remarkably well preserved remains of the Glynneath inclined plane on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad, the second oldest steam-powered incline known to have been built in the United Kingdom.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>If Classification is "Other", specify here:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan.</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39). The Neath valley bottom resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history. However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys. The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads. The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have been built on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Landscapes. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39).</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: High

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of outstanding overall value as an historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally well-preserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10-arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).</p>
Historic Landscape (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment Settlement Other Settlement</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. This entirely urban and industrial aspect</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward S Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically "urban and industrial" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter comprises the most extensive abbey remains in Wales. Little is visible of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum. Excavated foundations of the southeast gateway and guard chamber are preserved in Roman Way, their antiquity contrasting with the modernity of the surrounding housing estate. The double roadway through the southeast gate was flanked by towers and fronted by a ditch, implying the former existence of a bridge. Excavations in the playing fields, across the road from the southeast gate, in which the line of the northwest defences, detected as a slight rise, have revealed the north angle tower and evidence for timber structures including barracks and the headquarters building. First constructed in the mid 70s AD, the earth and timber defences were rebuilt in stone in the early 120s AD, apparently after a period of abandonment, occupation ceasing around AD 150 (Newman 1995). The lands of Neath Abbey, in 1129, were granted by Richard de Granville, a lieutenant of the Norman lord of Glamorgan, to the abbey of Savigny in Normandy a tract of nearly 8,000 acres (3,240 hectares) of "virgin" Welsh lands by the "nova villa" of Neath. In 1147, when the Savigniac order merged with that of Citeaux, Neath Abbey came under Cistercian rule. Since it was part of the rule that monastic communities must not profit from rents but only from direct exploitation of their estate, each Cistercian community included a large body of lay brothers, who farmed both the lands round the abbey and the granges (Newman 1995). The town and borough of Neath (see HL18)</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p> originated in the early 12th century when the Afon Nedd formed the western boundary of Norman penetration into South Wales. Castle and borough town were established on the eastern bank of the river, and the abbey was founded shortly afterwards, on the far side of the river 2km to the west. In the later Middle Ages the town and abbey were in competition for river trade, and in 1491 the Town Hall was reported to be in ruins. The key to Neath's subsequent development as an industrial centre was the availability of coal exceptionally close to the coast. Sir Humphrey Mackworth of the Gnoll, whose mansion dominated the little town from its hilltop, pioneered both copper and lead working from the 1690's, with the celebrated Neath Abbey Iron works began operation soon after (Newman 1995). The Neath Abbey Ironworks benefited from Cornish expertise in specialized casting and engineering, which was transferred to this site by two Quaker families, the Foxes of Falmouth, who took over the site in 1792, and Joseph Tregelles Price (who had worked with James Watt at the great Canon Ironworks at Falkirk) from 1817. The ironworks at Neath Abbey was conveniently located alongside the waterpower resources of the River Clydach a short distance from its confluence with the navigable River Neath. Under Joseph Tregelles Price (1786-1854) the works gained a reputation for high-quality engineering products. The engine manufactory produced locomotives, stationary engines, cast iron roofs and floors, steamships and gasworks. After Price's death stagnation set in, and the works finally closed in 1885. The Vale of Neath Canal, 1794-5, and subsequent railways, opened up the hinterland of Neath. But the town remained of very modest size, clustered around St Thomas's church, held back from the riverbank by a strip of noxious industry. In 1801 there were 2,500 inhabitants, and half a century later the population had little more than doubled (Newman 1995). The historic centre of Port Talbot is at Aberavon where the Afan River exits from the mountains. The name Port </p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Talbot was at first attached to the area further southwest, where tinplate works were established. The flat expanse of "moor" more than a 2km deep and extending for over 4.8km from Margam to the estuary of the River Neath, provided an ideal site for industry. The modern docks were constructed in 1898, and steelworks established by 1907. The Margam Works began production in 1916. Since the Second World War Port Talbot has been, with Llanwern (Gwent), one of the two major sites for a rationalized steel industry in Wales (Newman 1995). Gwalia Tinplate Works were erected in 1892 to use steel produced by the Briton Ferry Ironworks. Acquired by the Briton Ferry Steel Co. and closed in 1953. The building has been truncated, and only five of the stone-built bays survive. The chimneystacks have been dismantled and the building re-roofed, but brick flues in the walls mark the original hearths. A brick-built extension to the west carries a plaque dated 1898-9. On an adjacent site to the north was the Villiers Tinplate Works (1888), of which some modern brick-built buildings remain. An ironworks was established on the eastern bank of the River Neath, at Briton Ferry, in the 1840"s. It was reconstructed in the 1890"s, still as an iron-smelter, and closed in 1958. The site has been completely cleared with the exception of the blast-engine house of 1910, which housed a Richardson-Westgarth quarter-crank blowing engine. The canal depot at Neath is the most complete survivor of its kind in the South Wales valley canals. The Pennant sandstone rubble buildings stand on either side of the Neath Canal (1791-6) at Lock number 1. They consist of the canal manager"s house and stables on the east side, and on the west side a long timber storage shed with a sawpit inside, and an open shed with block and tackle hoisting gear where lock gates were made. Attached to this are a store and a smithy (Newman 1995). Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin was constructed in 1823 by the engineer William Kirkhouse to complete the Tennant Canal. The aqueduct is 104m long, carried on ten masonry arches,</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>and continued via a cast iron trough over an earlier navigable cut. In the basin, remains of sunken boats and at the north end a buried dry dock by a slipway. At the junction of the Tennant and Neath Canals is a roving bridge, Pont Gam "crooked bridge;" with its flanking walls carried on a corbelled series of masonry courses. The only Lock on the canal's main line is south of the aqueduct, with the Office and Lock-Keepers House (Newman 1995). The waterfall at the Aberdulais Falls Tinsplate Works probably powered the first copper-works in Southwest Wales, but the reconstructed water wheel sits in the wheelpit of a later tinsplate works, founded in 1830. The site includes an impressive masonry header tank (the "bastion"), the foundations of the adjoining rolling mills, various walls and an 18m high chimney. The early copper-works may have lain south of the river, where a leat leads from the waterfall towards the rear of the 17th century Dulais Rock Public House (Newman 1995). Glyncorrwg Mineral Railway terminates at the Neath Canal in Aberdulais and is the last of the large horse-worked railways to be built in South Wales, 12km long and completed on a monumental scale by the notable South Wales engineer William Kirkhouse 1839-42 (Newman 1995). This aspect area contains a wealth of historical and archaeological monuments, of which a sample of the more notable has been described above. This aspect area represents a historically important and significant landscape recording 2000 years of occupation and settlement in this part of South Wales.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Military. Recreational. Horticulture</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Mortared Wall. Wooden Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban Corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. Along the way this entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically ""urban and industrial"" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter is the most extensive abbey remains in Wales.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: High • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value as representing an urban settlement/communications corridor of considerable historic importance, with evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period, and including monuments of exceptional significance, namely, the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum, the extensive remains of the Cistercian Abbey of Neath and the well-preserved remains of</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	two nationally important industrial sites: the Neath Abbey Ironworks and the Aberdulais Tinplate Works.
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Built Up Areas Residential/Green Space</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Amenity Grassland. Gardens. Buildings. Bare Ground</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development; mostly houses with gardens; also amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Trend</u>: Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management</u>: Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations</u>: Encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline</u>:</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation</u>: garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented</p>

Quality	Site
	and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas
Visual Sensory (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Mosaic sides of Neath valley, running from valley floor to moorland (approx. 20m AOD to approx. 250m AOD). The area is a pastoral and deciduous mosaic providing diversity within the valley and contrasting with the heavily coniferous wooded nature of much of the valley. The land is primarily sheep grazed. The Gnollpark above Neath provides a fine setting to the town. Field boundaries vary altitudinally, from hedges to walls - many of which are now replaced or supplemented by fences. The areas are settled by a scattering of dwellings. Footpaths and bridleways facilitate views across the valley. Some encroachment of bracken has occurred especially on higher ground.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm • Boundary type: Mixture <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Safe. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> grazed pastoral hillside.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> control bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: control bracken • Medium Term: Maintain deciduous tree cover and enhance riparian vegetation to emphasise water courses

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: enhance field pattern of hedges and stone walls maintaining altitudinal distinction between them • Long Term: maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: settled nature • Enhanced: altitudinal variation • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous cover • Enhanced: grass sward, boundaries • Changed: bracken <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> To break in topography with valley bottom; woodland and open unenclosed landscape</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Mosaic valley sides provide a settled and diverse contrast to the heavily, coniferous, wooded nature of the rest of the valley sides. The areas have consistent characteristics and are in relatively good condition. They are an important contributor to the character of the Neath valley over which pleasant views are possible. The Gnoll Park is a fine landscape of high quality.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Substantial</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 32.1 • Category 7: 53.1 • Category 8: 14.8 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

Quality	Site
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx. 20m AOD at Neath to approx. 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal - both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Mixture • Settlement pattern: Village • Boundary type: Fences <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light Pollution? Question 19 nighttime light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Noisy. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> grazed valley floor with commercial development.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain field pattern and pasture and natural river course.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance field pattern by replanting gaps in hedges • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation to emphasise watercourse • Long Term: retain field trees and replant to provide continuity • Medium Term: enhance and protect canal corridor and historical industrial heritage elements • Medium Term: Maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure • Enhanced: settled • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field trees and hedges • Enhanced: canal corridor • Changed: relation to road corridors and settlements <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> east, bridge across river at neath (castle); north break in topography and woodland edge of Hirfynydd; west built form of Glynnedd; south break in topography</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercail developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.4 • Category 6: 76.0 • Category 7: 20.5 • Category 8: 1.1 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/NV/0012: Rheola Works

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Negligible</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil</p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The area has a tranquil and remote feeling, removed from settlements and dwellings. The topography and woodland cover of the area makes this a significant and at times dramatic feature. It dominates the northern slopes of the Neath valley and southern slopes of Dulais. The management is consistent throughout.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 91</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 19.78%, CL9 1.099%, CL14 1.099%, CL16 41.758%, CL20 7.692%, CL30 2.198%, CL31 1.099%, CL32 8.791%, CL35 10.989%, CL37 3.297%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 1</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercial developments and road road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 33</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 3.03%, CL7 3.03%, CL14 6.061%, CL15 3.03%, CL16 21.212%, CL20 27.273%, CL30 15.152%, CL35 21.212%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland valley slope</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Steep SE facing lower scarp slopes of U-shaped, fault-controlled Afon Nedd valley in NE dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones with coals. Large landslip below South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones at Crugau Wood; also Pentre-Clwydau. Boulder clay on lower slopes. NW-SE to N-S faults, and NE-SW fault at foot of slope along valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland valley slope</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay • Structural features: N-S, NW-SE and NE-SE faults • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mass movement. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient)</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Conserve settings of periglacial landslips along valley side for possible research • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to preserve structural integrity of landscape feature <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Fault to E, Nedd to S, Upper Marine Cwmgors marine band to N.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Unassessed • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Productive Coal Formation mudstones with coals forming SE-facing slopes of Nedd valley; large landslips</p>
<p>Geological Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p>Tectonically controlled valley (Valley following folds, fault controlled gorges, or scarps)</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>E-SW fault controlled U-shaped broad valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes, broadening below Neath to plain with sand flats. Alluvium in valley floor. Terraces of sand and gravel flank floodplain in upper stretch, with alluvial fans at valley mouths. Glacial sand and gravel terraces, recessional moraine at Tonna, Aberdulais and Clyne, lake sediments at Resolven. Fluvioglacial terrace below Aberdulais, broadening at Neath. Sand flats on both sides and widely meandering channel at Briton Ferry.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area? Other</u></p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial deposits: Sand, gravel and alluvium • Structural features: NW-SE faults • Active processes: Fluvial

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past processes: Glacial, fluvioglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Active upland river or stream channel system. Ancient upland river / stream systems. estuarine</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> River terrace. Alluvial fan (ancient)</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCE, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Conserve integrity of regional tectonic feature and glacial depositional features in valley.</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nedd floodplain, channel and estuary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: High • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Neath Fault Zone tectonically controlled, major glacial valley</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Designed Parkland/Garden</p> <p><u>If Classification is "Other", specify here:</u> Registered Park and Garden</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> Rheola is a surviving example of an early 19th century villa by the architect John Nash with its contemporary picturesque setting (Grade II* listed, PGW Gm53 NEP). Although part of the park has been built over by a wartime aluminium factory, the greater part of the setting, which was kept deliberately simple, survives, as do some of Nash's picturesque estate buildings. Rheola is characterised as a small picturesque park, informal grounds and a walled kitchen garden. The gardens were enhanced in the 19th century by tree and shrub planting. Rheola is also known to be the site of a medieval grange, this is now restored as part of the estate; a medieval watermill also existed but has since been destroyed (RCAHMW 1982, 253). Rheola is a substantial, two-storey house in a simple Regency style, situated on the north side of the Vale of Neath. Built in several phases the estate was bought by John Edwards, a successful engineer from Neath, from Capel Hanbury Leigh of Pontypool P</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Horticulture. Woodland. Water & Wetland. Other Settlement. Processing/Manufacturing. Designed Landscape</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? Ancient/Semi-Natural Woodland. Forestry (Modern). Natural Lakes & Watercourses. Planned Settlement - Medieval. Water Industry. Mill Complexes. Designed Parkland/Garden • Which building types prevail in the area? Gentry House. Cottage - detached • Which periods prevail in the area? Pre 1700. 1700-1800. C19th (up to 1918). 1918-1939. 1940- • Which architectural types prevail in the area? Local Estate Style. Regional Vernacular • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? Stone - Local. Stone-Imported. Brick. Limewash • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? Slate - Imported. Ceramic tiles <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Wooden Fence. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management remarks:</u> Park and Garden appears to be maintained in a sympathetic manor.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Ensure archaeological resource is fully taken into account during any planning and developmental processes.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Maintain and preserve historic patterns and elements. • Medium Term: Ensure archaeological guidance is secured in all future planning processes. • Long Term: Ensure against any inappropriate development. <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 4</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Rheola is a surviving example of an early 19th century villa by the architect John Nash with its contemporary picturesque setting (Grade II* listed, PGW Gm53 NEP). Although part of the park has been built over by a wartime aluminium factory, the greater part of the setting, which was kept deliberately simple, survives, as do some of Nash's</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>picturesque estate buildings. Rheola is characterised by a small picturesque park, informal grounds and a walled kitchen garden.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity: High <li>• Survival: <li>• Condition: High <li>• Rarity: Outstanding <li>• Potential: Outstanding <li>• Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> A well-preserved example of an early 19th century mansion, formal gardens and landscape park, of outstanding value due to its association with the distinguished Regency architect John Nash, representing his only surviving (and securely attributed) work in South Wales.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>If Classification is "Other", specify here:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan.</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39). The Neath valley bottom resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history. However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys. The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads. The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have been built on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Landscapes. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39).</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: The dominant character of this aspect area, as a long-established, historically important industrial communications/settlement corridor, has remained intact. There is currently a paucity of evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation and, while few vis • Condition: High • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of outstanding overall value as an historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally well-preserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10-arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Marsh/Marshy Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u></p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unimproved Acid Grassland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Marshy Grassland: significant component • Bracken: minor component • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath. Dry heaths. Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures. Upland Oakwood. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 11-20%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> marsh fritillary (LBAP); otter possible</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Wet Ditches. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. Ponds. Walls. areas of spoil; extensive areas of improved grassland</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises eleven separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; mosaic areas of valley-side fridd and woodland habitats on slopes above the valley of the Afon Neath</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn largely by default when adjacent areas of plantation and river valley were segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Large areas of fairly traditionally managed, low intensity semi-natural "ffridd" and woodland habitats</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Rock Exposure & Waste</p> <p>Artificial Exposures & Waste Tips</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Recommendations. Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Ground-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Improved Grassland. Standing Water. Running Water. Buildings</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh. Reedbeds</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 11-20%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> otter; reed warbler, sedge warbler, reed bunting (pSINC list)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. areas of spoil; industrial and residential developments</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> The aspect area character and value at the landscape level is based on a major river valley floor and associated habitats including BAP features.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Ensure that land managers engage with agri-environment schemes, particularly ensuring water quality and quantity schemes.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Ensure that land managers engage with agri-environment schemes, particularly ensuring water quality and quantity schemes.</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn to edge of valley bottom/river plain</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> major river system floodplain, supporting Priority Habitats and Species</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Landscape Habitats (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Woodland & Scrub</p> <p>Coniferous Woodland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Planted Coniferous Woodland: Main component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Wet Modified Bog • Acid/Neutral Flush: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> No</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> may have value for nesting birds</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Rock Outcrops. Mine Shafts</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u> None</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u> None</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Very large area of secondary semi-upland and upland conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conversion to semi-natural broadleaves, or restoration to open upland habitats</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> discrete area of conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Unassessed • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate
Visual Sensory (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Exposed Upland/Plateau</p> <p>Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Summary Description:</u> Woodland stretching from Vale of Neath over shoulder to Dulais Valley. Rising from approx. 50m AOD in the Neath valley to 481m AOD forming the steep northern flank of the valley. The cover is almost entirely coniferous woodland with only small areas of open ground. The woodland and landform creates a constant and imposing feature along the Neath valley from Glynedd to Clyne. In the Dulais valley fingers of woodland descend low down into the valley, breaking up the pastoral mosaic. Generally the forest edges contain deciduous vegetation or are irregular and are complimentary to the surrounding landscape . In places, an abrupt edge and clear felling act as detractors. There is only minimal access into the area, with St Illtyds Way and the Roman road crossing. The absence of dwellings reinforce the remote character of this area. Change detection 2014: major opencast areas now being exploited or restore</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Plateaux • Landcover Pattern: Woodland • Settlement pattern: No settlements • Boundary type: None <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Large • Sense of Enclosure: Confined • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Discordant • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Autumn <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Occasional • Nighttime Light Pollution? Question 19 nighttime light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...within</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Tranquil. Noisy. Threatening. Remote</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> production forestry - coniferous plantation.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain existing deciduous edge.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: maintain deciduous edges • Medium Term: enhance edges of forest to improve integration with open landscape adjacent • Medium Term: maintain open areas <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: remoteness, tranquillity • Enhanced: remoteness • Changed: N/A

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: open areas, continuity of cover • Enhanced: deciduous edge • Changed: harsh woodland edges <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Edge of woodland all around; south west waterfall and water course at Hendre-Gledren; to north takes in finger of moorland adjacent to Nant Melyn - scrubby area</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The area has a tranquil and remote feeling, removed from settlements and dwellings. The topography and woodland cover of the area makes this a significant and at times dramatic feature. It dominates the northern slopes of the</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Neath valley and southern slopes of Dulais. The management is consistent throughout.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light Pollution: Negligible</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 2.4 • Category 7: 58.6 • Category 8: 38.6 • Category 9: 0.4 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Summary Description:</u> Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx. 20m AOD at Neath to approx. 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal - both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Mixture • Settlement pattern: Village • Boundary type: Fences <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral

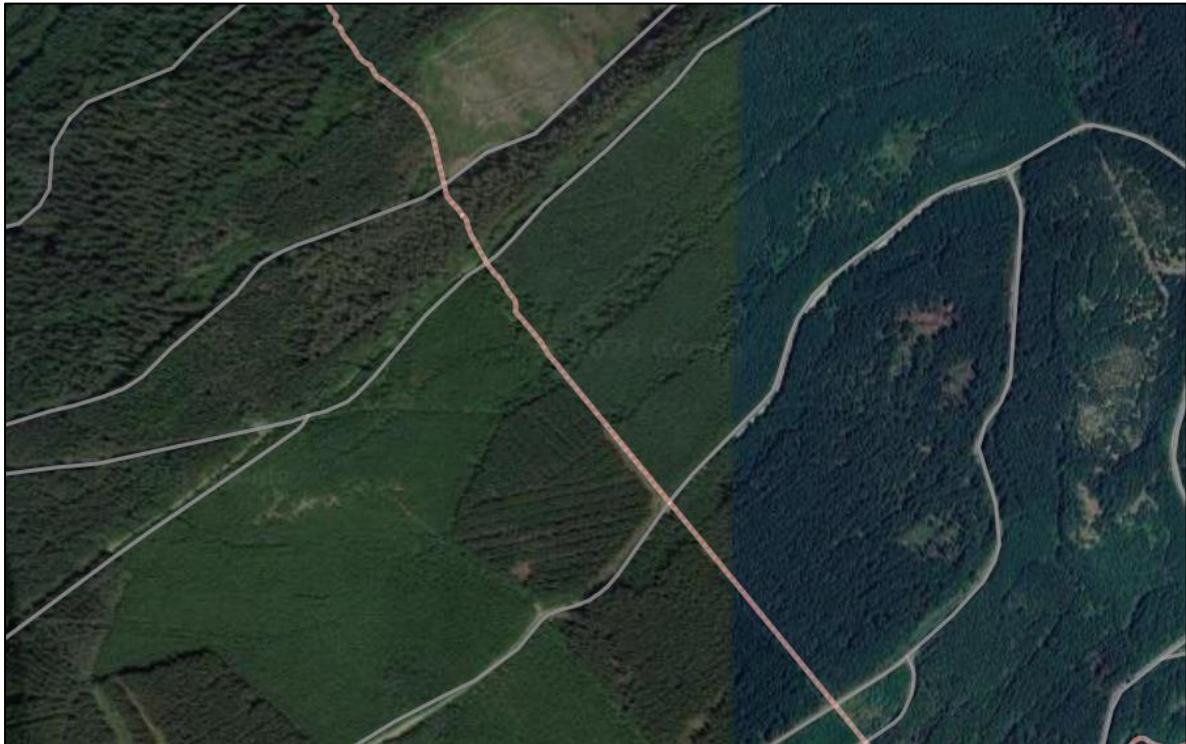
<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Noisy. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> grazed valley floor with commercial development.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain field pattern and pasture and natural river course.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance field pattern by replanting gaps in hedges • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation to emphasise watercourse • Long Term: retain field trees and replant to provide continuity

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance and protect canal corridor and historical industrial heritage elements • Medium Term: Maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure • Enhanced: settled • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field trees and hedges • Enhanced: canal corridor • Changed: relation to road corridors and settlements <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> east, bridge across river at neath (castle); north break in topography and woodland edge of Hirfynydd; west built form of Glynnedd; south break in topography</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However, the presence of commercial developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light Pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.4 • Category 6: 76.0 • Category 7: 20.5 • Category 8: 1.1 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/NV/0014: Bryncwm Quarry

Figure 8: RLDP/NV/0014: Bryncwm Quarry



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<u>Classification:</u> Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Wooded Upland & Plateaux <u>Details</u> <u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight <u>Attractive views:</u> ...neither in or out <u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil <u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B <u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No <u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Weak

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Area of forestry is consistently managed and contains numerous landscape features, exposed rock and open upland, which add to the aesthetic quality of this area. The edges and skyline against the Afan and Neath valley complement the valleys' characters.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 372</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 13.71%, CL7 1.075%, CL10 4.032%, CL16 46.237%, CL20 11.022%, CL31 2.151%, CL32 5.108%, CL35 9.946%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 3</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 1</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>NW facing steep slopes in South Wales Pennant Formation</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>sandstones of Llynfi-Brithdir Beds (Lower Pennant Measures) below Hughes Beds sandstone plateau, dissected by deep and steep; NE-SW into ESE-WSW U-shaped Clydach Brook valley with NW-facing cirque at head. Boulder clay in valley floor and on broad, U-shaped but less steep Melin Court Brook SE-NW valley with eroded cirque. Mines and levels along slopes. NW-SE to NNW-SSE faults controlling topography. Waterfalls over sandstone steps in river valleys. Large landslips below plateau W of Moel y Hyrddod. Peat on higher slopes.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Wesphalian South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi-Brithdir Beds • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, peat • Structural features: NW-SE - NNW-SSE faults (Hirwaun No 1 and No 2 faults) • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u></p> <p>Mountain glacial-erosion terrain. Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Other</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Cwm/corrie. Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground. Glacial U-shaped valley</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Retain exposure and GL integrity of glacial cirques</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Base of Hughes Beds to S, Faults to E and W, Nedd to NW</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u> <u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Dissected slopes in Pennant (Llynfi-Brithdir Beds) sandstone succession; glacial cirques; landslips, mining</p>
Historic Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u> Rural environment Non agricultural Woodland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u> <u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Policies, plans & information resources</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Description. Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> Afan Wallia is the largest of all the aspect areas discussed in this study. The aspect area is characterised as an extensive expanse of former, unenclosed upland moor between the Cwm Afan and Cwm Nedd. The aspect area does include some post-medieval and later field systems; however these tend to belong to modern enclosure, such as at Mynydd Fforch-dwm and Mynydd Resolven, and still retain much of their upland character. Almost the entire area is now covered by modern forestry with some isolated pockets of improved pasture; one such island can be found on Mynydd Fforch-dwm. The remainder of these open areas, such as Tarren Cefn-mawr, Moel yr Hyrddod and Twyn y Lluest, tend more to marginal upland moor characterised by rough grazing on sour grasses. Several large wind farm developments have also taken place in the early 21st century, generally within the forest boundary. The boundary to the south generally follows the extent of enclosure from the Cwm Afan (HL45) into the mountain moorland. The Unitary Authority boundary defines the eastern extremities of the aspect area.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Fieldscapes. Regular</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Fieldscapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Extractive.</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Boulder Wall. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Improving</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management remarks:</u> Managed as a commercial forestry. Wind turbines have been added to the area in modern times.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain current historic environment protections.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The aspect area is characterised as an extensive expanse of unenclosed upland moor between the Cwm Afan and Cwm Nedd. The boundary to the south generally follows the extent of enclosure from the Cwm Afan (HL45) into the mountain moorland. The Unitary Authority boundary defines the eastern extremities of the aspect area, whilst to the west (HL55) and north (HL39) the boundary is again defined by the extent of enclosure into this upland moor.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assigned an outstanding value as it represents an exceptionally rich multi-period landscape with evidence of a remarkable continuity of human activity and adaptation of the landscape from the Mesolithic period to the present day, although modern forestry plantation has slightly diminished the coherence of what was formerly a landscape of predominantly unenclosed upland moor.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Irregular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Policies, plans & information resources</p> <p><u>What has changed? Description. Condition & Trend. Boundaries</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape along the</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>southern valley side of the Vale of Neath, from Tonna to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pont Walby. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043) and to the south by Blaengwrach Opencast (NPTHL004), Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017). In terms of recorded historic assets, this aspect area is most notable for its post medieval farms and houses and its industrial heritage. There are many examples of old coal workings here and the scheduled Melincourt Ironworks lies within its boundaries.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Other Settlement. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL27) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL26), Cefn Morfudd (HL55) and the Gnoll Estate (HL17). The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area presents some problems in assessment; while the appearance of the heavily wooded valley may well superficially resemble that captured by late 18th-early 19th century landscape painters such as Hornor, it should be emphasised that much of the existing woodland represents modern coniferous plantation, not the ancient and semi-natural woodland which is shown on the OS 1st edition map. Much of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown in this area on historic maps has survived; however, there has been limited loss of field boundaries and some farmsteads are in a ruined, derelict state or have completely vanished. However, while taking this serious loss of coherence into account, it has been decided to categorise this area as being of overall outstanding importance, in view of the presence of industrial remains of exceptional rarity and national importance, in particular the remains of the early ironworking site at Melincwrt and the remarkably well preserved remains of the Glynneath inclined plane on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad, the second oldest steam-powered incline known to have been built in the United Kingdom.</p>
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Woodland & Scrub Coniferous Woodland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Peat soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Planted Coniferous Woodland: main component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Bracken: minor component • Acid/Neutral Flush: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> may have value for nesting birds</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Wet Ditches. Rock Outcrops. Mine Shafts</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Thuge area of secondary conifer plantation on upland plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conversion to semi-natural broadleaves, or restoration to open upland habitats</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> discrete area of conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u> <u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> very large area of secondary semi-upland conifer plantation; no known Priority Habitats or Species, but with numerous remnants of former upland habitats</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u> Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Description:</u> <u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Large area of undulating plateau running across the high ground between the Afan valley and Neath valley to the east of county borough. Rising from approx. 50m AOD in Neath valley to 600m AOD. Numerous small valleys provide added topographical interest to this landscape which the conifers</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>emphasise and add drama to. The area is almost entirely covered with coniferous plantation, mainly spruce, with larch which leads to a monotonous cover on the plateau tops. There are some areas of open ground and exposed rock, primarily at summits or steeper ground. There are no roads or settlements in this area although the Coed Morgannwy Way which almost dissects the area and provides access along a long distance trail. In many areas the abrupt forest edge sits uncomfortably with the surrounding open landscape. Cleared areas of forest are unsightly. Change detection 2014: Opencast mining active, and restored areas have become a feature but not particularly conspicuous from surroundings. Minor areas of broadleaf conversion</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Plateaux • Landcover Pattern: Woodland • Settlement pattern: No settlements • Boundary type: None <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Large • Sense of Enclosure: Confined • Diversity: Simple • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Disunity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Autumn <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...within</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Tranquil. Noisy.</p> <p>Remote</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> production conifer plantation. 2014 - plus opencast mining.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Vary composition of woodland to increase visual variety, larch/deciduous. Continue restoring opencast areas.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Medium Term</p> <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserved: tranquillity Enhanced: remoteness Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserved: open areas Enhanced: landscape, topographical features

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed: woodland composition. large expanses of coniferous forestry. Opencast clutter. <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Woodland edge along Afan Valley and up Pelena valley; woodland edge around Mynydd Blaenafon edge of coniferous woodland across plateau; woodland edge along neath valley; county boundary to east</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Area of forestry is consistently managed and contains numerous landscape features, exposed rock and open upland, which add to the aesthetic quality of this area. The edges and skyline against the Afan and Neath valley complement the valleys' characters.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 2.7 • Category 7: 31.3 • Category 8: 63.0 • Category 9: 3.02 • Category 10: 0

Candidate Sites 2023

RLDP/P/2002: Land off Gwrhyd Road

Figure 9: RLDP/P/2002: Land off Gwrhyd Road



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight <u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out <u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil <u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed, Urban <u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No <u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Strong <u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High <u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This area has a high scenic quality with its mosaic landscape, mixture of boundaries and deciduous tree cover. The feeling of isolation from minimal access to the area adds to its character.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 41</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.195%, CL16 34.146%, CL20 19.512%, CL30 9.756%, CL32 2.439%, CL35 19.512%, CL37 2.439%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Upland plateau in S-dipping sandstone dominated South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennnant Measures) and underlying mudstone dominated Productive Coal Formation dissected by S draining Upper Clydach and tributary Egel valley and Cwm Du valley. Steep valley slopes covered with boulder clay in lower parts. Valley floors broad, with alluvium in channels. N-S and NNW-SSE faults; Cwm Du valley partly fault controlled. Mines in Clydach valley (Cwm</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Gors) and Cwm Du valley. Landslips below sandstones on valley slopes; large landslips at Pant y ffynnon, Pantteg, and Craig Trebanos in Tawe valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Westphalian Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennnant Formation - Brithdir Beds. • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, head, peat, terrace gravels • Structural features: N-S - NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCE, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u> Long Term: Conserve large periglacial landslip settings</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NNW-SSE fault to W, Tawe to S, Upper Cwmgorse marine band to N (Near top of mudstones dominated Coal Measures Group)</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Productive Coal Fm - South Wales Pennant Fm succession with large landslips at base of sandstones; coal mines</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Other fieldscapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A quite extensive and predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL029). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL029). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Regular Landscapes. Horticulture. Woodland. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Industrial. Recent. Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+)</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland. The aspect area is quite extensive, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL29). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL29). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west following the Nant Melyn into an almost discrete valley of elevated irregular shaped fields centred on the Hafod Wennol Farm; the name may reflect the former use of this area as seasonal upland pasture.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: This extensive upland valley fieldscape with elements of irregular and regular enclosure depicted on the OS 1st edition map, defined by a mixture of hedgerows, hedge banks and drystone walls, has remained largely intact and probably dates from the medieval • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as high, representing a well-preserved, extensive upland valley fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval origin with evidence of prehistoric ritual/funerary activity, medieval/early post-medieval upland settlement and 19th-early 20th century industrial extractive activity and associated settlement.</p>
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Mosaic</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: main component • Improved Grassland: significant component • Marshy Grassland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Upland Oakwood. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Good range of rhos pasture plants including Cirsium dissectum, Serratula tinctoria, Carum verticillatum, Genista anglica, G. tinctoria, Wahlenbergia hederacea, Carex montana, C. pallescens, Spiranthes spiralis, Platanthera chlorantha, Osmunda regalis and Ophioglossum vulgatum; associated invertebrates include marsh fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary and Orthetrum coerulescens (SSSI Schedules); barn owl (LBAP).</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. small areas of heath, spoil habitats, mines, quarries, residential and industrial areas, roads, railway lines etc</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Cutting. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises twelve separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; Extensive areas of rural semi-upland, mostly conforming to</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>current concept of "ffridd habitats" and mainly comprising rhos pastures.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> area defined by default as not falling into other defined areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: High • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Extensive areas of neutral grasslands and marshy grasslands, including many undegraded areas supporting a wide range of typical rhes pasture species; both the habitats and many of the associated species are BAP Priorities</p>
<p>Visual Sensory</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Rolling upland valleys of River Egel, Cwm Du and northern Swansea valley sides. The elevation varies from around 250m AOD below the moorland of Mynydd Allt y Grug, to approximately 100m AOD at Pontardawe. The land cover is predominantly grazed pasture with significant deciduous tree cover, especially along riparian corridors. Many hedges are outgrown throughout the area, leaving trees with fences as definitions of the field pattern. Walls are present on higher ground, generally in poor state of disrepair. In the more settled lower areas, boundaries are generally more intensively maintained. Farmsteads are scattered and there is only one minor road which passes through the area - numerous other terminate at farmsteads. The restricted access provides a remote yet settled and tranquil feel. The area contains two large blocks of coniferous plantation which form a contrast to the grain of the rest of the area. Encroachment of bracken has occurred on higher ground.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary type: Fences with Trees <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> Most developments to farmsteads appear in keeping with vernacular. fencing is often used over hedges and traditional walls - which would appear more appropriate</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Tranquil. Sheltered. Safe. Remote</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> upland grazing.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> control bracken.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: control bracken • Medium Term: enhance field pattern of hedges and stone walls maintaining altitudinal distinction between them • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation and boundary trees • Long Term: enhance edges of forest to improve integration with open landscape adjacent • Long Term: maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: tranquillity, remoteness • Enhanced: settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous tree cover • Enhanced: field boundaries • Changed: coniferous plantations <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> much of the area is bounded by the fence against the common land; to the north the boundary runs from the built extent of Pen-Rhiw-Fawr along edge of disturbed ground to Ystalyfera; south east edge follows the built form of linear development along the Swansea Valley. The east boundary follows the ridge between Cwm Gors and Cwm Egel</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: High • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has a high scenic quality with its mosaic landscape, mixture of boundaries and deciduous tree cover. The feeling of isolation from minimal access to the area adds to its character. Panoramic views are afforded from higher elevations within the valleys, while in the lower valleys there is an intimate character. The area has an relatively unspoilt upland mosaic valley character, with a strong sense of place.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland valleys, hillsides, lower plateau and scarps (grassland >50%, open, predominantly unwooded)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland open >50% grassland</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 0.2 • Category 7: 25.3 • Category 8: 73.2 • Category 9: 1.3 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/P/2004: Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro

Figure 10: RLDP/P/2004: Land adjoining Waun Penlan School, Rhydyfro



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil</p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed, Urban</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This area has a high scenic quality with its mosaic landscape, mixture of boundaries and deciduous tree cover. The feeling of isolation from minimal access to the area adds to its character.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 41</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.195%, CL16 34.146%, CL20 19.512%, CL30 9.756%, CL32 2.439%, CL35 19.512%, CL37 2.439%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Built Land</p> <p>Urban</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>....out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Urban</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> although there are a number of elements within the town which have scenic quality [significant buildings, river, canal], they are diminished by juxtaposition of detracting elements [industry, road]. The general sprawl of dwellings and commercial units and the dominance of roads produce a poor quality area.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate, Low</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 36</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u> The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 8.333%, CL15 5.556%, CL16 25%, CL20 27.778%, CL31 5.556%, CL35 27.778%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> Upland plateau in S-dipping sandstone dominated South Wales Pennant Formation (Lower Pennant Measures) and underlying mudstone dominated Productive Coal Formation dissected by S draining Upper Clydach and tributary Egel valley and Cwm Du valley. Steep valley slopes covered with boulder clay in lower parts. Valley floors broad, with alluvium in channels. N-S and NNW-SSE faults; Cwm Du valley partly fault controlled. Mines in Clydach valley (Cwm Gors) and Cwm Du valley. Landslips below sandstones on valley slopes; large landslips at Pant y ffynnon, Pantteg, and Craig Trebanos in Tawe valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Westphalian Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennnant Formation - Brithdir Beds. • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, head, peat, terrace gravels • Structural features: N-S - NNW-SSE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, periglacial, mass movement

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p>Long Term: Conserve large periglacial landslip settings</p> <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NNW-SSE fault to W, Tawe to S, Upper Cwmgorse marine band to N (Near top of mudstones dominated Coal Measures Group)</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Productive Coal Fm - South Wales Pennant Fm succession with large landslips at base of sandstones; coal mines</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment</p> <p>Agricultural</p> <p>Other fieldscapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A quite extensive and predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL029). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL029). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Fieldscapes. Regular Fieldscapes. Horticulture. Woodland. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Industrial. Recent. Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+)</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> <u>Value:</u> High <u>Condition:</u> Unassessed <u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u> <u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area</u></p> <p><u>boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A</p> <p>predominantly rural aspect area of both regular and irregular fieldscapes, with limited zones of ancient and semi-natural woodland. The aspect area is quite extensive, with some urban growth around modern industry to the far north at Gwaun Cae Gurwen. The aspect area is characterised by broad valleys, generally aligned north-south, that is interrupted by a block of upland (HL29). Cwm Gors is the most westerly and heavily industrialised of the valleys; following, in part, the course of the Upper Clydach River this aspect area links Rhyd y fro, through a system of dismantled railways and extant roads, to Gwaun cae Gurwen. The central section of the valley is characterised by disused mines and opencast workings; the periphery is defined by an irregular fieldscape clinging to the lower slopes of Mynydd y Garth and Mynydd Uchaf to the east and Mynydd Gellionnen, Mynydd Carnllechart and Bryn Mawr to the west (all HL29). To the far northwest of the aspect area the Cwm Gors bears away to the west following the Nant Melyn into an almost discrete valley of elevated irregular shaped fields centred on the Hafod Wennol Farm; the name may reflect the former use of this area as seasonal upland pasture.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity: High <li>• Survival: This extensive upland valley fieldscape with elements of irregular and regular enclosure depicted on the OS 1st edition map, defined by a mixture of hedgerows, hedge banks and drystone walls, has remained largely intact and probably dates from the medieval

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as high, representing a well-preserved, extensive upland valley fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval origin with evidence of prehistoric ritual/funerary activity, medieval/early post-medieval upland settlement and 19th-early 20th century industrial extractive activity and associated settlement.</p>
Historic Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebanos. The</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley valley sides (HL41 and HL40). The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north and south respectively, are conjoined by a relatively late ribbon development along both the Swansea Canal and the Midland Railway. The Swansea Canal, a speculative venture designed to open up the coal trade at the head of the Tawe Valley, was the last of the major canals built in South Wales; it began construction in 1794 and was fully operational by 1798. It was bought in 1873 by Great Western railway and worked by them in competition to the Midland Railways' Swansea Valley line. The line closed to traffic during the 1930's and much of its length has been taken by modern road construction; although a length at Pontardawe survives.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Fieldscapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary.</p> <p>Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric.</p> <p>Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebanos. The aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley sides (HL41 and HL40). The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north and south respectively, are anchored together by a relatively late ribbon</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>development built along the both the Swansea Canal and Midland Railway.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed being of high value as an historically important industrial communications corridor, represented by the remains of the late 18th century Swansea Canal and associated structures, including some of national importance. The area has lost some coherence due to the demolition and clearance of the substantial iron and tinplate works at Ystalyfera and Pontardawe and the infilling of much of the northern section of the Swansea Canal extending from Ystradgynlais to Godre'r Graig (mostly built over by the present A4067 road). Moreover, certain sites within the aspect area are in an increasingly overgrown, ruinous condition (including the Crimea Colliery and a number of the surviving docks on the Swansea Canal). On this basis, the overall assessment for this area has been gauged as high rather than outstanding, although it certainly contains a number of relict industrial buildings of exceptional importance and rarity (e.g. the Ystalyfera Aqueduct and the Crimea Colliery).</p>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Built Up Areas</p> <p>Residential/Green Space</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Grassland. • Gardens. Buildings. • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> LNR. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development; mostly houses with gardens; also, amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas.</p>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: main component • Improved Grassland: significant component • Marshy Grassland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Upland Oakwood. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Upland Heathland. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Good range of rhos pasture plants including <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>, <i>Serratula tinctoria</i>, <i>Carum verticillatum</i>, <i>Genista anglica</i>, <i>G. tinctoria</i>, <i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>, <i>Carex montana</i>, <i>C. pallescens</i>, <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>, <i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>, <i>Osmunda regalis</i> and <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>; associated invertebrates include marsh fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary and <i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i> (SSSI Schedules); barn owl (LBAP)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. small areas of heath, spoil habitats, mines, quarries, residential and industrial areas, roads, railway lines etc</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Cultivation. Cutting. Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises twelve separate geographical units</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; Extensive areas of rural semi-upland, mostly conforming to current concept of "ffridd habitats" and mainly comprising rhos pastures.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> area defined by default as not falling into other defined areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: High • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Extensive areas of neutral grasslands and marshy grasslands, including many undegraded areas supporting a wide range of typical rhes pasture species; both the habitats and many of the associated species are BAP Priorities</p>
Visual Sensory (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Rolling upland valleys of River Egel, Cwm Du and northern Swansea valley sides. The elevation varies from around 250m AOD below the moorland of Mynydd Allt y Grug, to Approx.100m AOD at Pontardawe. The land cover is predominantly grazed pasture with significant deciduous tree cover, especially along riparian corridors. Many hedges are outgrown throughout the area, leaving trees with fences as definitions of the field pattern. Walls are present on higher ground, generally in poor state of disrepair. In the more settled lower areas, boundaries are generally more intensively maintained. Farmsteads are scattered and there is only one minor road which passes through the area - numerous other terminate at farmsteads. The restricted access provides a remote yet settled and tranquil feel. The area contains two large blocks of coniferous plantation which form a contrast to the grain of the rest of the area. Encroachment of bracken has occurred on higher ground.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary type: Fences with Trees <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> Most developments to farmsteads appear in keeping with vernacular. fencing is often used over hedges and traditional walls - which would appear more appropriate</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Tranquil. Sheltered. Safe. Remote</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> upland grazing.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> control bracken.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: control bracken • Medium Term: enhance field pattern of hedges and stone walls maintaining altitudinal distinction between them • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation and boundary trees • Long Term: enhance edges of forest to improve integration with open landscape adjacent • Long Term: maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: tranquillity, remoteness • Enhanced: settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous tree cover • Enhanced: field boundaries • Changed: coniferous plantations <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> much of the area is bounded by the fence against the common land; to the north the boundary runs from the built extent of Pen-Rhiw-Fawr along edge of disturbed ground to Ystalyfera; south east edge follows the built form of linear development along the Swansea Valley. The east boundary follows the ridge between Cwm Gors and Cwm Egel</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: High • Character: High • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has a high scenic quality with its mosaic landscape, mixture of boundaries and deciduous tree cover. The feeling of isolation from minimal access to the area adds to its character. Panoramic views are afforded from higher elevations within the valleys, while in the lower valleys there is an intimate character. The area has an relatively unspoilt upland mosaic valley character, with a strong sense of place.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland valleys, hillsides, lower plateau and scarps (grassland >50%, open, predominantly unwooded)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland open >50% grassland</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 0.2 • Category 7: 25.3 • Category 8: 73.2 • Category 9: 1.3 • Category 10: 0
<p>Visual Sensory (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development Built Land Urban</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Settlements straddling the River Tawe. The core of Pontardawe sits within the Tawe valley, while newer developments climb up the valley sides and stretch up the adjacent valleys. The centre of the town, which has industrial roots, has undergone environmental improvements. Relatively recent road schemes now separate the core from surrounding residential areas and have a considerable impact on the town. Industrial development dominates the area around the river and the Swansea canal. Rhos is linked to Pontardawe by the A474 and a ribbon of associated developments. Change detection 2014: Tesco in south has extended boundary</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Disturbed • Landcover Pattern: Development • Settlement pattern: Urban • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Coarse • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Discordant • Unity: Disunity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New development - commercial poor material and detail</p> <p><u>There are attractive views....:</u>out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views....:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Inappropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> poor boundary treatment and connection with landscape and river.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> integrate better with surrounding landscape and river.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: develop visual and physical connections between settlement and river/canal • Medium Term: screen commercial developments and better integrate into landscape • Medium Term: enhance physical connection between residential areas and centre • Medium Term: improve riverside treatment and access <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: settled • Enhanced: N/A • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: core of settlement • Enhanced: river and canal • Changed: industrial estates <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> edge of built form; sw, county boundary; ne, extent of Pontardawe. 2014 - Tesco on valley floor in south has extended boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Low • Integrity: Low • Character: Low • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> although there are a number of elements within the town which have scenic quality [significant buildings, river, canal], they are diminished by juxtaposition of detracting elements [industry, road]. The general sprawl of dwellings and commercial units and the dominance of roads produce a poor quality area.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Built land - communities</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Built Land</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.8 • Category 6: 41.6 • Category 7: 49.2 • Category 8: 6.3 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/DV/2003: Land at rear of 39-76 Dulais Road

Figure 11: RLDP/DV/2003: Land at rear of 39-76 Dulais Road



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural	<u>Classification:</u>
Landscape	Upland
Services	Upland Valleys
	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys
	<u>Details</u>
	<u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate
	<u>Attractive views:</u> ...both in and out
	<u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u>
	<u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u>
	<u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C,
	Undisturbed, Zone B
	<u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No
	<u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate
	<u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High
	<u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> This enclosed
	heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities,
	presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to
	higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 40</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 12.5%, CL10 2.5%, CL16 35%, CL20 17.5%, CL30 10%, CL31 2.5%, CL32 2.5%, CL35 12.5%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Lower lying plateau of NE-SW regional antiform in Productive Coal Measures mudstones with coals, dissected by NE-SE upper Dulais river valley. Broad slopes covered extensively by boulder clay and</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>cut by NNW-SSE to N-S faults. Coal mines and areas of made ground along valley. Alluvium in broad valley floor.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Westphalian Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay • Structural features: N-S to NNW-SSE faults, NE-SW regional antiform • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Ancient upland river / stream systems. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Fault controlled topography.</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCS, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor land reclamation after mining activities • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to retain GL character <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NNW-SSE faults to E, Upper Cwmgorse Marine Band, Edge of Neath Port Talbot</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Glacial drift covered Productive Coal Fm with extensive mining</p>
<p>Historic Landscape</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment Other built environment Communications</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The settlements of Crynant and Severn Sisters were little more than small hamlets,</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>centred on collieries such as Severn Sisters and Maes-mawr, and spreading along the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway, by the time of the 1st edition OS survey (1884). Earlier origins are evident; the Chapel of Ease at Crynant has a medieval foundation, and several of the houses in the village appear to be of 18th century date. The Neath and Brecon Railway has been described as a typical contractor's railway, the contractor in this case being John Dickson. The railway opened from Neath to Onllwyn in 1864 and on to Brecon in 1866. Between Onllwyn and Sennybridge it closely followed the course of the Brecon Forest Tramroad. The route became part of the Swansea - Hereford line when a connection to the Swansea Vale Railway was made in 1873.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Landscapes. Woodland. Nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Iron Railings</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area consists of a narrow communications corridor linking Aberdulais and Crynant with Severn Sisters, Onllwyn and Banwen. The south of the aspect area generally retains a rural character of an irregular fieldscape; whilst the northern part of the aspect area is more unsettled with disused and contemporary industrial workings dominating a greater part of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival: Before the 19th century, the archaeological record for this area is limited in scope; evidence for medieval settlement is represented by the chapel of St Margaret, Crynant (GGAT PRN 00525w), which contains fabric of 13th century date but was partially re • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of high value, representing a reasonably well-preserved example of an industrial communications/settlement corridor. During the late 19th-early 20th century the collieries at Seven Sisters and Cefncoed near Crynant represented some of the most important anthracite collieries in the South Wales Coalfield; the extensive remains of the Cefncoed Colliery (now a museum) eloquently attest to this remarkable period of industrial growth.</p>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Built Up Areas Residential/Green Space</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Amenity Grassland. Gardens. Buildings. Bare Ground. Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> garden areas likely to be of value to birds; also common mammals and invertebrates; common amphibians in garden ponds etc; bats roosting in the roofs of houses</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of urban and suburban development; mostly houses with gardens; also amenity areas, parks, roads, commercial premises, small factories, schools etc; opportunities for anthropophilic species; wide range of common flora and fauna species present; small remnant areas of semi-natural habitats locally</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Encourage "wildlife friendly" management of gardens and amenity areas; seek opportunities for interpretation and education, especially in schools</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> boundary drawn to encompass limits of urban area, including any associated</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>amenity land, parkland and other land falling within the urban boundary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> garden areas collectively represent a significant resource of habitats, but is highly fragmented and of very variable quality; not as valuable as equivalent areas of semi-natural habitat; few rare species associated with urban areas.</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Change indicated by:</u> Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: major component • Improved Grassland: significant component • Marshy Grassland: significant component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> reed bunting recorded (Rhos Common - Common Land Survey)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. Rock Outcrops. Areas of revegetated mine spoil</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises two separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level, lying on either side of a major river valley; Large areas of semi-upland "ffridd" habitats on the valley sides of the upper Dulais river, comprising a mosaic of mainly grassland habitats, mostly of neutral or acid character; interspersed by deciduous woodland and flush areas.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain unimproved state of semi-natural grassland habitats and hedgerows creating connectivity between wooded patches.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn largely by default following segregation of major plateau, plantation and river valley areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> subject to some improvement and degradation, but still mainly comprising semi-natural habitats characteristic of the S Wales coalfield, and containing numerous features of value</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx. 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx. 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries - many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks - also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Overgrown Hedges <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Harmonious

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity: Unity • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New commercial developments of cheap materials</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Grazed upland valley.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain grazing regime and prevent bracken encroachment.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Control bracken • Immediate: maintain grazing regime • Medium Term: maintain field pattern

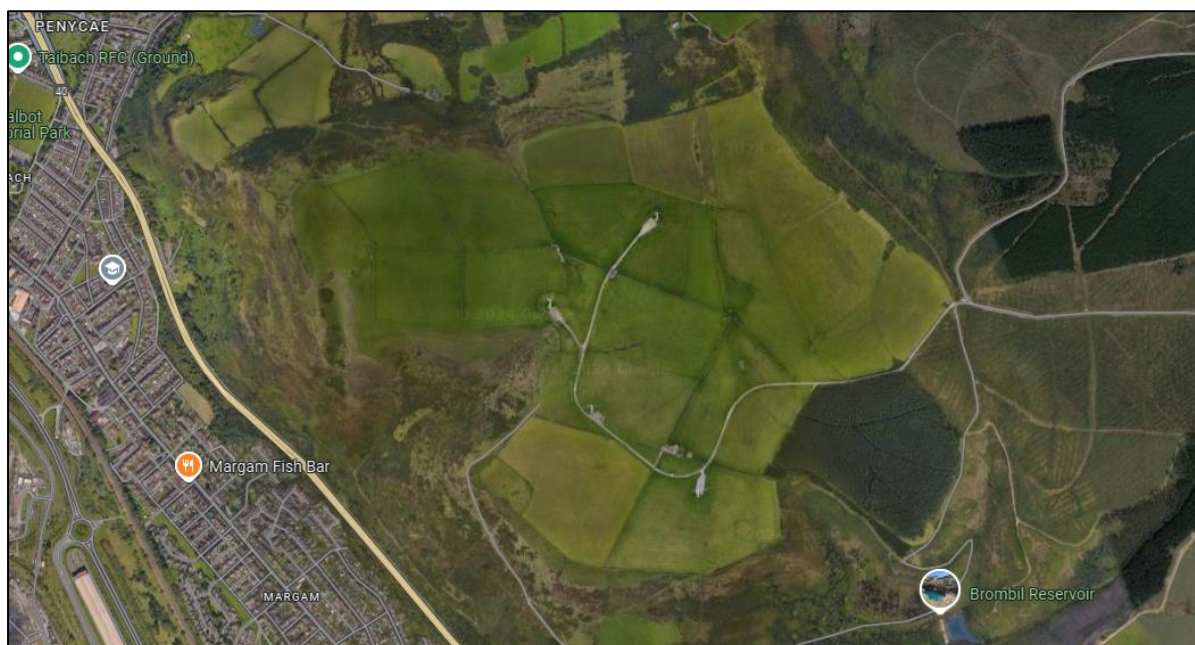
<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: maintain outgrown hedges and mature deciduous field trees • Medium Term: manage riparian vegetation • Medium Term: screen commercial development and better integrate into landscape <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, settled character • Enhanced: enclosure, settled character • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: field boundaries, grown out hedges • Enhanced: riparian vegetation • Changed: screening of commercial development <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> NW, woodland edge of Crynant Forest and valley side to break in topography top of valley edge; south, built form of settlements - Aberdulais. East; ridge line of Llety'r afel and fence of moorland edge, woodland and moorland edge/fence of hirfynydd. Boundary with Mynydd y Drum and severn sisters to NE, and county boundary to N.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 6: 9.5 • Category 7: 75.2 • Category 8: 15.1 • Category 9: 0.2 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/PT/2018: Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam

Figure 12: RLDP/PT/2018: Mynydd Brombil, Brombil Farm, Margam



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural	<u>Classification:</u>
Landscape	Upland
Services	Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes
(1)	Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes
	<u>Details</u>
	<u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate
	<u>Attractive views:</u> ...into
	<u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u>
	<u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u>
	<u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B
	<u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No
	<u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Strong
	<u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High
	<u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The scarp edge is possibly the most prominent and frequently viewed area in the county

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>borough. Its dramatic topography is enhanced by forest cover and the mosaic of scrub which gives it a scenic quality.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 18</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 5.556%, CL7 16.667%, CL10 11.111%, CL11 5.556%, CL16 5.556%, CL20 27.778%, CL30 22.222%, CL35 5.556%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Exposed Upland/Plateau</p> <p>Upland Grazing</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>....out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Although the area itself demonstrates only minor scenic qualities, the vast panoramic views available from these areas are outstanding. The separate areas all relay a character of deteriorating upland grazing, but provide locally rare relief from the large scale forestry to the north and east. As a 'cap' to the scarp these areas are visible and are seen as part of an important landscape feature.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Low</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 7</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL1 42.857%, CL10 14.286%, CL16 14.286%, CL32 28.571%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Exposed Upland/Plateau</p> <p>Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>....out</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil</p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Mynydd Margam is in good condition with constant character across its entirety - a cover of coniferous plantation although there is change in topography across the area. Scenically the woodland forms part of the skyline and lines the valleys, enhancing their character.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 48</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 20.833%, CL6 2.083%, CL7 2.083%, CL10 2.083%, CL16 33.333%, CL20 12.5%, CL30 10.417%, CL32 12.5%, CL34 2.083%, CL35 2.083%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 4</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Geological Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> N facing slopes of broad upland plateau in sandstones with coals of South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones (Llynfi - Brithdir Beds) in gently S-dipping beds of N limb of regional E-W synform. N-facing escarpment above Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals to N (NPTGL026), and plateau dissected by deep and steep, NE-SW to E-W V-U shaped valleys of Cwm Dyffryn. Landslips on steep valley slopes. Disused coal mines in Dyffryn valley. Boulder clay on lower valley slopes, alluvium in floor and glacial sand and gravel terraces in lower valley. NNW-SSE to N-S faults and E-W fault controlling Cwm Gwyneu - Dyffryn valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi - Brithdir Beds • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, glacial sand and gravel, peat

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural features: NNW-SSE, N-S,E-W faults, E-W synform • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Fault controlled topography</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Glacial U-shaped valley. Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCE, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Preserve integrity of landscape feature (edge of upland plateau) • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to preserve GL integrity

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u> <u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u> <u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3 <u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None <u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other <u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000 <u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> South Wales Pennant Formation, Llynfi- Brithdir sandstones in N facing slopes</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u> <u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Dissected upland plateau of N limb of regional synform in Llynfi-Brithdir Beds sandstones with coals; landslips; coal mining</p>
Geological Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u> Mountain and upland valley Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> S facing slopes of upland plateau in South Wales Pennant Formaiton Llynfi-Brithdir Beds sandstones with coals in gently N-dipping beds of S limb of regional E-W synform. Dissected by deep and steep V-U shaped NE-SW valleys of Cwm Brombil and Cwm Maelwg, with W-facing cwms at heads, and N-S Cwm Cynfig. Valleys truncated at steep southern escarpment of plateau. Landslips on W-facing steep slopes at Graig Fawr and Taibach. N-S faults.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi - Brithdir Beds • Superficial deposits: Peat • Structural features: N-S faults • Active processes: Minor fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mountain glacial-erosion terrain. Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Fault controlled topography</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Cwm/corrie. Hanging (fluvial) valley. Landslip (ancient)</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term - Preserve landscape features of truncated valleys <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> S- facing slopes of South Wales Pennant Formation sandstone plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Dissected upland plateau of S limb of regional synform in Llynfi-Hughes Beds sandstones; truncated valleys; cwms</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Regular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> Policies, plans & information resources</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> Discontinuous area of similar landscape character and historical identity to Mynydd y Gaer; please refer to HL032 for technical information.</p> <p>A small windfarm was constructed on Mynydd y Brombil during 2016.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Landscapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? Power Generation • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large aspect area characterised by enclosed upland of a moderately late date. The aspect area consists of three distinct topographical areas of almost identical character. To the north, the uplands and broad hillslopes of Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Dinas and Foel Fynddau define a regular fieldscape of large enclosures. These areas of upland have since been partially covered by modern forestry obscuring the relict post-medieval fieldscape. The Cwmafan Pontrhydyfen corridor (HL13) dissects the continuity of this landscape, separating Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Bychan, two more areas of enclosed upland defined by a broadly similar pattern, from their northern counterparts. The landscape of Mynydd Brombil to the south, in a much similar way to those areas farther north, has had the continuity of this landscape pattern interrupted by Cwm Duffryn (HL54 and HL31). These upland areas form a broad elevated barrier from Neath (HL54) to the Margam Moors (HL01) separating the coastal littoral from the interior.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Each distinct topographical area retains the same pattern concerning the distribution of historical and archaeological monuments.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The value of outstanding assigned to this area reflects the fact that this is a well-preserved landscape of enclosed upland, untouched by modern forestry plantation, and the multi-period nature of the archaeological record, with evidence of Bronze Age ritual/funerary activity, Iron Age settlement, medieval upland pastoral settlement (including the remarkably extensive complex of rabbit warrens) and later post-medieval enclosure.</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Woodland & Scrub</p> <p>Mixed Woodland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u>.</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted Coniferous Woodland: main component • Semi-natural Mixed Woodland: significant component • Standing Water: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> may have value for nesting birds</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Large area of secondary, semi-upland, mainly conifer plantation, in part on replanted ancient woodland site</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conversion to semi-natural broadleaves, or restoration to open semi-upland habitats</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> discrete area of conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Low

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> large area of secondary, semi-upland, mainly conifer plantation, in part on ancient semi-natural woodland; no known Priority Habitats or Species, but contains a lake and watercourse</p>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered Scrub: significant component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Bracken: major component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u></p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 0%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> .</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Rock Outcrops</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Semi-upland ffridd slopes mainly supporting bracken cover but in mosaic with acid and other grasslands</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Considered reducing the Bracken dominance in parts of the Aspect Area.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn by default to edge of relevant contours</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> extensive area of semi-natural ffridd habitats</p>
Landscape Habitats (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Grassland & Marsh Improved Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Improved Grassland – main component</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which ones?</u></p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 0%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> .</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Tarea of improved grassland enclosures on hilltop plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn to edge of plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Low • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Low • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> improved grasslands; no known Priority Habitats or Species</p>
<p>Visual Sensory (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes Wooded Hillside& Scarp Slopes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Scarp slope rising from approx. 30mAOD to approx. 210mAOD, mainly covered with bracken and scrub and to the south, with coniferous plantation. The area marks the edge between the coal measures plateau and the coastal plain. The land</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>form provides a solid backcloth for the coastal plain creating an important feature and focal point. There are no settlements or roads on the scarp which acts a constraint to the development of Port Talbot. The area is highly visible from the M4 running along its base in part. A distinctive feature of the scarp are the Breast Plantations which form 5 rectilinear forest features above Margam Park.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Woodland • Settlement pattern: No settlements • Boundary type: Fences <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Large • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Simple • Texture: Coarse • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Occasional • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Noisy. Exposed</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> mix of woodland management and open minimally grazed scrub.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Maintain as simple backdrop.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance edges of woodland to improve integration with open landscape adjacent <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: unity, exposure • Enhanced: simplicity • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: woodland, open grazing • Enhanced: woodland, open grazing • Changed: encroachment of coarse vegetation <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The M4 and settlements to the east and break in contour to west, edge of enclosed land to north</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The scarp edge is possibly the most prominent and frequently viewed area in the county borough. Its dramatic topography is enhanced by forest cover and the mosaic of scrub which gives it a scenic quality.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland hills, lower plateau & scarp slopes (wooded >50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 1.9 • Category 6: 47.8 • Category 7: 46.7 • Category 8: 3.6 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Upland Grazing</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Grazed upland ranging from 130m to 257m AOD. The whole area is extensively sheep grazed, the ground cover predominantly pasture grasses with infestation of coarser species and infestations of bracken and gorse in places. There are only scattered individual dwellings, of natural stone or render, in these areas. Access is mainly by footpath. The areas are predominantly hedged with fences with walls which are broken down and gappy. All of the areas are enclosed to the north and east by forest, but vast views and openness to the south and west give a sense of exposure. There is minimal management input on the land so elements of the landscape are in poor condition.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Open Land • Settlement pattern: Scattered Rural/Farm • Boundary type: Fences <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Exposed • Diversity: Simple • Texture: Smooth • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Autumn <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Occasional • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> Fences replacing stone walls and the small number of newer buildings out of character with existing</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Exposed</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Poor</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> upland grazing.</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> prevent encroachment of bracken and reinstate field boundaries.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: control bracken • Medium Term: enhance field pattern by rebuilding stone walls <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: exposure • Enhanced: openness • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: pasture • Enhanced: stone walls • Changed: coarse grass, bracken and gorse encroachment, field boundaries <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> areas on top of scarp slopes and valley sides. break of scarp forms eastern edge and surrounding forest form other boundaries</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Although the area itself demonstrates only minor scenic qualities, the vast panoramic views available from these areas are outstanding. The separate areas all relay a character of deteriorating upland grazing, but provide locally rare relief from the large scale forestry to the north and east. As a 'cap' to the scarp these areas are visible and are seen as part of an important landscape feature.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland valleys, hillsides, lower plateau and scarps (grassland >50%, open, predominantly unwooded)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland open >50% grassland</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 10.6 • Category 7: 72.8 • Category 8: 16.3

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 9: 0.3 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (3)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Exposed Upland/Plateau Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Area of upland coniferous woodland, rising from approx. 100m AOD in Cwm Dyffryn to approx. 350m AOD, covering much of the upland between the coastal plain and Cwm Dyffryn, in to which it runs. The cover is predominantly managed plantation with a mix of spruce (dominant) and larch with some pine. Its elevation means the area provides the skyline to views from the west. The woodland provides an abrupt edge against open ground to south and north. Within the forest there is a tranquil quality and its extent allows a sense of isolation to develop.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Plateaux • Landcover Pattern: Woodland • Settlement pattern: No settlements • Boundary type: None <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Large • Sense of Enclosure: Confined • Diversity: Uniform • Texture: Smooth • Lines: Curved • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced

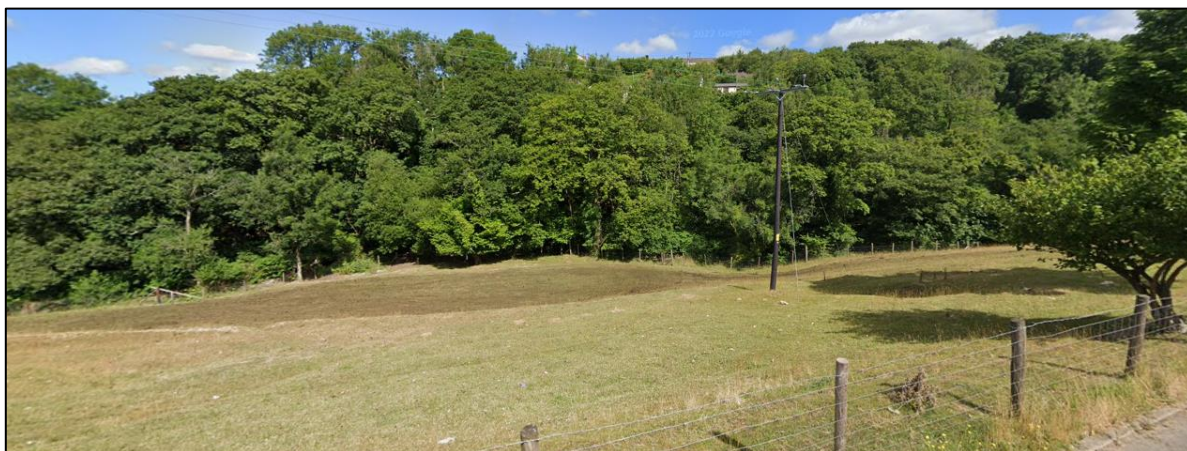
<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Autumn <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Tranquil. Sheltered. Remote</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> commercial forestry.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> plant deciduous trees on edge of coniferous forest to improve integration.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: plant deciduous trees on edge of coniferous forest to improve integration • Long Term: Increase diversity of species in stands <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: Remoteness, isolation, tranquillity

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced: Remoteness, isolation, tranquillity Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserved: continuity of cover Enhanced: species diversity Changed: woodland edge against open ground <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Woodland edge and county boundary to east</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic quality: Moderate Integrity: Moderate Character: Moderate Rarity: Low Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Mynydd Margam is in good condition with constant character across its entirety - a cover of coniferous plantation although there is change in topography across the area. Scenically the woodland forms part of the skyline and lines the valleys, enhancing their character.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 1.3 • Category 7: 32.7 • Category 8: 63.7 • Category 9: 2.3 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/PT/2001: Land off Owen Jones Way, Bryn, Port Talbot

Figure 13: RLDP/PT/2001: Land off Owen Jones Way, Bryn, Port Talbot



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Wooded Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...within</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Undisturbed</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Cwm Dyffryn is of high scenic quality as a very intimate valley landscape. The area is in fair condition with constant character throughout. A strong sense of place is engendered through the valley both by landform and land cover. The rarity of this area lies in its feeling of relative isolation yet</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>settled character. Considering its close proximity to Port Talbot this is a valuable local amenity.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 7</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL7 14.286%, CL16 57.143%, CL20 14.286%, CL35 14.286%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-W tract of lower ground within South Wales Pennant Formation sandstone escarpments in core of E-W antiform, in Productive Coal Measures mudstones with coals. Dissected by NE-SW U-shaped Afan valley, with broad floodplain in fluvio-glacial gravels at Cwm Avon. Shallow E-W Cwm Farteg valley along strike of mudstones</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>with boulder clay on slopes. NNW-SSE to N-S faults. Extensive boulder clay on gentle slopes. Coal mines and tips.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, fluvioglacial gravels and sand, alluvium • Structural features: NNW-SSE and N-S faults, E-W antiform • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mineral workings. Glacial mountain valley. Other</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Coal / mineral spoil tips</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor reclamation from mining • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to preserve GL character <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Productive Coal Formation in low plateau of antiformal core</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Glacial drift covered, dissected E-W low plateau of Productive Coal Fm; coal mining</p>
Historic Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Regular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area follows Cwm Duffryn from Goytre to the Unitary Authority boundary immediately west of Bryn along Cwm Farteg. The aspect is characterised by a regular fieldscape adhering to the valley and also following several deeply cut incisions into the upland of Mynydd Margam (HL021); Cwm Gwineu and Cwm Wernderi. The medieval influence of Margam Abbey is strong within this aspect area</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>and is represented by Hafod y porth Grange, immediately northwest of Hafod Farm. The grange lies within a field called Waun y Capel (Chapel Meadow) and appears in the bull of Pope Alexander IV (1261) as ""Hauto Portarii."" It later reappears as ""Havotporth"" in the extent of 1336 and ""Havoporthe"" in the Valor (1535). By dissolution it mainly consisted of mountain pasture and was leased out to local farmers for 26 a year (RCAHMW 1982, 276). The fieldscape surrounding this grange is somewhat more irregular than the remaining aspect area.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Water & Wetland. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Dry Stone Walls. Earth/Turf Bank. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u></p> <p>Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The aspect are is characterised by a regular fieldscape adhering to the valley and also following several deeply cut incisions into the upland of Mynydd Margam (HL21); Cwm Gwineu and Cwm Wernderi.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Moderate • Survival: • Condition: Moderate • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: High • Overall Evaluation: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The moderate overall value assigned to this area reflects the fact that the coherence of the fieldscape has been significantly diminished as a result of modern industrial activity. Moreover, the archaeological resource, although fairly diverse, survives generally in a moderate to poor condition, further reducing the overall value of the landscape.</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Wet Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Open Water</p> <p>River Corridors</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: main component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Bracken: significant component • Running Water: major component

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u></p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 0%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> probably otter</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Minor river valley, mainly with steep, wooded valley sides but opening-out at lower elevations</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Condition</u>: Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend</u>: Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management</u>: Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations</u>: E.</p> <p><u>Guideline</u>:</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> notional river corridor; elsewhere drawn to top edge of river valley contour</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> significant watercourse with mainly semi-natural habitats including Priority Habitats</p>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Mosaic</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Improved Grassland: main component • Marshy Grassland: minor component • Bracken: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> LNR. Local wildlife site</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> hedgerow birds, eg linnet, song thrush</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Walls. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> TAspect Area comprises two separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; large areas of semi-upland farmland, essentially "ffridd" habitat, mainly comprising improved grassland enclosures but with remnant rhos pastures locally.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> mainly drawn by default after segregation of plateau and other coherent areas</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> generally improved grasslands, but with some Priority Habitats including marshy grasslands and hedgerows</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Upland Valleys</p> <p>Wooded Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Enclosed deeply incised valley with strong upland character rising from approx. 50m AOD in valley bottom to approx. 250m AOD. The valley runs east from Port Talbot, bounded by the uplands of Mynydd Margam and Mynydd Emroch lining the sides with coniferous plantation. The valley bottom and sides are a mosaic of deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland and grazed pasture, bounded with fences and mainly outgrown hedges. There are a scattering of dwellings and developments along the valley, connected by the single road which runs its length. Many of the recent interventions and improvements have used inappropriate materials or poor finishes. The area has a quiet character despite its close proximity to Port Talbot, with a 'hidden' landscape in the valley bottom.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Confined • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New development/additions using cheap materials - rendered and unrendered blockwork</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...within</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> mixture of grazed pasture and commercial woodland.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain field pattern.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Repair/reinstate hedges/walls • Medium Term: maintain and preserve deciduous woodland along riparian corridor • Medium Term: Plant deciduous trees on edge of coniferous forest to improve integration <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: Quiet, settled, sheltered • Enhanced: Quiet, settled, sheltered

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous woodland, open fields • Enhanced: boundaries • Changed: coniferous edge <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> woodland edge of Mynydd Margam to S/E, extent of built form of Bryn to east, built form of Port Talbot and edge of unenclosed scarp to west, base of scarp and woodland edge of plantation which runs into valey from N/E. The north boundary is the visible ridge line following road.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Cwm Dyffryn is of high scenic quality as a very intimate valley landscape. The area is in fair condition with constant character throughout. A strong sense of place</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>is engendered through the valley both by landform and land cover. The rarity of this area lies in its feeling of relative isolation yet settled character. Considering its close proximity to Port Talbot this is a valuable local amenity.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 3.1 • Category 7: 21.9 • Category 8: 74.9 • Category 9: 8.0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/PT/2007: Longlands Farm

Figure 14: RLDP/PT/2007: Longlands Farm



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Built Land</p> <p>Urban</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Substantial</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...neither in or out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u> <u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Urban, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> all criteria low</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.79% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.17% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 45</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL1 2.222%, CL2 6.667%, CL7 2.222%, CL10 8.889%, CL15 6.667%, CL16 8.889%, CL20 11.111%, CL26 2.222%, CL30 15.556%, CL31 8.889%, CL35 17.778%, CL37 6.667%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland</p> <p>Rolling Lowland</p> <p>Mosaic Rolling Lowland</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u></p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The area has high scenic quality to the east yet closer to the M4, from where the area is most prominent, the integrity of the rural character of the area has been affected through various developments. The majority of the area has an unspoilt character, more similar to the landscape to the</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>east than the rest of the assessment area. This lowland agricultural character is rare within the assessment area</p> <p><u>Scenic quality</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Character</u>: Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation</u>: Mosaic of: Moderate, Low, High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation</u>: Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present</u>: No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority</u>: Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority</u>: Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries</u>: 111</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %</u>:The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL1 1.802%, CL2 8.108%, CL10 2.703%, CL15 1.802%, CL16 24.324%, CL20 27.027%, CL30 16.216%, CL34 1.802%, CL35 7.207%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs</u>: 14</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations</u>: 7</p>
<p>Geological Landscape</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland hills and valleys</p> <p>Dissected lowland plateau</p> <p>Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Low-level plateau in S- and N-dipping Dinantian limestones (Lower Carboniferous) overlain unconformably by Triassic marginal deposits & dissected by head-filled cwms. Limestone folded & thrust into Cowbridge antiform & associated synform & cut by NW-SE Newton</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>fault zone. Patches of glacial sand/gravel. Major working limestone quarries & disused haematite mines & waste tips.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Sedimentary</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area? Carboniferous</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Limestone</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Carboniferous limestone, Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group marginal facies • Superficial deposits: Head, alluvium, glacial silt/clay • Structural features: E-W regional Cowbridge antiform and synform, NW-SE Newton fault zone • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mineral workings. Rock cliff and shore. Coastal flat</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Plateau. Coal / mineral spoil tips. Cliff. Lagoon/lake/pool (natural). Slope. Hill top. Scarp slope. Scarp. Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Urban / industrial development</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial. Coastal.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINCC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Dominantly rural area with excellent geological exposure in quarries.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Maintain natural system and maintain SSSI in favourable condition by implementation of management plans and ensure that RIGS are safeguarded using Local Plan policies and constraint mapping and that other features of particular geological or geomorphological significance in the area are not lost/damaged due to development, etc.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Maintain SSSI in favourable condition by implementation of management plans and ensure that RIGS are safeguarded using Local Plan policies and constraint mapping . • Medium Term: Maintain natural systems and ensure that other features of particular geological or geomorphological significance in the area are not lost/damaged due to development, etc.

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u> <u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u> <u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3 <u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None <u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other <u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000 <u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> AA corresponds to outcrop of Carboniferous limestone, excluding sand dune and foreshore areas.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u> <u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Outstanding • Educational Value: Outstanding • Historical Value: Outstanding • Rarity / Uniqueness: Outstanding • Classic Example: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Important area of Carboniferous limestone, uncomfortably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy.</p>
Geological Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u> Lowland hills and valleys Dissected lowland plateau Lowland plateau</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> Broad, low lying plateau of NE dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals between South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment and E-W Millstone Grit ridge to S. Dissected by shallow, alluvium filled valleys of tributaries and main Cynfig valley. Boulder clay extensive. Mines and quarries in coal - Margam (Parc Slip West) opencast (and proposed extension). N-S faults. Patches of glacial sand and gravel on plateau.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium • Structural features: N-S faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Active lowland river-flood plain system. Mineral workings</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINIC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Potentially destructive through proposed extension of Margam opencast</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor progress of opencast extension and conserve features if appropriate <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: High • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Glacial drift covered, dissected low plateau of Productive Coal Fm; coal mining including large opencast</p>
<p>Geological Landscape</p> <p>(3)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland hills and valleys</p> <p>Dissected lowland plateau</p> <p>Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>Broad low lying plain of glacial sand and gravel, with boulder clay covered lower ground around Llanfihangel Wood. Shallow, meandering Cynfig valley with alluvium in floor. Mine and tips from underlying Productive Coal Formation coals.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Lowland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation • Superficial deposits: Glacial sand and gravel, alluvium, boulder clay • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Mineral workings. Active upland river or stream channel system</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Coal / mineral spoil tips</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Monitor reclamation of mining area • Long Term: Preserve GL(dissected low level plateau) integrity <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Glacial sand/gravel plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Low • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Settlement</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>Nucleated Settlement</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Fieldwork</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The village of Pyle lay within the parish of Kenfig, and it was to this site that the parish church moved after the borough of Kenfig became too besanded to continue functioning on its original site. A document 1483 describes the church as "newly situated", and there is a date of 1471 carved on the remaining medieval wall plate in the nave. However, it is possible that there may have been an earlier chapel here which was rebuilt at this time to form the existing church; a holy well and crosses are also known from the Middle Ages. The road alongside which the church was constructed may follow the line of the Roman road between Cardiff and Neath, though the Roman milestones found at Pyle were not in situ. Although the settlements of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly have now fused to form a substantial village with an associated industrial estate, their development as such is mainly a phenomenon of the latter half of the 20th century. Yates"s map of 1799 and the Kenfig and Pyle tithe map</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>of 1847 shows Pyle and North Cornelly as small hamlets. Kenfig Hill does not register separately on Yates's map, but by the time of the tithe map it appeared as a small ribbon development then known as Cribbwr Village and separate from Pyle, which consisted of scattered buildings fronting onto the roads leading to Pyle crossroads from the south and east. There was little to the north apart from the church and an inn. There was little change until between 1900 and 1921, when Kenfig Hill expanded from its original single street and for the first time linked up with Pyle Cross. However, the greatest growth has been since the Second World War. The industrial estate was built in the third quarter of the 20th century at the junction between the London-Swansea main railway line with the branch to Porthcawl and a minor branch to the coalmines on the north side of Cefn Cribwr; it now benefits from its proximity to the M4 motorway. The houses reflect the growth of the town as shown on maps, with the majority being semi-detached from the 1930s onwards, apart from Kenfig Hill where there are terraces of rather earlier date. More modern houses appear particularly on the outskirts.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Mortared Wall. Hedgerow. Iron Railings</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buildings & Structures</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536)</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large village with associated industrial estate, but now to be considered as an urbanised area. The very small area of agricultural land between the built-up area and the unitary authority boundary has been included as it was considered not to be worth categorising separately at Level 3.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: High • Survival: • Condition: Low • Rarity: Low • Potential: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> An extensive area of mid-late 20th century urban housing and industrial estates, which has largely subsumed the former villages of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment</p> <p>Agricultural</p> <p>Regular Fieldscapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed? Boundaries</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> A large aspect area occupying a broad saddle of undulating farmland situated between Mynydd Margam, to the north, and Kenfig Hill, to the south. The Unitary Authority boundary defines the aspect area's eastern and southern boundary; whilst the M4 defines the western limits. The boundary with Margam Park (HL16) and Mynydd Margam occupies an elevated ridge creating the northern boundary of the aspect area. The aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape with discrete areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and modern forestry. During the Bronze Age a standing stone of fine-grained sandstone or mudstone was erected to the far west of the aspect area. Later the Romans built a road along what is now Water Street. In the centuries after the Romans many Early Christian crosses were erected across the aspect area, most have been moved and now reside in the Margam Estate. Without a doubt the main historical character of this landscape is medieval.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large aspect area occupying a broad saddle of undulating farmland situated between Mynydd Margam, to the north, and Kenfig Hill, to the south. The aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>with discrete areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and modern forestry.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: High • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value, representing a rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Of particular note are some extremely important medieval ecclesiastical sites, including the early medieval monastic site of Eglwys Nunydd and three later medieval granges belonging to Margam Abbey at Cwrt-y-defaid, Llanmihangel and Hafodheulog.</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Marsh/Marshy Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Environment Systems Limited</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description. Evaluation. Condition & Trend</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u> 330.0 Hectares</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u></p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <p>Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: 7%</p> <p>Dense Scrub: 17%</p> <p>Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: 16%</p> <p>Improved Grassland: 15%</p> <p>Marshy Grassland: 24%</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> LNR. SAC. SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 61-70%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> Species Include (Cirsium dissectum) Meadow Thistle, (Euphydryas aurinia) Marsh Fritillary, (Genista anglica) Petty whin, (Ulex gallii) Western Gorse, (Genista tinctoria) Dyer's Greenweed, (Dactylorhiza maculata) Heath Spotted Orchid, (Coenonympha pamphilus) Small Heath, (Silaum silaus) Pepper-saxifrage, (Juncus subnodulosus) Blunt-flowered Rush, (Boloria selene) Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) Bluebell, (Boloria selene) Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, (Agrostis</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>curtisii) Bristle Bent, (<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>) Common Spotted Orchid, (<i>Libellula depressa</i>) Broad-bodied Chaser, (<i>Ischnura elegans</i>) Blue-tailed Damselfly, (<i>Coenagrion puella</i>) Azure Damselfly, (<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>) Common Blue Damselfly, (<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>) Brimstone, (<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>) Common Darter, (<i>Aeshna mixta</i>) Migrant Hawker, (<i>Myrica gale</i>) Bog Myrtle, (<i>Anax imperator</i>) Emperor Dragonfly, (<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>) Common Club-rush, (<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>) Soft Bog-moss, (<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>) Bogbean, (<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>) Four-spotted Chaser, (<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>) Marsh Fern, (<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>) Water Vole, (<i>Eurhynchium striatum</i>) Common Striated Feather-moss, (<i>Inachis io</i>) Peacock butterfly, (<i>Corvus corax</i>) Common Raven, (<i>Erynnis tages</i>) Dingy Skipper, (<i>Erynnis tages</i>) Dingy Skipper, (<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>) Orange Tip, (<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>) Grizzled Skipper, (<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>) Early Marsh Orchid, (<i>Trichocolea tomentella</i>) Handsome Woollywort, (<i>Plagiomnium elatum</i>) Tall Thyme-moss, (<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>) Shrill Carder Bee, (<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>) Glow-worm, (<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>) Southern Marsh Orchid, (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>) Common Lizard, (<i>Riccardia multifida</i>) Delicate Germanderwort, (<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>) Purple Hairstreak, (<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>) Marsh Lousewort, (<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>) Many-stalked Spike-rush, (<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>) Ringlet, (<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>) Large Red Damselfly, (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>) Yellow-rattle, (<i>Eurhynchium striatulum</i>) Lesser Striated Feather-moss, (<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>) Shrill Carder Bee, (<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>) Grizzled Skipper, (<i>Triturus helveticus</i>) Palmate Newt, (<i>Scorzonera humilis</i>) Viper's-grass, (<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>) Heath Star Moss, (<i>Aricia agestis</i>) Brown Argus, (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) Common Frog</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u> Some</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u> Some</p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Low lying area of traditionally managed marshy grassland fields with some semi-improved neutral, wet/dry heath/acid grassland mosaic, bracken and patchy broadleaved woodland.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Encourage appropriate management of notable habitat.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Ensure habitat is protected. • Medium Term: Monitor grazing levels and the effects they have. • Long Term: Perhaps alter grazing levels in some areas to maximise areas potential.

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> They encompass an area of largely marshy grassland, scrub and semi-improved neutral grassland surrounded by areas of mostly improved grassland.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: High • Habitat Evaluation: Outstanding • Importance for key species: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Priority habitat, that is much declined, supporting a number of key species including very rare plant species. SSSI and SAC designations apply to parts of Aspect area which reflect its great value.</p>
Landscape Habitats (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Grassland & Marsh</p> <p>Improved Grassland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Review of SINC/Wildlife Site data by TACP</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: major component • Improved Grassland: main component • Marshy Grassland: major component • Bracken: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u> Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows. Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which species?</u> hedgerow birds, e.g. linnet, song thrush; Carum verticillatum, Cirsium dissectum</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Hedgerows. Veteran Trees. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Aspect Area comprises three separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; large areas of lowland farmland on boulder clay geology, mainly comprising neutral pastures and marshy grasslands on heavy soils, with frequent semi-natural woodland and hedgerows; pasture extensively improved</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn by default when other coherent areas had been segregated</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Contains numerous remnant areas of rhos pasture vegetation, semi-natural woodlands (including ancient woodlands) and hedgerows, many of which are Priority Habitats</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>(3)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Wet Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Open Water</p> <p>River Corridors</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Man-made soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: significant component • Scattered Scrub: minor component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: significant component • Improved Grassland: major component • Running Water: main component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 1-10%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> otter; kingfisher; dormouse</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Semi-natural river corridor supporting riverine habitats, and with semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and grasslands alongside</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> E.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>Some</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Mainly a notional corridor, or else drawn to nearest boundary adjacent to river</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Low • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> significant river corridor supporting semi-natural and some Priority Habitats, and Priority Species</p>
<p>Visual Sensory (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Lowland Rolling Lowland Mosaic Rolling Lowland</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Attractive low lying mixed agriculture dominated by grazed land. The rural quality of this area is disrupted to the west, with new small-scale development and a golf course abutting the M4. Blocks of woodland and hedges (dominated by hazel) restrict large views and add to a feeling of intimacy. The new settlement of Coed Hirwaun sits low in a valley this landscape and is</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>not widely visible although it does not appear to be integrated into the landscape with planting. There are a scattering of smaller settlements, dwellings and commercial units through the area which are beginning to suburbanise the character in parts. The latter chiefly to the west and constructed from inappropriate materials.</p> <p>Settlements are connected by numerous narrow deep-set lanes and bank hedgerows, which along with disused railway lines provide green corridors through the area. The A48 runs through the area and the area is highly visible from the M4 to the west. Pockets of coarse vegetation have encroached on under managed agricultural areas although the majority of the area is well managed farmland. Power lines and further development disrupt the rural character of the area towards Pyle in the south. Change detection 2014: Quarry in east excluded</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Rolling/Undulating • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Frequent

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New housing and commercial development do not reflect the vernacular of the area.</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> lowland mixed agricultural management.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain hedges and hedgerow trees.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Term: Maintain hedgerows and hedgerow trees Medium Term: enhance character of corridor adjacent to motorway to be in keeping with east of area through planting and development control Long Term: maintain and enhance deciduous woodland blocks Medium Term: maintain sunken lanes with rural character Immediate: restrict development Immediate: provide design guidance for area <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure, tranquillity • Enhanced: enclosure • Changed: suburbanisation <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: hedges, trees, woodland, rural pastoral landscape • Enhanced: rural pastoral landscape • Changed: edge against motorway <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> to west motorway, to north deer park boundary, to north east break in ground to scarp and county border, south east - fence line at break of slope on top of ridge. 2014 - boundary changed to exclude quarry in east</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Moderate • Integrity: Moderate • Character: Moderate • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: Moderate

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The area has high scenic quality to the east yet closer to the M4, from where the area is most prominent, the integrity of the rural character of the area has been affected through various developments. The majority of the area has an unspoilt character, more similar to the landscape to the east than the rest of the assessment area. This lowland agricultural character is rare within the assessment area.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Valleys and rolling lowland (mosaic 20-50% wooded, hedgerow character)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Lowland mosaic >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Moderate</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0.13 • Category 6: 17.98 • Category 7: 73.5 • Category 8: 8.6 • Category 9: 0.02 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Built Land</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Urban</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> town composed of a mix of mixed quality housing, warehouses and light industry. Noise from the M4 along the southern area, with some pleasant views out possible from the higher ground towards Kenfig hill. Change detection monitoring: Recent extension of of housing eastward at Kenfig Hill added to aa.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Development • Settlement pattern: Urban • Boundary type: Mixture <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Coarse • Lines: Angular • Colour: Moderate Contrasts • Balance: Discordant • Unity: Disunity • Pattern: Regular • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>There are attractive views....:</u> ...neither in or out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views....:</u> ...within</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Unattractive. Noisy</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Unassessed.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> n/a.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> n/a.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: N/A • Enhanced: N/A • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: N/A • Enhanced: N/A • Changed: N/A <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 4</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> urban edge. Eastern boundary altered at change detection monitoring to include recent housing at Kenfig Hill.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Low • Integrity: Low • Character: Low • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> all criteria low</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Built land - communities</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Built Land</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Substantial</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 5.0 • Category 5: 19.0 • Category 6: 56.1

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 7: 24.3 • Category 8: 0.5 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

RLDP/NV/2001: Cwmgwrach Railhead

Figure 15: RLDP/NV/2001: Cwmgwrach Railhead



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural Landscape Services (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight <u>Attractive views:</u>...both in and out <u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> <u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Over 75% Zone B <u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No <u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate <u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate <u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However, the presence</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>of commercial developments and road road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 7</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 14.286%, CL7 14.286%, CL16 28.571%, CL20 14.286%, CL35 28.571%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 2</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Cultural Landscape Services (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland</p> <p>Exposed Upland/Plateau</p> <p>Wooded Upland & Plateaux</p> <p><u>Details</u></p> <p><u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight</p> <p><u>Attractive views:</u>...neither in or out</p> <p><u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> Tranquil</p> <p><u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u> <u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B</p> <p><u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Area of forestry is consistently managed and contains numerous landscape features, exposed rock and open upland, which add to the aesthetic quality of this area. The edges and skyline against the Afan and Neath valley complement the valleys' characters.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Character:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% High or outstanding</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 372</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 13.71%, CL7 1.075%, CL10 4.032%, CL16 46.237%, CL20 11.022%, CL31 2.151%, CL32 5.108%, CL35 9.946%.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 3</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 1</p>
Geological Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p>Tectonically controlled topography</p> <p>Tectonically controlled valley (Valley following folds, fault controlled gorges, or scarps)</p> <p><u>Description</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> E-SW fault controlled U-shaped broad valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes, broadening below Neath to plain with sand flats. Alluvium in valley floor. Terraces of sand and gravel flank floodplain in upper stretch, with alluvial fans at valley mouths. Glacial sand and gravel terraces, recessional moraine at Tonna, Aberdulais and Clyne, lake sediments at Resolven. Fluvioglacial terrace below Aberdulais, broadening at Neath. Sand flats on both sides and widely meandering channel at Briton Ferry.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial deposits: Sand, gravel and alluvium • Structural features: NW-SE faults • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, fluvioglacial <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Active upland river or stream channel system. Ancient upland river / stream systems. estuarine</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> River terrace. Alluvial fan (ancient)</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Conserve integrity of regional tectonic feature and glacial depositional features in valley <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nedd floodplain, channel and estuary</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: High • Educational Value: High • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: High • Classic Example: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Neath Fault Zone tectonically controlled, major glacial valley</p>
<p>Geological Landscape (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u></p> <p>N-facing slopes of SW-S dipping Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi Beds mudstone dominated Coal Measures, with coals dissected by NNW-SSE faults controlling N-draining tributaries to Nedd. xtensive boulder clay cover on slopes, with patches of peat. Disused mines and made ground, and opencasts (Selar) across wide areas of strike. Landslip below overlying South Wales Pennant sandstones W of Twyn Gwyn.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): Productive Coal Formation - South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi Beds • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, peat • Structural features: • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement <p><u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Upland valley slope. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Fault controlled topography</p> <p><u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit. Made ground</p> <p><u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial.</p> <p><u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> Beneficial to Neutral</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve SSSI</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Enhance access to SSSI. • Long Term: Monitor afforestation to retain GL character • Long Term: <p><u>Tolerance to Change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> Nedd to N, sandstone dominated South Wales Pennant Formation (Rhondda Beds) to S.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Outstanding • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Outstanding • Rarity / Uniqueness: Outstanding • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding

Quality	Site
	<u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> SSSI Cwm Grwelych and Nant Llyn Fach Streams 290554 215211 - U Carboniferous
Historic Landscape (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment Agricultural Irregular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Policies, plans & information resources</p> <p><u>What has changed? Description. Condition & Trend. Boundaries</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape along the southern valley side of the Vale of Neath, from Tonna to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pont Walby. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043) and to the south by Blaengwrach Opencast (NPTHL004), Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017). In terms of recorded</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>historic assets, this aspect area is most notable for its post medieval farms and houses and its industrial heritage. There are many examples of old coal workings here and the scheduled Melincourt Ironworks lies within its boundaries.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Irregular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Other Settlement. Extractive. Communications</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow. Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Mortared Wall. Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL27) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL26), Cefn Morfudd (HL55) and the Gnoll Estate (HL17). The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity: High <li>• Survival: <li>• Condition: Moderate <li>• Rarity: Outstanding <li>• Potential: Outstanding <li>• Overall Evaluation: Outstanding

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area presents some problems in assessment; while the appearance of the heavily wooded valley may well superficially resemble that captured by late 18th-early 19th century landscape painters such as Hornor, it should be emphasised that much of the existing woodland represents modern coniferous plantation, not the ancient and semi-natural woodland which is shown on the OS 1st edition map. Much of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown in this area on historic maps has survived; however, there has been limited loss of field boundaries and some farmsteads are in a ruined, derelict state or have completely vanished. However, while taking this serious loss of coherence into account, it has been decided to categorise this area as being of overall outstanding importance, in view of the presence of industrial remains of exceptional rarity and national importance, in particular the remains of the early ironworking site at Melincwrt and the remarkably well preserved remains of the Glynneath inclined plane on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad, the second oldest steam-powered incline known to have been built in the United Kingdom.</p>
Historic Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Other built environment</p> <p>Communications</p> <p><u>If Classification is "Other", specify here:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area,</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39). The Neath valley bottom resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history. However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys. The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads. The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have been built on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Regular Fieldscares. Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If working at level 4....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Post & Wire Fence. Cut Drainage</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39).</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: The dominant character of this aspect area, as a long-established, historically important industrial communications/settlement corridor, has remained intact. There is currently a paucity of evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation and, while few vis • Condition: High • Rarity: Moderate • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This area has been assessed as being of outstanding overall value as an historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally well-preserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10-arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Landscape Habitats (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Woodland & Scrub</p> <p>Coniferous Woodland</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic. Surface-water grey soils. Peat soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland: minor component • Planted Coniferous Woodland: main component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: minor component • Bracken: minor component • Acid/Neutral Flush: minor component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Not known</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> SSSI. Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> may have value for nesting birds</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Wet Ditches. Rock Outcrops. Mine Shafts</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Other</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u></p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Thuge area of secondary conifer plantation on upland plateau</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conversion to semi-natural broadleaves, or restoration to open upland habitats</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> discrete area of conifer plantation</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Low • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Unassessed • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Low • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> very large area of secondary semi-upland conifer plantation; no known Priority Habitats of Species, but with numerous remnants of former upland habitats</p>
<p>Landscape Habitats (2)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Rock Exposure & Waste</p> <p>Artificial Exposures & Waste Tips</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification. Recommendations. Boundaries</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?.</u></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Brown soils. Podzolic. Ground-water grey soils</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u> Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland. Improved Grassland. Standing Water. Running Water. Buildings</p> <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u> Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh. Reedbeds</p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u> Local wildlife site</p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 11-20%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Yes</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If yes, which species?</u> otter; reed warbler, sedge warbler, reed bunting (pSINC list)</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Streams. Ponds. Wet Ditches. Hedgerows. Fence Lines. Earth Banks. areas of spoil; industrial and residential developments</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> The aspect area character and value at the landscape level is based on a major river valley floor and associated habitats including BAP features.</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Ensure that land managers engage with agri-environment schemes, particularly ensuring water quality and quantity schemes.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term: Ensure that land managers engage with agri-environment schemes, particularly ensuring water quality and quantity schemes. <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn to edge of valley bottom/river plain</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: High • Significance: High • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Moderate • Sensitivity: Moderate • Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate • Habitat Evaluation: High • Importance for key species: High • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> major river system floodplain, supporting Priority Habitats and Species</p>
Visual Sensory (1)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>Developed Unbuilt Land</p> <p>Road Corridor</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Major dualled road running up the Neath valley, including split level junctions, signage, lighting and surrounding verges etc. The busy road follows the edge and then middle of the valley, frequently raised above the valley floor on embankment and in places diverting the River Neath. Its presence is a detractor through much of the valley both visually and aurally as are elements associated with it including signage and lighting around junctions. The road affords views of the surrounding valley to large numbers of people.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Disturbed • Landcover Pattern: Development • Settlement pattern: No settlements • Boundary type: Fences <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Open • Diversity: Simple • Texture: Medium • Lines: Sinuous • Colour: Strong Contrasts • Balance: Discordant • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Random • Seasonal Interest: None <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> Materials in keeping with highways maintenance</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u>out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Unattractive. Noisy. Threatening. Smell</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Weak</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Low</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Good</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> highways management.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> Manage roadside vegetation to enhance visual diversity.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Term: enhance grass sward to encourage visual diversity Medium Term: screen highway by enhancing deciduous tree cover <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserved: N/A Enhanced: N/A Changed: threatening <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p>

Quality	Site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: vegetation • Enhanced: vegetation • Changed: N/A <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> fenced boundary to road</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: Low • Integrity: Low • Character: Low • Rarity: Low • Overall Evaluation: Low <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The road is a detractor within the valley, vehicles producing almost constant noise and considerable light pollution. The road affords views of the Neath valley to a large number of people.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Industry and infrastructure</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Built Land</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u> Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u> <u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.9 • Category 6: 68.3 • Category 7: 28.6 • Category 8: 0.2 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u> Upland Upland Valleys Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u> <u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> Yes <u>Summary Description:</u> Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx. 20m AOD at Neath to approx. 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal - both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Mixture • Settlement pattern: Village • Boundary type: Fences <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Medium • Sense of Enclosure: Enclosed • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Constant • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58.

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:.</u></p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...both in and out</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u> ...into</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive. Noisy. Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> grazed valley floor with commercial development.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain field pattern and pasture and natural river course.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: enhance field pattern by replanting gaps in hedges • Medium Term: Manage riparian vegetation to emphasise watercourse • Long Term: retain field trees and replant to provide continuity • Medium Term: enhance and protect canal corridor and historical industrial heritage elements • Medium Term: Maintain grazing regime <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: enclosure • Enhanced: settled • Changed: N/A

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserved: field trees and hedges <li>• Enhanced: canal corridor <li>• Changed: relation to road corridors and settlements <p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> east, bridge across river at neath (castle); north break in topography and woodland edge of Hirfynydd; west built form of Glynnedd; south break in topography.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scenic quality: Moderate <li>• Integrity: Moderate <li>• Character: High <li>• Rarity: Moderate <li>• Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercail</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p> <p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 2.4 • Category 6: 76.0 • Category 7: 20.5 • Category 8: 1.1 • Category 9: 0 • Category 10: 0

Urban Capacity Sites 2023

RLDP/PT/UC049: Land at Pen y Bryn

Figure 16: RLDP/PT/UC049: Land at Pen y Bryn



<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cultural	<u>Classification:</u> Upland Upland Valleys Wooded Upland Valleys <u>Details</u> <u>Nighttime Light pollution:</u> Slight <u>Attractive views:</u> ...within <u>Perceptual and sensory qualities:</u> <u>Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance;</u> <u>Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban):</u> Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Undisturbed <u>International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve:</u> No <u>Sense of place/ local distinctiveness:</u> Strong
Landscape	
Services	

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Visual and sensory landscape evaluation:</u> High</p> <p><u>Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value:</u> Cwm Dyffryn is of high scenic quality as a very intimate valley landscape. The area is in fair condition with constant character throughout. A strong sense of place is engendered through the valley both by landform and land cover. The rarity of this area lies in its feeling of relative isolation yet settled character. Considering its close proximity to Port Talbot this is a valuable local amenity.</p> <p><u>Scenic quality:</u> High</p> <p><u>Character:</u> High</p> <p><u>Geological Landscape evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Landscape Habitats evaluation:</u> Over 75% Moderate</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape evaluation:</u> Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate</p> <p><u>World Heritage Sites present:</u> No</p> <p><u>Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority:</u> Approx.57% of people in the area identify as Welsh.</p> <p><u>Welsh language in the authority:</u> Approx.20% of people in the area speak Welsh.</p> <p><u>HER entries:</u> 7</p> <p><u>% HER classes represented >1 %:</u>The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL7 14.286%, CL16 57.143%, CL20 14.286%, CL35 14.286%, .</p> <p><u>Archaeological Watching Briefs:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Archaeological Excavations:</u> 0</p>
Geological Landscape	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Mountain and upland valley</p> <p>Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau</p> <p>Upland plateau</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Description</u></p> <p><u>What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?</u> N facing slopes of broad upland plateau in sandstones with coals of South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones (Llynfi - Brithdir Beds) in gently S-dipping beds of N limb of regional E-W synform. N-facing escarpment above Productive Coal Formation mudstone and coals to N (NPTGL026), and plateau dissected by deep and steep, NE-SW to E-W V-U shaped valleys of Cwm Dyffryn. Landslips on steep valley slopes. Disused coal mines in Dyffryn valley. Boulder clay on lower valley slopes, alluvium in floor and glacial sand and gravel terraces in lower valley. NNW-SSE to N-S faults and E-W fault controlling Cwm Gwyneu - Dyffryn valley.</p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?</u></p> <p><u>Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?</u></p> <p><u>Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?</u></p> <p><u>What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?</u> Upland plateau</p> <p><u>Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s): South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi - Brithdir Beds • Superficial deposits: Boulder clay, alluvium, glacial sand and gravel, peat • Structural features: NNW-SSE, N-S, E-W faults, E-W synform • Active processes: Fluvial • Past processes: Glacial, mass movement

Quality	Site
	<p> <u>What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?</u> Glacial mountain valley. Mass movement. Mineral workings. Other </p> <p> <u>What Level 4 components are notable in this area?</u> Glacial U-shaped valley. Landslip (ancient). Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit </p> <p> <u>What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?</u> Fluvial. </p> <p> <u>Are there components of significant hydrological importance?</u> Yes </p> <p> <u>Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?</u> Yes </p> <p> <u>Is there current mineral extraction?</u> No </p> <p> <u>Has there been mineral extraction in the past?</u> Yes </p> <p> <u>Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?</u> No </p> <p> <u>Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?</u> No </p> <p> <u>Evaluation:</u> </p> <p> <u>Value:</u> Moderate </p> <p> <u>Condition:</u> Good </p> <p> <u>Trend:</u> Constant </p> <p> <u>Recommendations:</u> </p> <p> <u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate </p> <p> <u>Existing management remarks:</u> Neutral </p> <p> <u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Conserve as existing </p> <p> <u>Guideline:</u> Long Term. Long Term </p> <p> <u>Tolerance to Change:</u> </p> <p> <u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?</u> Not known </p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> Other</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> South Wales Pennant Formation, Llynfi- Brithdir sandstones in N facing slopes</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Value: Moderate • Educational Value: Unassessed • Historical Value: Moderate • Rarity / Uniqueness: Moderate • Classic Example: Moderate • Overall Evaluation: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Dissected upland plateau of N limb of regional synform in Llynfi-Brithdir Beds sandstones with coals; landslips; coal mining</p>
<p>Historic Landscape (1)</p>	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Built environment</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Other Settlement</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record remains unchanged following monitoring work</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u></p> <p><u>What has changed?</u></p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. This entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically "urban and industrial" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter comprises the most extensive abbey remains in Wales. Little is visible of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum. Excavated foundations of the southeast gateway and guard chamber are preserved in Roman Way, their antiquity contrasting with the modernity of the surrounding housing estate. The double roadway through the southeast gate was flanked by towers and fronted by a ditch, implying the former existence of a</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>bridge. Excavations in the playing fields, across the road from the southeast gate, in which the line of the northwest defences, detected as a slight rise, have revealed the north angle tower and evidence for timber structures including barracks and the headquarters building. First constructed in the mid 70s AD, the earth and timber defences were rebuilt in stone in the early 120s AD, apparently after a period of abandonment, occupation ceasing around AD 150 (Newman 1995). The lands of Neath Abbey, in 1129, were granted by Richard de Granville, a lieutenant of the Norman lord of Glamorgan, to the abbey of Savigny in Normandy a tract of nearly 8,000 acres (3,240 hectares) of "virgin" Welsh lands by the "nova villa" of Neath. In 1147, when the Savigniac order merged with that of Citeaux, Neath Abbey came under Cistercian rule. Since it was part of the rule that monastic communities must not profit from rents but only from direct exploitation of their estate, each Cistercian community included a large body of lay brothers, who farmed both the lands round the abbey and the granges (Newman 1995). The town and borough of Neath (see HL18) originated in the early 12th century when the Afon Nedd formed the western boundary of Norman penetration into South Wales. Castle and borough town were established on the eastern bank of the river, and the abbey was founded shortly afterwards, on the far side of the river 2km to the west. In the later Middle Ages the town and abbey were in competition for river trade, and in 1491 the Town Hall was reported to be in ruins. The key to Neath's subsequent development as an industrial centre was the availability of coal exceptionally close to the coast. Sir Humphrey Mackworth of the Gnoll, whose mansion dominated the little town from its hilltop, pioneered both copper and lead working from the 1690's, with the celebrated Neath Abbey Iron works began operation soon after (Newman 1995). The Neath Abbey Ironworks benefited from Cornish</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>expertise in specialized casting and engineering, which was transferred to this site by two Quaker families, the Foxes of Falmouth, who took over the site in 1792, and Joseph Tregelles Price (who had worked with James Watt at the great Canon Ironworks at Falkirk) from 1817. The ironworks at Neath Abbey was conveniently located alongside the waterpower resources of the River Clydach a short distance from its confluence with the navigable River Neath. Under Joseph Tregelles Price (1786-1854) the works gained a reputation for high-quality engineering products. The engine manufactory produced locomotives, stationary engines, cast iron roofs and floors, steamships and gasworks. After Price's death stagnation set in, and the works finally closed in 1885. The Vale of Neath Canal, 1794-5, and subsequent railways, opened up the hinterland of Neath. But the town remained of very modest size, clustered around St Thomas's church, held back from the riverbank by a strip of noxious industry. In 1801 there were 2,500 inhabitants, and half a century later the population had little more than doubled (Newman 1995). The historic centre of Port Talbot is at Aberavon where the Afan River exits from the mountains. The name Port Talbot was at first attached to the area further southwest, where tinplate works were established. The flat expanse of "moor" more than a 2km deep and extending for over 4.8km from Margam to the estuary of the River Neath, provided an ideal site for industry. The modern docks were constructed in 1898, and steelworks established by 1907. The Margam Works began production in 1916. Since the Second World War Port Talbot has been, with Llanwern (Gwent), one of the two major sites for a rationalized steel industry in Wales (Newman 1995). Gwalia Tinplate Works were erected in 1892 to use steel produced by the Briton Ferry Ironworks. Acquired by the Briton Ferry Steel Co. and closed in 1953. The building has been truncated, and</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>only five of the stone-built bays survive. The chimneystacks have been dismantled and the building re-roofed, but brick flues in the walls mark the original hearths. A brick-built extension to the west carries a plaque dated 1898-9. On an adjacent site to the north was the Villiers Tinplate Works (1888), of which some modern brick-built buildings remain. An ironworks was established on the eastern bank of the River Neath, at Briton Ferry, in the 1840"s. It was reconstructed in the 1890"s, still as an iron-smelter, and closed in 1958. The site has been completely cleared with the exception of the blast-engine house of 1910, which housed a Richardson-Westgarth quarter-crank blowing engine. The canal depot at Neath is the most complete survivor of its kind in the South Wales valley canals. The Pennant sandstone rubble buildings stand on either side of the Neath Canal (1791-6) at Lock number 1. They consist of the canal manager"s house and stables on the east side, and on the west side a long timber storage shed with a sawpit inside, and an open shed with block and tackle hoisting gear where lock gates were made. Attached to this are a store and a smithy (Newman 1995). Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin was constructed in 1823 by the engineer William Kirkhouse to complete the Tennant Canal. The aqueduct is 104m long, carried on ten masonry arches, and continued via a cast iron trough over an earlier navigable cut. In the basin, remains of sunken boats and at the north end a buried dry dock by a slipway. At the junction of the Tennant and Neath Canals is a roving bridge, Pont Gam "crooked bridge;" with its flanking walls carried on a corbelled series of masonry courses. The only Lock on the canal"s main line is south of the aqueduct, with the Office and Lock-Keepers House (Newman 1995). The waterfall at the Aberdulais Falls Tinplate Works probably powered the first copper-works in Southwest Wales, but the reconstructed water wheel sits in the wheelpit of a later tinplate</p>

Quality	Site
	<p>works, founded in 1830. The site includes an impressive masonry header tank (the "bastion"), the foundations of the adjoining rolling mills, various walls and an 18m high chimney. The early copper-works may have lain south of the river, where a leat leads from the waterfall towards the rear of the 17th century Dulais Rock Public House (Newman 1995). Glyncorrwg Mineral Railway terminates at the Neath Canal in Aberdulais and is the last of the large horse-worked railways to be built in South Wales, 12km long and completed on a monumental scale by the notable South Wales engineer William Kirkhouse 1839-42 (Newman 1995). This aspect area contains a wealth of historical and archaeological monuments, of which a sample of the more notable has been described above. This aspect area represents a historically important and significant landscape recording 2000 years of occupation and settlement in this part of South Wales.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Water & Wetland. Nucleated Settlement. Non-nucleated Settlement. Extractive. Processing/Manufacturing. Communications. Military. Recreational. Horticulture</p> <p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Mortared Wall. Wooden Fence. Iron Railings</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Buried-Waterlogged. Relict-Earthworks. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Circumstantial. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Roman. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> No</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> The area consists of the Neath Port Talbot urban Corridor from Margam in the south, northward to Neath. Along the way this entirely urban and industrial aspect area includes Taibach, Aberavon, Baglan and Briton</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>Ferry. From Neath the aspect area diverges west toward Skewen, including the comprehensive Roman and Medieval remains of Nidum and Neath Abbey, and to the north and east including Bryncoch, Cilfrew, Tonna and Aberdulais. Although the aspect area is characterised as historically ""urban and industrial"" it also includes fine examples of much older monuments. Roman Nidum and Neath Abbey are extremely important monuments; the latter is the most extensive abbey remains in Wales.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: This area represents a long-established urban settlement and communications corridor of considerable historic importance. The earliest evidence of settlement consists of the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum (GGAT PRN 00620w) and its associated civilian sett • Condition: High • Rarity: Outstanding • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> This aspect area has been assessed as being of outstanding value as representing an urban settlement/communications corridor of considerable historic importance, with evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period, and including monuments of exceptional significance, namely, the Roman auxiliary fort of Nidum, the extensive remains of the Cistercian Abbey of Neath and the well-preserved remains of two nationally important industrial sites: the Neath Abbey Ironworks and the Aberdulais Tinplate Works.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
Historic Landscape (2)	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Rural environment</p> <p>Agricultural</p> <p>Regular Fieldsapes</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> Policies, plans & information resources</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Description</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements:</u> Discontinuous area of similar landscape character and historical identity to Mynydd y Gaer; please refer to HL032 for technical information.</p> <p>A small windfarm was constructed on Mynydd y Brombil during 2016.</p> <p><u>If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?</u> Regular Fieldsapes. Woodland. Marginal Land. Extractive. Communications</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>If working at level 4.....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? Power Generation • Which building types prevail in the area? • Which periods prevail in the area? • Which architectural types prevail in the area? • Which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? • Which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? <p><u>Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?</u> Hedgerow With Trees. Dry Stone Walls. Post & Wire Fence</p> <p><u>What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area?</u> Buried-dry. Relict-Earthworks. Relict-Stone Monuments. Buildings & Structures. Documentary. Industrial Archaeology</p> <p><u>Which chronological period is dominant in the area?</u> Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Industrial. Recent</p> <p><u>Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SMR sites here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there SAMs here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Listed Buildings here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Are there Conservation Areas here?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Are there World Heritage Sites here?</u> No</p> <p><u>Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Outstanding</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Unassessed</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> All</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Landline</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> A large aspect area characterised by enclosed upland of a moderately late date. The aspect area consists of three distinct topographical areas of almost identical character. To the north, the uplands and broad hillslopes of Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Dinas and Foel Fynddau define a regular fieldscape of large enclosures. These areas of upland have since been partially covered by modern forestry obscuring the relict post-medieval fieldscape. The Cwmafan Pontrhydyfen corridor (HL13) dissects the continuity of this landscape, separating Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Bychan, two more areas of enclosed upland defined by a broadly similar pattern, from their northern counterparts. The landscape of Mynydd Brombil to the south, in a much similar way to those areas farther north, has had the continuity of this landscape pattern interrupted by Cwm Duffryn (HL54 and HL31). These upland areas form a broad elevated barrier from Neath (HL54) to the Margam Moors (HL01) separating the coastal littoral from the interior. Each distinct topographical area retains the same pattern concerning the distribution of historical and archaeological monuments.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity: Outstanding • Survival: • Condition: Moderate

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarity: High • Potential: Outstanding • Overall Evaluation: Outstanding <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> The value of outstanding assigned to this area reflects the fact that this is a well-preserved landscape of enclosed upland, untouched by modern forestry plantation, and the multi-period nature of the archaeological record, with evidence of Bronze Age ritual/funerary activity, Iron Age settlement, medieval upland pastoral settlement (including the remarkably extensive complex of rabbit warrens) and later post-medieval enclosure.</p>
Landscape Habitats	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p>Mosaic</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring undertaken by:</u> Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP</p> <p><u>Has this record been updated following monitoring work?</u> This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available</p> <p><u>Change indicated by:</u> OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps</p> <p><u>What has changed?</u> Classification</p> <p><u>Has the information ever been verified in the field?</u> No</p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>What are the dominant soil types?</u> Podzolic</p> <p><u>What Phase 1 habitat types are present?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered Scrub: significant component • Semi-improved Acid Grassland: significant component • Semi-improved Neutral Grassland: minor component • Bracken: major component <p><u>Does the area contain habitats of international importance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which habitats of international importance?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain BAP habitats?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which BAP habitats?</u></p> <p><u>Does the area contain protected sites?</u> No</p> <p><u>If yes, which ones?</u></p> <p><u>Approx. what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?</u> 0%</p> <p><u>Does the area support important species?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>If yes, which species?</u> .</p> <p><u>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</u> Rock Outcrops</p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a very good condition?</u></p> <p><u>Are any of these features in a poor condition?</u></p> <p><u>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area?</u> Stock grazing</p>

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity?</u></p> <p><u>Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?</u></p> <p><u>Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character:</u> Semi-upland ffridd slopes mainly supporting bracken cover but in mosaic with acid and other grasslands</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Constant</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing management:</u> Unassessed</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendations:</u> Consider reducing the Bracken dominance in parts of the Aspect Area.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> drawn by default to edge of relevant contours</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Habitats: Moderate • Significance: Moderate • Opportunity: Moderate • Expansion rates: Low • Sensitivity: Low • Connectivity/Cohesion: Low • Habitat Evaluation: Moderate • Importance for key species: Moderate • Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> extensive area of semi-natural ffridd habitats</p>
Visual Sensory	<p><u>Classification:</u></p> <p>Upland Upland Valleys Wooded Upland Valleys</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p><u>Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?</u> No</p> <p><u>Summary Description:</u> Enclosed deeply incised valley with strong upland character rising from approx. 50m AOD in valley bottom to approx. 250m AOD. The valley runs east from Port Talbot, bounded by the uplands of Mynydd Margam and Mynydd Emroch lining the sides with coniferous plantation. The valley bottom and sides are a mosaic of deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland and grazed pasture, bounded with fences and mainly outgrown hedges. There are a scattering of dwellings and developments along the valley, connected by the single road which runs its length. Many of the recent interventions and improvements have used inappropriate</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p>materials or poor finishes. The area has a quiet character despite its close proximity to Port Talbot, with a 'hidden' landscape in the valley bottom.</p> <p><u>Physical Form and Elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographic Form: Hills/Valleys • Landcover Pattern: Field Pattern/Mosaic • Settlement pattern: Mixture • Boundary type: Managed Hedge <p><u>Aesthetic Qualities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: Small • Sense of Enclosure: Confined • Diversity: Diverse • Texture: Medium • Lines: Angular • Colour: Muted • Balance: Balanced • Unity: Neutral • Pattern: Organised • Seasonal Interest: Mixed <p><u>Other Factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Human Access? Infrequent • Nighttime Light pollution? Question 19 Nighttime Light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58. <p><u>Generally Inappropriate:</u></p> <p><u>What materials? Give Details:</u> New development/additions using cheap materials - rendered and unrendered blockwork</p> <p><u>There are attractive views...:</u> ...within</p> <p><u>There are detractive views...:</u>out</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Attractive.</p> <p>Sheltered. Settled</p> <p><u>What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness:</u> Strong</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u></p> <p><u>Value:</u> High</p> <p><u>Condition:</u> Fair</p> <p><u>Trend:</u> Declining</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <p><u>Existing Management:</u> Generally Appropriate.</p> <p><u>Existing management remarks:</u> mixture of grazed pasture and commercial woodland.</p> <p><u>Principal management recommendation:</u> maintain field pattern.</p> <p><u>Guideline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Repair/reinstate hedges/walls • Medium Term: maintain and preserve deciduous woodland along riparian corridor • Medium Term: Plant deciduous trees on edge of coniferous forest to improve integration <p><u>Define the key qualities that should be...:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: Quiet, settled, sheltered • Enhanced: Quiet, settled, sheltered • Changed: N/A <p><u>Define the key elements that should be....:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserved: deciduous woodland, open fields • Enhanced: boundaries • Changed: coniferous edge

Quality	Site
	<p><u>Tolerance to change:</u></p> <p><u>Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?</u> Not known</p> <p><u>Aspect Area Boundary:</u></p> <p><u>To what level was this information site-surveyed?</u> Level 3</p> <p><u>At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?</u> Most</p> <p><u>What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?</u> OS Raster</p> <p><u>If OS Data was used, what was the scale?</u> 1:10,000 and 1:25,000</p> <p><u>What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?</u> woodland edge of Mynydd Margam to S/E, extent of built form of Bryn to east, built form of Port Talbot and edge of unenclosed scarp to west, base of scarp and woodland edge of plantation which runs into valey from N/E. The north boundary is the visible ridge line following road.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix:</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation Criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic quality: High • Integrity: Moderate • Character: High • Rarity: High • Overall Evaluation: High <p><u>Justification of overall evaluation:</u> Cwm Dyffryn is of high scenic quality as a very intimate valley landscape. The area is in fair condition with constant character throughout. A strong sense of place is engendered through the valley both by landform and land cover. The rarity of this area lies in its feeling of relative isolation yet settled character. Considering its close proximity to Port Talbot this is a valuable local amenity.</p>

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Site</u>
	<p><u>LMP 14 & 09</u></p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14):</u> Upland, exposed plateau, valleys, hillsides and scarp slopes (wooded 20-50%)</p> <p><u>LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09):</u> Upland >20% wooded</p> <p><u>Dark Skies:</u></p> <p>Nighttime Light pollution: Slight</p> <p><u>Tranquillity and Place:</u></p> <p><u>% in visually tranquil:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: 0 • Category 2: 0 • Category 3: 0 • Category 4: 0 • Category 5: 0 • Category 6: 3.1 • Category 7: 21.9 • Category 8: 74.9 • Category 9: 8.0 • Category 10: 0

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for further information



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council