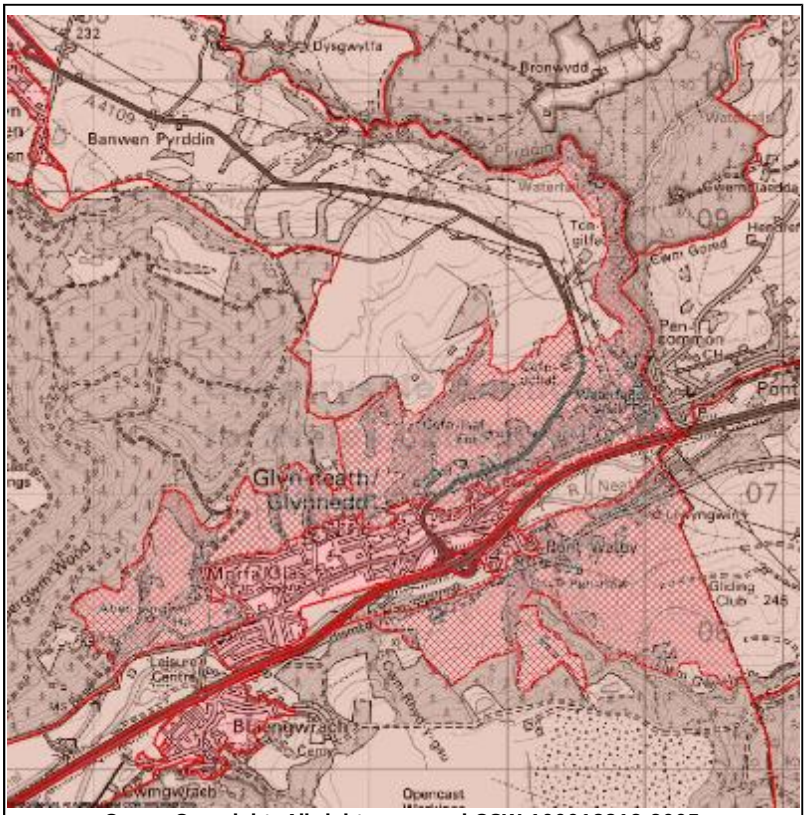
Visual and Sensory

Aspect Area Name	Gelliceibryn / Pont Walby
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Upland Valleys/Wooded Upland Valleys (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	NPTVS430
Assessor	
Date Of Survey : 18/10/2003	



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General

Has the information been verified in the field?	Yes (1:10000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (upper reaches of neath valley)

Description

Summary Description	Both sides of Neath valley east of Glynnedd, deeply cut with minor valleys. The areas are heavily wooded with enclosed areas of pasture, boundaries of which are predominantly grown out hedges. The deciduos cover gives a more sheltered, settled feel than much of the surrounding area. The woodland hides evidence of workings to the south west. There are scattered settlements throughout the area and only minor roads and footpaths. Deciduous woodland contrasts with surrounding land cover - moorland/ coniferous plantations. This area appears run down with areas of encroachment of bracken and scrub.
Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Hills/Valleys
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Field Pattern/Mosaic
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Scattered Rural/Farm
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Overgrown Hedges
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Small
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Enclosed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Complex
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Unity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Random

Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	Mixed
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Substantial (roads through and settlement below)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	
There are attractive views...	...within (intimate views - small valleys)
There are detractive views...	...neither in or out
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive Sheltered Safe Settled
What is the sense of place / local distinctiveness	Moderate (at an intimate level has a strong sense of place within the small valleys)

Evaluation

Value:	Moderate (Heavily wooded pastoral landscape with an intimate scenic quality. Although there has been some disturbance in areas, deciduous cover helps maintain a constant character throughout the area. To the east, in the Nedd Fechan valley, a series of waterfalls attract visitors, confirming the scenic quality of the area.)
Condition:	Fair (areas of bracken encroachment on higher ground)
Trend:	Declining (minimal management evident)

Recommendations

Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	upland grazed pasture with minimal management input
Principal management recommendation:	maintain deciduous tree cover
Guideline	Medium Term (maintain deciduous tree cover) Medium Term (reinstate hedges, lay and replant gaps) Medium Term (maintain grazing regime) Medium Term (control bracken)
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	sheltered nature
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	settled nature
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	na
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	deciduous tree cover
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	hedgerows, valleys
Define the key elements that should be changed:	bracken

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known

Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000 and 1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	area to north - edge of woodland of Hirfynydd; break in topography of valley bottom, extent of built form of Glynnedd; county boundary to east; break in topography to north. area to south - surrounding woodland edge, county boundary to east; break in topography of valley bottom

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (pleasing patterns of landscape features)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Moderate (no sigificant development)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	High (distinct and common local character and sense of place)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (relatively scarce in the borough)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (three moderate and one high evaluation.)
Justification of overall evaluation	Heavily wooded pastoral landscape with an intimate scenic quality. Although there has been some disturbance in areas, deciduous cover helps maintain a constant character throughout the area. To the east, in the Nedd Fechan valley, a series of waterfalls attract visitors, confirming the scenic quality of the area.

Assessment

Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	