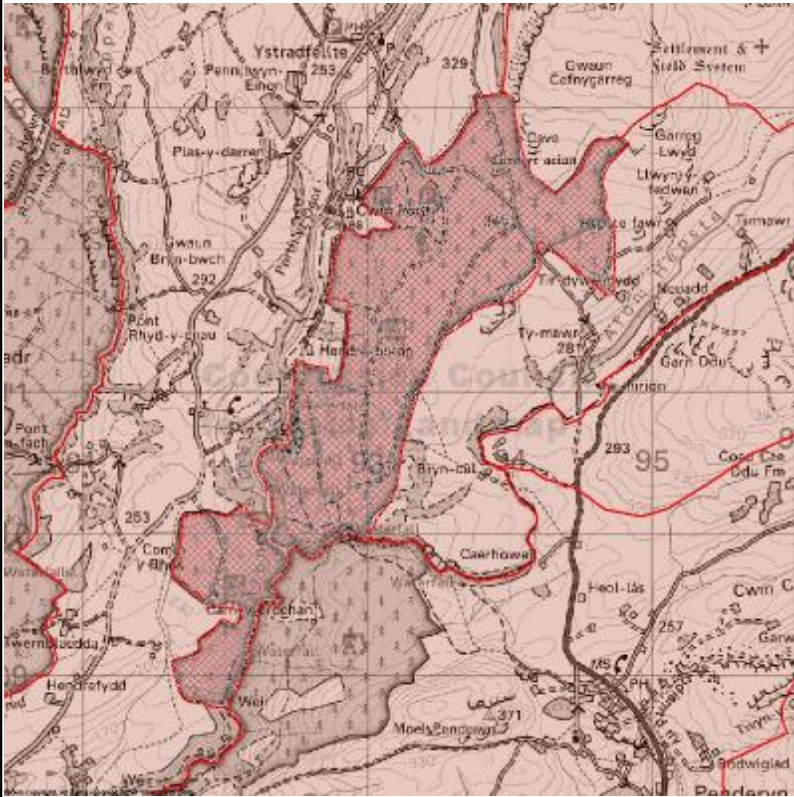


Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	Gwaun Hepste
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Upland Valleys/Wooded Upland Valleys (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	BRCKNVS911
Assessor	
Date Of Survey : 04/02/2003	
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General

Has the information been verified in the field?	Yes (1:10000/1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	

Description

Summary Description	A significant area of coniferous forestry, some relatively immature and some already felled on a ridge between Mellte and Hepste Valleys. A small part of the coniferous forest lies west of the Mellte. The plantations are dominated by spruce but have some other species such as larch and are somewhat monotonous, visually. They form an abrupt edge against the adjoining pasture. The cleared areas are unsightly. The deciduous woodland of the Mellte Valley is very attractive. The river with waterfalls and rocky course is very attractive and is used by cavers and others for recreation. There are paths through this area and the coniferous woodland.
Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Hills/Valleys
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Woodland
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	No settlements
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Fences
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Enclosed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Simple
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Straight
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Discordant
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Unity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Regular

Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Negligible (No dwellings and 1 minor road.)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	
There are attractive views...	...out (Views out to hills possible.)
There are detractive views...	...into (Views in are of monocultural coniferous block with hard edge.)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive Unattractive Tranquil
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Weak (Conifer plantation could be anywhere)
Evaluation	
Value:	Moderate (Mellte Valley is outstanding)
Condition:	Fair
Trend:	Constant
Recommendations	
Existing management	Generally Inappropriate
Existing management remarks:	Conifers managed primarily for forestry with some recreation. Deciduous woodland around Mellte Valley managed for recreation/amenity
Principal management recommendation:	Diversify tree species in coniferous plantations especially in publicly accessible areas
Guideline	Medium Term (Selectively fell conifers over time and diversify especially on edge) Medium Term (Manage deciduous woodland to encourage regeneratio/diversity) Medium Term (Manage recreational routes to encourage access without damage to river/woodland)
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	Mllte Valley - river and deciduous woodland
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	Coniferous forestry monotonous
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Deciduous woodland. River course/waterfalls. Access.
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	
Define the key elements that should be changed:	Coniferous forest limited species.
Tolerance To Change	
Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	
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?	Edge of forestry and woodland including a small portion of River Mellte Valley.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	

Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (Except Mellte Valley which is outstanding. Conifers are moderate)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	High (Both Mellte Valley and conifers are high.)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (Conifers are moderate. Mellte Valley is outstanding.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (Conifers moderate. Mellte Valley is outstanding.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (Mellte Valley is outstanding.)
Justification of overall evaluation	The forestry plantation is consistently managed and has consistent character with integrity. It is dominated by a single species which leads to monotony visually. The Mellte Valley is covered with deciduoud woodland focussing on the impressive water falls and rocky channel. This area is of outstanding/high value.
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	