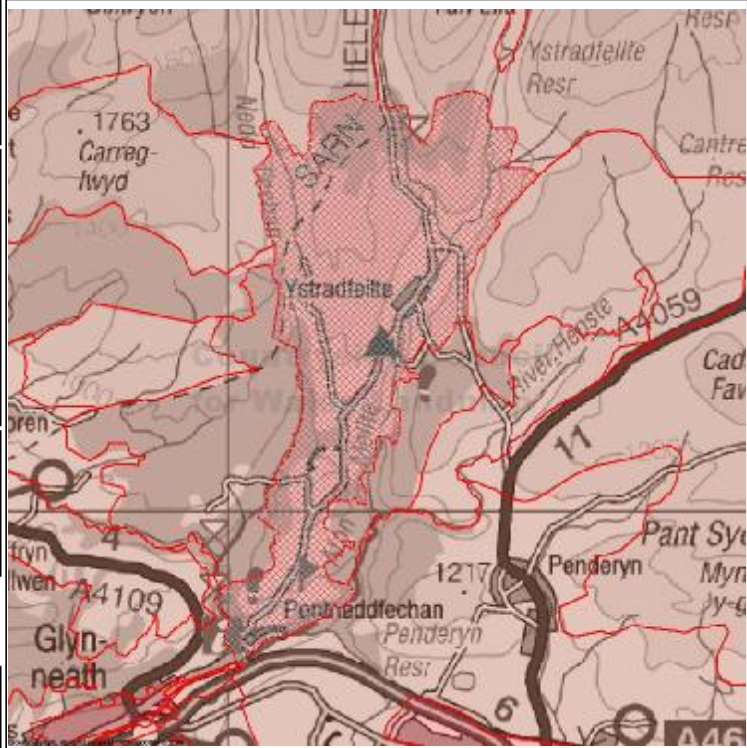


Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	Nedd Fechan and Mellte Valleys
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Upland Valleys/Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	BRCKNVS876
Assessor	
Date Of Survey : 04/02/2003	
	

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 (Moorland to north and east)

Description

Summary Description	<p>The pastoral upland valleys of the Mellte and Nedd Fechan run south from the upland massif of Fforest Fawr cutting through the limestone upland. Between them is a low ridge which has rock outcrops and common land in places. This area is more open with larger fields and little woody vegetation. The landcover is dominated by pasture with riparian deciduous woodland, particularly on steep slopes, and grown out hedgerows, all of which contribute to an enclosed, sheltered landscape. Some of the woodlands are grazed, eliminating understorey and allowing clear views. Rectilinear blocks of coniferous forest lie on the upper slopes below Fan Llia and Fan Nedd. Occasional conifers associated with dwellings reinforce the upland character. Settlement is mainly scattered farmsteads. Ystradfellte and Pontneddfechan are the only settlements, nestling in the valley floor of the Mellte and Nedd Fechan respectively. The latter has crept up the hill with suburban housing which is out of character. The main interest in the area is focussed on the rivers with their associated waterfalls and limestone caves. The river courses are rocky and have strong riparian vegetation. Visitors focus on these areas for walking and caving.</p>
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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?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Enclosed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Diverse
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Unity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Organised
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	Mixed

Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Slight (minor roads and settlements)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	stone
There are attractive views...	...both in and out (to and from adjacent uplands)
There are detractive views...	...neither in or out
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive Tranquil Sheltered Safe Settled Spiritual
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Strong (valleys are waterfall country- distinctive characteristic)
Evaluation	
Value:	Outstanding
Condition:	Fair
Trend:	Declining
Recommendations	
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Upland valley pastoral management
Principal management recommendation:	Conserve river corridor, deciduous woodland and hedgerows
Guideline	Medium Term (manage river corridor to minimise impact of visitors on river, rocks and vegetation) Medium Term (conserve/manage woodland cover avoiding grazing of woodland floor.) Medium Term (conserve/manage hedgerows, laying where appropriate.) Medium Term (manage commons for sward species diversity) Immediate (Restrict growth of settlements.)
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	
Define the key elements that should be changed:	
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?	county boundary to the south, forest boundary to east and west and upland moorland to north.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Outstanding
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	High
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Outstanding
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Outstanding
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding

Justification of overall evaluation	The valleys have a high scenic quality through their unspoilt upland pastoral mosaic character. The main interest is in the river courses with their superb landscape of rocky beds, waterfalls and caves in a woodland setting. The area is known as Waterfall Country and has a strong sense of place. It is well visited for the beauty of the countryside as setting for the waterfalls which indicates consensus on value. The area is generally of consistent character.
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	