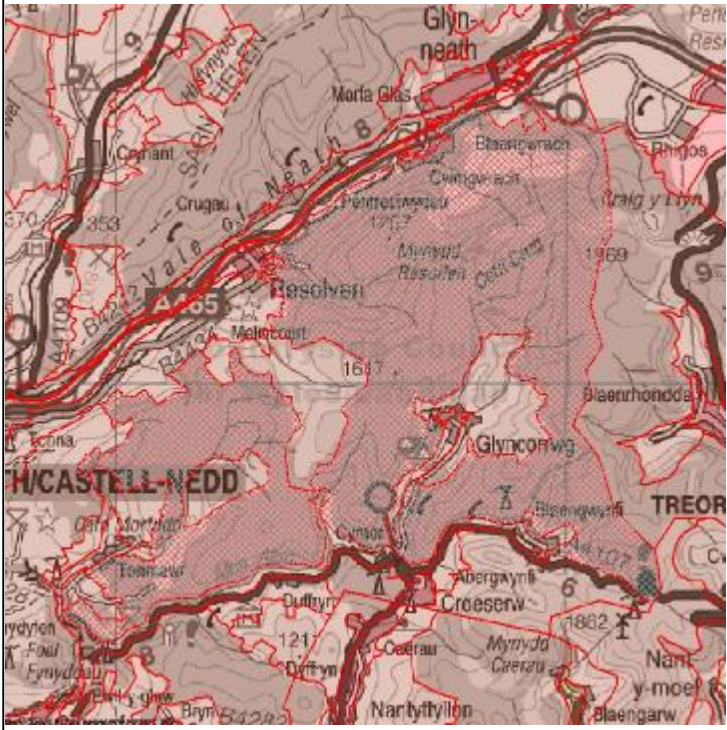


Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Exposed Upland/Plateau/Wooded Upland & Plateaux (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	NPTVS962
Assessor	
Date Of Survey : 18/10/2003	
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General	
Has the information been verified in the field?	Yes (1:10000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (forms part of valley side to of Avan and Neath valleys)
Description	
Summary Description	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 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.
Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Plateaux
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Woodland
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	No settlements
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	None
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Large
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Confined
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Simple
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Organised
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	Autumn (larch)
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Slight (nothern edge - from neath valley settlements and roads)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	
There are attractive views...	...neither in or out
There are detractive views...	...neither in or out

Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Tranquil Remote
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Weak (Coniferous plantation - forms sides of valleys, but has no real distinction as an element)
<b>Evaluation</b>	
Value:	Moderate (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.)
Condition:	Good (managed commercial plantation)
Trend:	Constant (management evident)
<b>Recommendations</b>	
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	production conifer plantation
Principal management recommendation:	Vary composition of woodland to increase visual variety, larch/deciduous
Guideline	Medium Term (vary composition of woodland to increase visual variety - larch/deciduous) Medium Term (enhance landscape features within forestry by selective thinning and felling) Medium Term (maintain open heath and exposed rock)
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	tranquility
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	remoteness
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	na
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	open areas
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	landscape, topographical features
Define the key elements that should be changed:	woodland composition
<b>Tolerance To Change</b>	
Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
<b>Aspect Area Boundary</b>	
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?	Woodland edge along avan 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
<b>Bibliography</b>	
List the key sources used for this assessment	
<b>Evaluation Matrix</b>	
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (trees emphasise topography on valley sides giving drama. overall the trees form a simple pattern which can be monotonous on flatter areas although there are numerous landscape features. edges are abrupt and when straight are detractive in parts when straight seen against adjacent open landscape. large cleared forest areas are detractive. on balance the area is moderate.)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Moderate (generally unspoilt by development, and coherence of contents)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (common character throughout with a clear sense of place)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Low (common through borough)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (predominantly moderate evaluations)
Justification of overall evaluation	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.
<b>Assessment</b>	
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	