

APPENDIX 12.2

LANDMAP Baseline



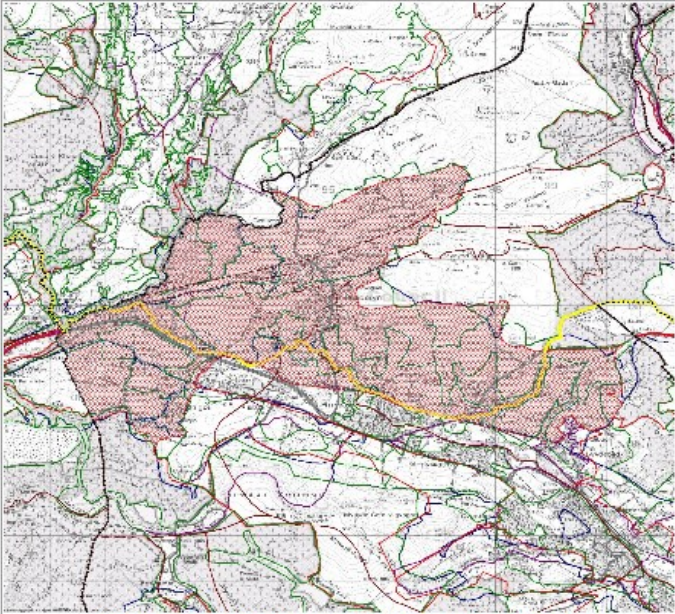
Chapter Twelve

APPENDIX 12.2

LANDMAP BASELINE

Review of Aspect Areas

- 12.1 The sheets overleaf have been saved from the LANDMAP online database from the NRW website and cover all aspect areas located within the Study Area and ZTV.

Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	penderyn
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes/Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS833
Date Of Survey : 26/01/2004	
	

Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Hills/Valleys
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Field Pattern/Mosaic
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Large
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Open
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Simple
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Regular
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Moderate
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	n/a
There are attractive views...	...both in and out (n/a)
There are detractive views...out (urban edge)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Exposed (n/a)
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Moderate (Upper valley sides with upland feel and tinged by urban edge, slight incongruous mix)

Evaluation

Value:	Moderate (n/a)
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be changed:	n/a
Principal management recommendation:	prevent overgrazing

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
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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?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	landform,contour, urban edge to south. South west boundary at Rhigos altered at change detection to exclude part of Tower Colliery land.

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	os data
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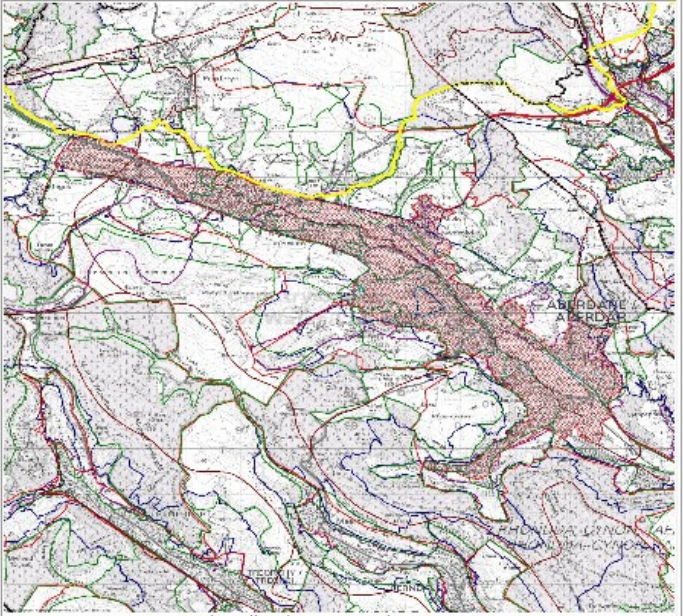
Assessment

Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (Valley sides with pattern of field boundaries/woodland, but detractive elements eg urban
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Justification of overall evaluation	edge, pylons traffic noise, of local importance)
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (some attractive view to uplands but visual detractors eg urban edge, pylons)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Moderate (n/a)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (moderate sop)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (n/a)
Description	
Summary Description	Upper valley sides with strong upland feel-both from the strong visual link that exists and the rough grazing with some woodland/conifer elements... slight urban feel on lower slopes but dominant character is that of an upland area... visual detractors include pylons and the sharply defined urban edge... noise and movement from the A465... scattered farmsteads. Minor boundary change at monitoring, adjacent to Tower Colliery.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Scattered Rural/Farm
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Mixture
Recommendations	
Guideline	Immediate (soften urban edge) Medium Term (restrict pylons) Medium Term (reduce impact of A465 eg planting)
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	agriculture, conifer plantation
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (strong visual link with upland area)
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Winter
Date of monitoring?	2012-12-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs
What has changed?	

Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	aberdare
Aspect Area Classification	Development/Built Land/Urban (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS522
Date Of Survey : 29/01/2004	
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Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Hills/Valleys
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Development
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Enclosed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Complex
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Discordant
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Disunity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Regular
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Constant
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Substantial (street/buildings)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Inappropriate
What materials? Give Details:	n/a
There are attractive views...out (uplands)
There are detractive views...	...within (urban)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Unattractive (n/a)
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Weak (n/a)

Evaluation

Value:	Low
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Constant

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be changed:	n/a
Principal management recommendation:	n/a

Tolerance To Change

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

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 4
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	limit of urban edge

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	os data
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Assessment

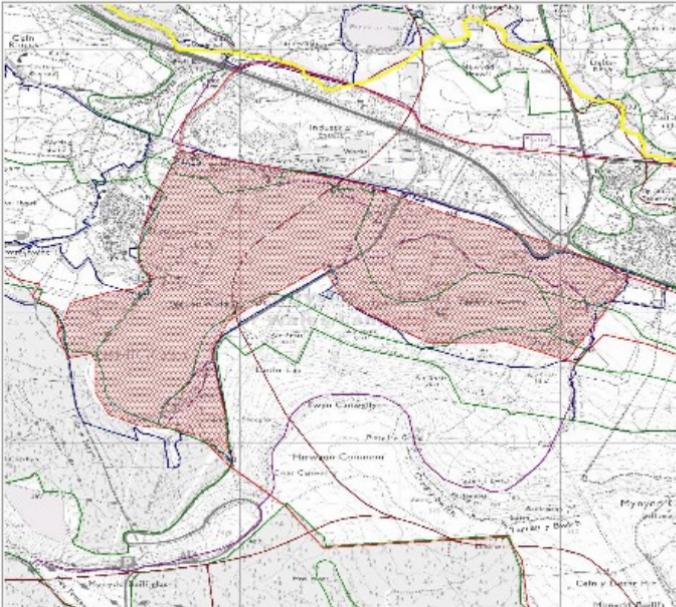
Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix

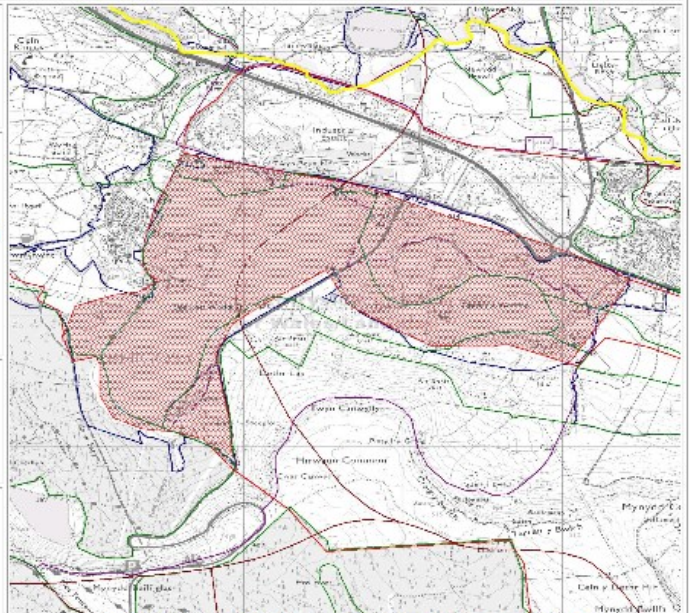
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Low (without any positive visual and sensory qualities, this urban area with remnants of past mining industry has little or no importance... the views out to the adjacent upland areas are the only limited
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	visual quality, and these are usually compromised by an element of built form)
Justification of overall evaluation	all criteria low
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Low (n/a)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Low (n/a)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Low (weak sop)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Low (n/a)
Description	
Summary Description	urban development in floor of relatively wide valley... range of built form creates visual compexity eg houses/ industrial estate/spoil heaps... some views out to neighbouring upland areas provide a partial antidote to teh unattractive built environment and contribute to its sense of place within the wider upland setting... background traffic noise from A4059 ...
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Urban
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Mixture
Recommendations	
Guideline	Medium Term (careful development control to limit housing/urban sprawl)
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	n/a
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	
Date of monitoring?	2012-12-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, inconsultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	Tower Colliery
Aspect Area Classification	Development/Developed Unbuilt Land/Excavation (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS001
Date Of Survey : 06/01/2012	



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Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Disturbed
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Mixture
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Open
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Diverse
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Discordant
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Disunity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Random
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Slight (Lighting of yards, etc)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Inappropriate
What materials? Give Details:	Mix of concrete, metal etc.
There are attractive views...out (To Rhigos mountain, and other scarp above.)
There are detractive views...	...into (open cast mining, clutter of scattered buildings, yards, o/h cables and conveyors seen from above from road over Rhigos mountain)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Unattractive (n/a) Noisy Threatening
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Strong (One of few open cast coal mines in Wales, with history of workers' ownership.)

Topic	Question	Answer
Evaluation		

Value:	Low (Although distinct and relatively rare, its disturbed and unattractive qualities means that it is overall low)
Condition:	Fair
Trend:	Declining (As coal is extracted)

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	openness
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	disruption and neglect
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Moorland/grassland habitats
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	Mix of habitats
Define the key elements that should be changed:	unused structures
Principal management recommendation:	Efficient extraction of coal followed by restoration

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
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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?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	limit of excavation and associated land. Boundaries expanded to north west, and east to take in all associated land, at change detection monitoring (from former aspect area)

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	os data
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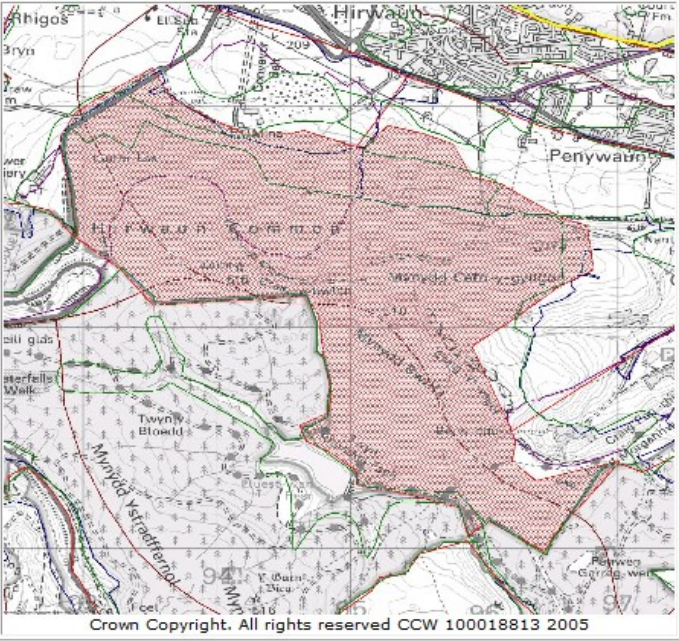
Assessment

Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Low (Although distinct and relatively rare, its disturbed and unattractive qualities means that it is overall low)
Justification of overall evaluation	50% criteria low 50% moderate
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Low (Generally disturbed land, with vehicles, buildings and other clutter)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Low (disturbed)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (Distinct but unattractive character)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (One of few open cast mines remaining in Valleys)
Description	
Summary Description	New aspect area created at change detection monitoring. Area of opencast mining, started in 2012, following on from long history of deep mining and workers' takeover. In state of change as extraction expands, currently with much restored grassland. Although in parts unsightly, seen from road over Rhigos mountain and nearby village, it has interest and rarity value, and fine views out to adjacent scarp.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	No settlements
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Mixture
Recommendations	
Guideline	Immediate (Ensure minimum disturbance to land not being used for extraction) Immediate (Keep noise, dust to minimum) Medium Term (On-going restoration of disturbed land to grassland)
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Open cast coal mining and grassland
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Winter
Date of monitoring?	2013-01-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA. Based on 2011/12 change detection.
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs Policies, plans & information resources Fieldwork
What has changed?	

Visual and Sensory

Aspect Area Name	Hirwaun Common
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Exposed Upland/Plateau/Upland Grazing (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS430
Date Of Survey : 28/01/2005	



Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	High Hills/Mountains
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Open Land
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Vast
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Exposed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Uniform
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Curved
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Unity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Regular
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Rare
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Negligible
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	Stone walling
There are attractive views...	...both in and out (Uplands)
There are detractive views...	...within (Some electricity pylons but not on skyline...)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive Exposed
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Strong (Upland sense of place results from rough ground, rocky outcrops and exposure...)

Evaluation

Value:	High (n/a)
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	open, exposed, wild...
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Grazing
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be changed:	n/a
Principal management recommendation:	Grazing management

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
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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?	Other (OS Raster, Phase 1 habitat)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Landform, contour, edge of plantation to west...Western boundary altered at change detection monitoring to exclude expansion of Tower Colliery.

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	OS data, Phase 1 habitat
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (Attractive largely unspoilt upland area with strong sense of place and good views)
Justification of overall evaluation	All criteria high
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	High (Attractive upland views)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	High (Largely unspoilt, some elec pylons present but not on skyline so not as intrusive...)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	High (Strong upland fell giving sense of place...)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	High (n/a)

Description

Summary Description	Dramatic landscape of rough grazed grassland with rock outcrops and some marshy areas lying between approximately 200m and 515mAOD... Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness... Attractive upland views within and attractive rolling terrain to north... A475 is a visual detractor...Adjacent Tower Colliery has expanded, so aspect area boundary in west has been altered at change detection.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	No settlements
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Stone Walls

Recommendations

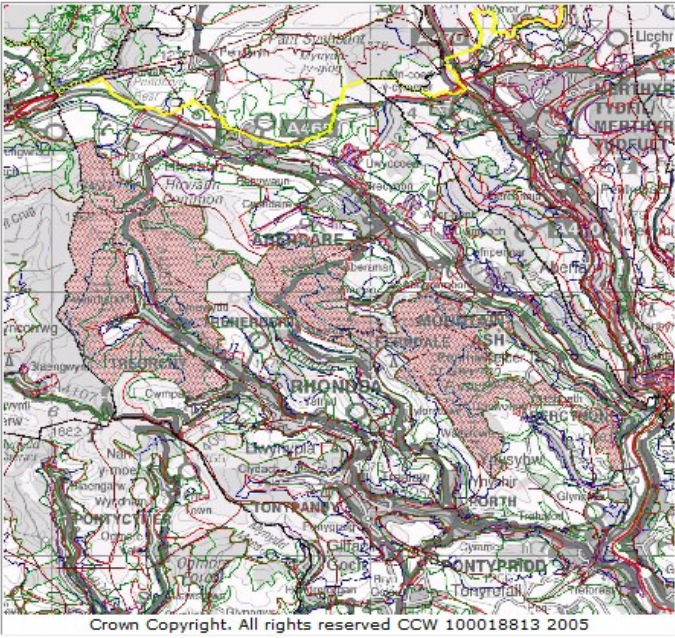
Guideline	Long Term (Prevent over grazing)
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	Grazing

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Winter
Date of monitoring?	2013-01-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA. Based on 2011/12 change detection.
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs Fieldwork
What has changed?	

Visual and Sensory

Aspect Area Name	St Gwynno
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Exposed Upland/Plateau/Wooded Upland & Plateaux (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS580
Date Of Survey : 26/01/2004	



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Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	High Hills/Mountains
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Woodland
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Large
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Enclosed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Simple
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Regular
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	Winter (Evergreen colour)
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Rare
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Negligible (n/a)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	n/a
There are attractive views...out (partially filtered/screened views out to adjacent upland areas)
There are detractive views...	...neither in or out (n/a)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Sheltered Other (wind noise in trees)
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Moderate (lack of specific sop)

Evaluation

Value:	Moderate (n/a)
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	shelter
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	angularity
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	trees
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be changed:	soften edges
Principal management recommendation:	introduce broadleaf woodland mix

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
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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?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	forest edge, study area boundary to east and south

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	os data
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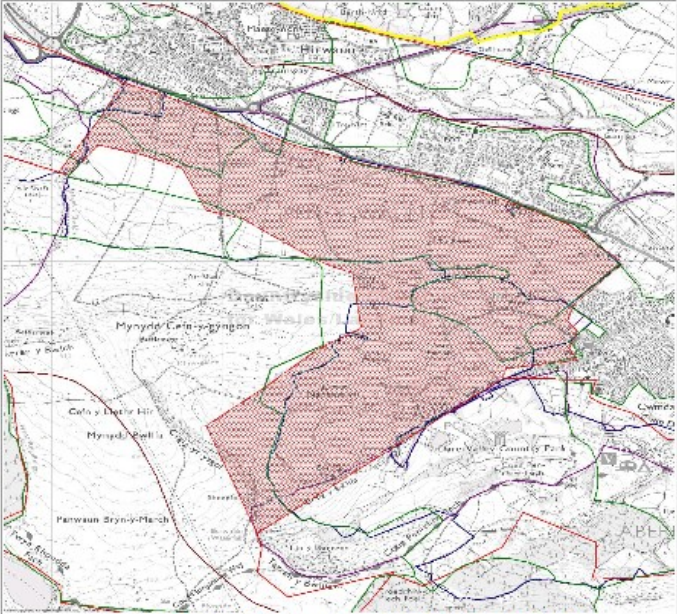
Assessment

Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (fairly typical upland plantation with moderate sop and limited views, mainly from higher open
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Justification of overall evaluation	all criteria moderate for this typical upland plantation... it should be noted that the area has a recreational amenity value, indicated by picnic sites, trails and carparking
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (limited views)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Moderate (the conifer plantation is generally intact, but some dumping of refuse/cars visual detractor)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (moderate sop)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (n/a)
Description	
Summary Description	upland landscape dominated by coniferous forest with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed... strongly defined undulating topography with ridges and valleys creates a multi-scaled landscape with a variety of spaces... limited views out to upland areas... some car/refuse dumping minor eyesore/visual detractor...Appears to have been large areas felled on western edge recently. Unable to verify on site.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	No settlements
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Mixture
Recommendations	
Guideline	Medium Term (maintain open spaces) Immediate (Implement Forest Design Plans) Immediate (broadleaf planting along edge/stream course)
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	forestry
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Winter
Date of monitoring?	2013-01-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA. Based on 2011/12 change detection.
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs Satellite Imagery Interpretation Policies, plans & information resources
What has changed?	

Visual and Sensory	
Aspect Area Name	Craing Nantmelyn
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes/Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS890
Date Of Survey : 28/01/2005	
	

Description	
Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Hills/Valleys
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Mixture
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Open
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Diverse
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Coarse
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Moderate Contrasts
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Regular
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Infrequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Moderate
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	n/a
There are attractive views...out (To uplands of Hirwaun Common)
There are detractive views...out (To urban area of Hirwaun)
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Moderate (Caught between mixture of upland (on upper slopes) and urban(on lower slopes) influences slightly incongruous mix...)

Evaluation	
Value:	Moderate (n/a)
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations	
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	Openness
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be changed:	n/a
Principal management recommendation:	Land management(grazing, bracken control)

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?	Other (OS Raster, Phase 1 habitat)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Penywaun to the north and more upland areas of hirwaun common to the south west...North west boundary altered at chnage detection monitoring to exclude expansion of Tower Colliery activities.

Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	OS data, Phase 1 habitat

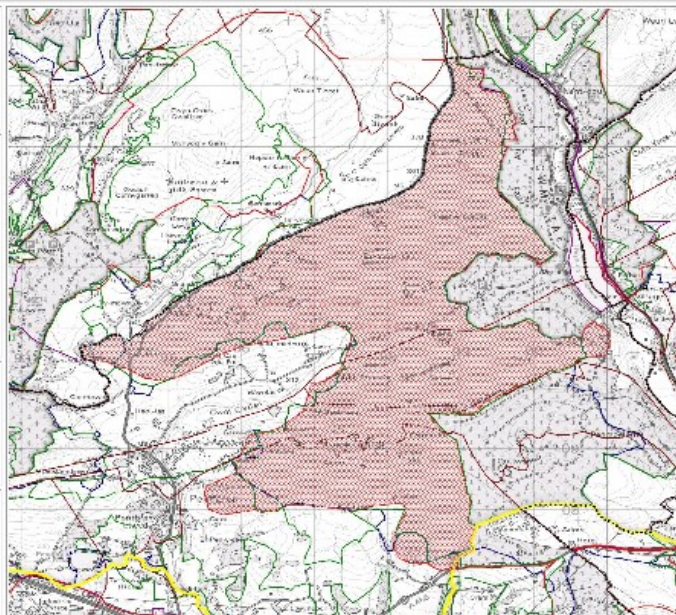
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (No single defining feature of regional importance to justify more than local importance... Scenic quality and integrity both reduced by the presence of urban areas)

	quality and imagery been reduced by the presence of urban areas?
Justification of overall evaluation	All criteria moderate...
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (Some attractive views out to neighbouring upland , and slightly detractive views to urban areas in valley floor...)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Moderate (Urban edge detracts from overall integrity)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (Moderate sense of place...)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (n/a)
Description	
Summary Description	Lower slopes to the east of Hirwaun Common... Generally grazing land with bracken and small scattered clumps of woodland...Open character and more upland feel is tempered by urban edge presence to north (Penywaun)... Views similarly polarised into upland to south west and urban to north east... Some more distant upland views to north past Penywaun however...Expansion of Tower Colliery activities has reduced aspect area at change detection.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Scattered Rural/Farm
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Mixture
Recommendations	
Guideline	Medium Term (Limit urban spread up valley sides, reduce well defined edge)
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	Grazing...
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Winter
Date of monitoring?	2013-01-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA. Based on 2011/12 change detection.
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs
What has changed?	Fieldwork

Visual and Sensory

Aspect Area Name	cadair fawr
Aspect Area Classification	Upland/Exposed Upland/Plateau/Upland Grazing (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS735
Date Of Survey : 26/01/2004	



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Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	High Hills/Mountains
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Open Land
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Large
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Exposed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Uniform
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Unity
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Formal
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Rare
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Negligible (n/a)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	n/a
There are attractive views...out (uplands)
There are detractive views...	...neither in or out (n/a)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive Exposed Wild (n/a)
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Strong (upland sop results from rough ground, rocky outcrops and exposure, augmented by views of brecon beacons)

Evaluation

Value:	High (n/a)
Condition:	Unassessed
Trend:	Constant

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	open,wild
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	rough grazing
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	n/a
Define the key elements that should be changed:	n/a
Principal management recommendation:	grazing management

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	Not known
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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?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	landform, contour, edge of plantation to east

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	os data
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	n/a
Additional Comments	n/a

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (Attractive largely unspoilt upland area with strong sop and good views)
Justification of overall evaluation	all criteria are high
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	High (attractive views of upland areas, particularly north)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	High (largely unspoilt)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	High (strong sop)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	High (n/a)

Description

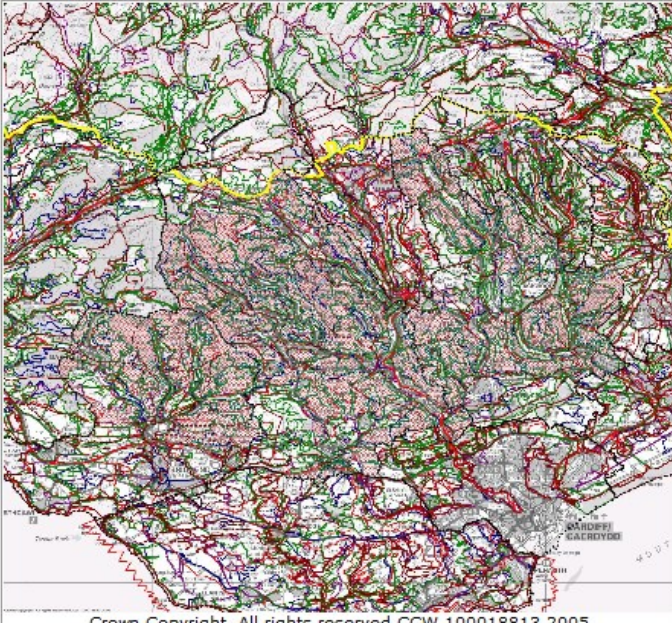
Summary Description	Dramatic landscape of rough grazed grassland with rock outcrops and some marshy areas lying between approximately 300m and 485mAOD. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. Spectacular upland views dominated by large expanse of sky/clouds. Strong visual link with Brecon Beacons.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	No settlements
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Stone Walls

Recommendations

Guideline	Medium Term (prevent overgrazing)
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	agriculture/grazing

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Close association with Brecon Beacons.)
Date of monitoring?	2012-12-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, inconsultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Cultural Landscape		
Aspect Area Name	Designated Landscape Areas	
Aspect Area Classification	Associations/Notional Expressions/Institutions/Other Institutions (specify) (Level 4)	
Aspect Area Code	CYNONCL056	
Date Of Survey : 24/05/2005		
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (The whole Study Area)

Description

The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Rural
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Agricultural Forestry Rural Settlement Other Infrastructure (specify) ("Other institutions" is selected as the Level 4 classification as these very large areas are variously protected by landscape and environmental designations)
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Moderate (Level 4 Associations and Influences provide some limited context for these landscape designations)
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Specialist (Known principally to planners, environmental, historical specialists)
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Modern (20/21st Century)
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Post 1950
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	Large expanses of (mostly) upland and moorland landscape that are present throughout the Study Area. They have been variously designated statutorily as Sites of Special Scientific Interest by the Countryside Council for Wales, or by Unitary Authorities as Special Landscape Areas, Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation or as part of the Coalfield Plateaux. Such designations are a reflection of 20th/21st century perceptions of the value of protecting both natural habitats and of rural areas of lesser importance though possessing much aesthetic and sensory value. They contain variously historic and contemporary evidence of human occupation and exploitation in the form of prehistoric monuments, redundant industrial workings and transport systems, and of forestry. As such they are a commodity for leisure enjoyment as well as providing very extensive "green lungs" to supplement those identified in urban landscapes that they surround.

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Not known
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Description

If yes, give examples of the place-names and their significance	n/a
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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?	None (Imprecise largely because the boundaries are set by the Study Area boundaries and those of individual Aspect Areas, some of which extend into or are part of the landscape designations)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	These large landscape areas are mapped outside mapped built areas and within the Study Area boundaries

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	Unitary Development Plans and Local Plans of authorities within the Study Area
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	none
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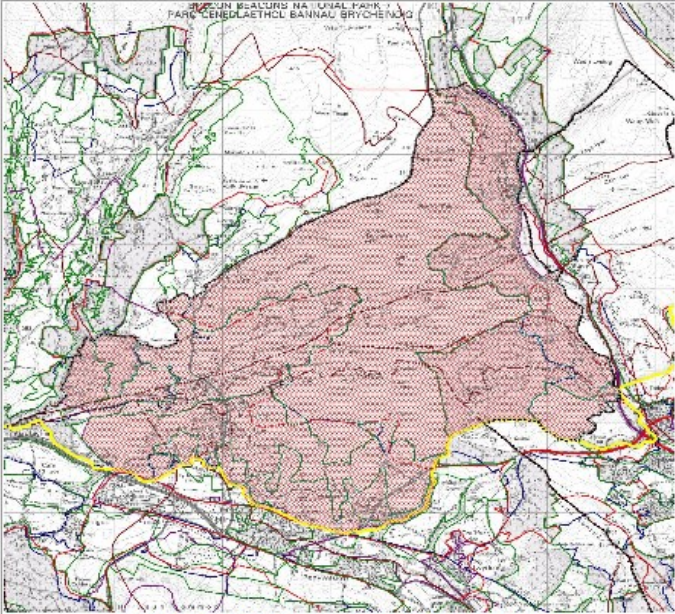
Additional Comments	none
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (High as examples of policy determination to protect the natural and visual attributes of large areas of landscape from being overrun by development, and for the benefit of both people and wildlife)
Justification of overall evaluation	see Q40
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Regional recognition (Greatly appreciated by both local people and by those who travel through the Study Area)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Very apparent (20th/21st century designations reflecting contemporary values of the need to protect landscapes from inappropriate development)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity (Culture)	Commonplace (The Study Area is replete with such designations)
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Limited (Mapped on Unitary Development Plans and Local Plans)
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Exceptional (Outstanding for the variety of terrain, topography and habitats)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (The landscapes have survived - and long may they continue to do so - untrammelled by modernity (except, perhaps, forestry))
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Highly vulnerable (Low because of designations)
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Complex (These multi-faceted landscapes represent outstanding assets for the variety of terrain, topography and habitats contained within them)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential (Culture)	Unassessed

Description	
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?	Sense of Place Other Institutions (specify) ("Other institutions" is selected as the Level 4 classification as these very large areas are variously protected by landscape and environmental designations)

Evaluation	
Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	High (High as examples of policy determination to protect the natural and visual aspects of large areas of landscape from being overrun by development)
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations	
Existing management:	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Designation affords some protection
Principal management recommendations	Continue to respect local and national designations
Guideline	Long Term (There is a case for the development of a more robust policy for managing the historic environment as these areas contain a wealth of archaeology from all periods, perhaps especially the Industrial/Modern period)

Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	

Cultural Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Brecon Beacons National Park
Aspect Area Classification	Associations/Notional Expressions/Institutions/Land Divisions (Level 4)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONCL044
Date Of Survey : 20/05/2005	
	

Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Site visit and 1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
Description	
The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Rural Industrial Institutions
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Agricultural Rural Settlement Minerals & Mining Tourism
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Strong (Level 4 Associations and Influences are few for this small part of the National Park, but they combine to explain the breadth of its cultural essence)
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Nationally (The National Park is recognised nationally and internationally)
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Yes (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority; "Dic Penderyn" (Richard Lewis), executed for his alleged role in riots in Merthyr Tydfil in the mid-19th century)
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Mixed
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Post 1950
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	Brecon Beacons National Park has been designated over 1344 sq km. There is a relatively small portion of its southern part in the Study Area, though larger tracts of land about it. The landscape here typifies the contrast between high moorland to the north of the Coal Measures and A465 trunk road, and the deeply incised valleys to the south. The portion within the Study Area lies to the south of the looming bulk of Pen-y-Fan, and consists mostly of sheep-grazed moorland which contains much evidence of prehistoric occupation and exploitation. On its western edge there are extensive eroded landscapes, cave systems and a spectacular series of waterfalls in the Neath River's headwaters.

Tolerance To Change	
Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Not known
Description	
If yes, give examples of the place-names and their significance	n/a
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 4
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most (Boundaries follow OS mapped boundaries to the extent of the Study Area boundary)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Boundaries follow OS mapped boundaries to the extent of the Study Area boundary
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	OS Explorer maps; personal observation; vast library of recorded sources
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	none
Additional Comments	none
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding (Outstanding as a component part of the wider Brecon Beacons National Park, itself a widely recognised cultural area of outstanding designated landscape)

Justification of overall evaluation	see Q40
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Internationally/nationally recognised (The Park is recognised internationally)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Strongly apparent (Outstanding as an example of the UK's National Parks designations)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity (Culture)	Commonplace (Wales has only 3 National Parks, but there are many more in the UK)
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Substantial (Extensive documentation exists)
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Considerable (The special character of the National Park contributes strongly to the group)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (Protected by statute)
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Highly vulnerable (Protected by statute)
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Simple (This portion of the Park is mostly moorland, and therefore lacks topographical diversity)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential (Culture)	Unassessed

Description

Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?	Sense of Place Land Divisions Leisure/Recreation Famous People
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Evaluation

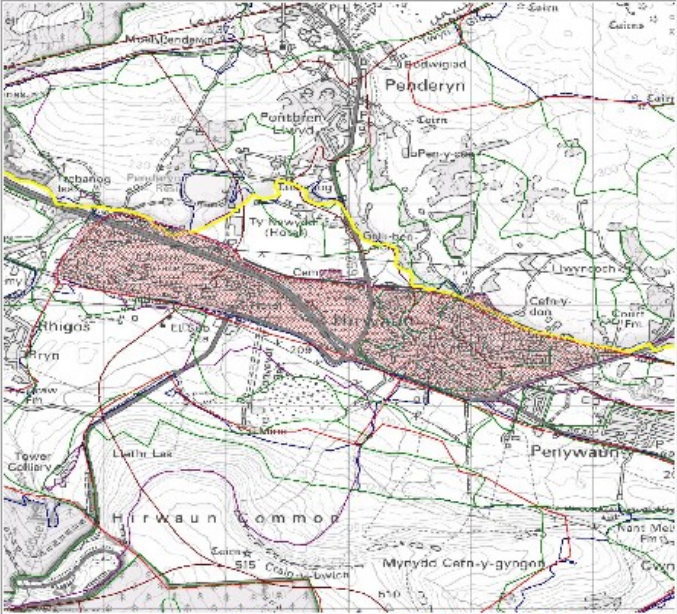
Condition:	Good (The landscape benefits from not being over managed)
Value:	Outstanding (Outstanding as a protected landscape)
Trend:	Constant (The National Park Authority is likely to continue its current management regime)

Recommendations

Existing management:	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	The landscape is not over-managed and benefits thereby
Principal management recommendations	Continue as now
Guideline	

Description

If Classification is "Other", specify here
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Cultural Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Hirwaun
Aspect Area Classification	Influences/Material expressions/Industrial/Heavy Industry (Level 4)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONCL042
Date Of Survey : 20/05/2005	
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Communications (A470, A465) Heads of the Valleys road (CynonCL002))

Description

The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Industrial Urban Infrastructure
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Minerals & Mining Heavy Industry Urban Settlement Communications & Transport
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Strong (Level 3 and \$ Influences are strong in the area, though there are no Level 4 Associations of note)
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Locally (Hirawaun is a settlement passed by by most travellers on the A465 whose lasting impression is the incongruity of the pair of residential tower blocks)
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Mixed
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Post 1950 Inter War Victorian & Edwardian Georgian
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	Hirwaun is situated on a ridge above the Neath and Cynon Valleys... It was an early centre of ironworking, being the first place in Wales where iron was smelted using coke... The Ironworks was established in 1757 on the site of an earlier charcoal-fuelled furnace... The settlement is surrounded by evidence of coal mining - in modern times, mostly open cast... Inside the settlement street patterns follow the lines of tram roads; externally, the image of Hirwaun to passers-by is conveyed by the bulk of the pair of high-rise tower blocks, incongruous both in this terrain and in the vernacular culture of residential development in the Valleys...

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Not known
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Description

If yes, give examples of the place-names and their significance	n/a
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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?	None (see Q30)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Boundaries are drawn at 1:25000 around mapped built areas

Bibliography

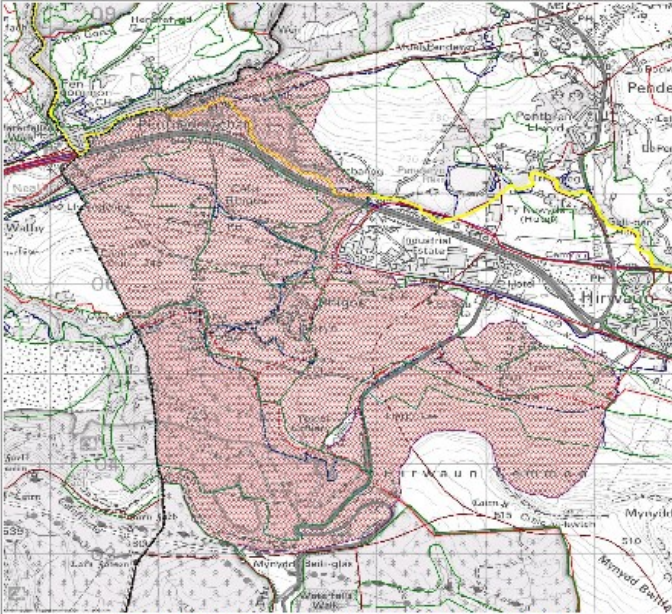
List the key sources used for this assessment	OS Explorer map 1:25000; The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan, John Newman; Penguin, 1995
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	none
Additional Comments	none

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (High as a ridge-top settlement where signs of sequential development are still evident, and benefiting from proximity to the A465 Heads of the Valleys road...)
Justification of overall evaluation	see Q40
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Local recognition (Little known outside the area)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Apparent (There is evidence of 300-400 years of development)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity (Culture)	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Potential (Culture)	Unassessed
Evaluation	
Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	High
Trend:	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management:	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	none
Principal management recommendations	none
Guideline	
Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	

Cultural Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	The Rhigos
Aspect Area Classification	Associations/Notional Expressions/Places/Sense of Place (Level 4)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONCL041
Date Of Survey : 20/05/2005	
	

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Site visit and 1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Designated Landscape Areas (CynonCL056); Tower Colliery (CynonCL043) - large tracts of landscape, including the Colliery, are visible from this high vantage point)

Description

The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Rural Industrial Urban Infrastructure Places
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Agricultural Forestry Rural Settlement Minerals & Mining Light Industry & Technology Urban Settlement Communications & Transport Tourism
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Very Strong (At Levels 3 and 4 Influences are the principal cultural elements that give this Aspect Area its identity even though its Level 4 classification is Sense of Place - a classification chosen to reflect the perceptions of those who view the landscape from this high roadside point)
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Regionally (The Rhigos mountain road and the viewpoint are known more widely than simply locally, more so now with the advent of the Sustrans National Cycle Network which passes this point)
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Mixed
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Post 1950 Inter War Victorian & Edwardian Pre-Roman
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	The name "The Rhigos" is not so much one place as an idea. It exists physically, but its value is in what can be seen. The Aspect Area is based on a small informal viewpoint in a pull-off from the mountain road above the Rhondda Valleys. From here can be seen a microcosm of the cultural influences of the Study Area - man-made reservoirs, roads, prehistoric remains, colliery workings, relict quarries and small industrial workings, forestry.

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Not known
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Description

If yes, give examples of the place-names and their significance	n/a
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Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 4
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Some (It is not possible to map a notion, but effort has been made at 1:25000 to encompass the important elements in the vista)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	It is not possible to map a notion, but effort has been made at 1:25000 to encompass the important elements in the vista within the Study Area boundary

Bibliography

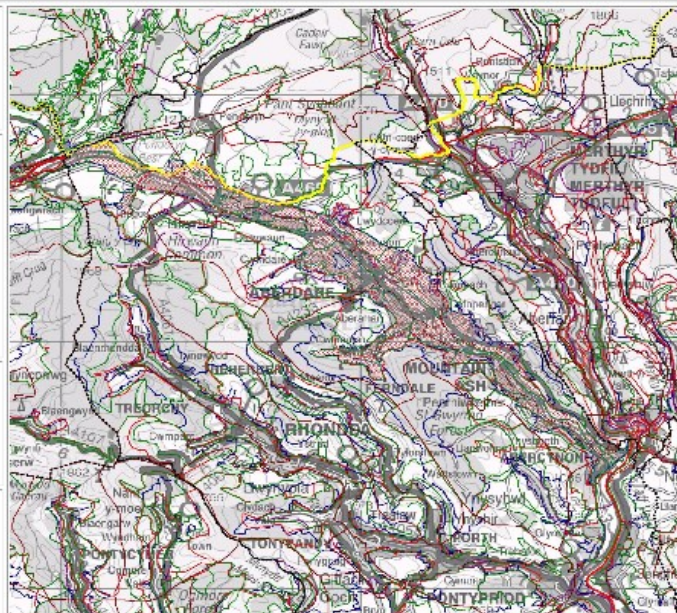
List the key sources used for this assessment	Observation; OS Explorer map 1:25000
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Assessment

Assessment	
Additional Assessments	none
Additional Comments	none
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (High because there is a palpable sense of history and of place, leading to an idea of small-scale exploitation and use over millennia)
Justification of overall evaluation	see Q40
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Sub-regional recognition (Moderate simply because The Rhigos is not heavily visited)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Very apparent (The vista contains multi-period elements)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity (Culture)	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Considerable (The vista contains multi-period elements)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (Much of the history of the area is still represented in the landscape)
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Tolerant (Vulnerable to permitting large-scale development in the vista's landscape)
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Complex (The vista contains multi-period elements of considerable diversity)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential (Culture)	Unassessed
Description	
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?	Sense of Place Leisure/Recreation
Evaluation	
Condition:	Good (The ideas conveyed by a relatively unchanged landscape remain strong)
Value:	High (High as location that conveys a strong sense of place)
Trend:	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management:	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	The informal pull-off is sufficient to welcome people, but not modernised or over-engineered
Principal management recommendations	Leave as it now appears; seek to prevent intrusively large development in the vista
Guideline	
Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	

Historic Landscape

Aspect Area Name	Cynon Valley Corridor
Aspect Area Classification	Built environment/Settlement/Nucleated Settlement (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL117
Date Of Survey : 23/10/2003	



Description

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? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Extractive <input type="checkbox"/> Processing/Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular Fieldscapes <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland <input type="checkbox"/> Water & Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Non-nucleated Settlement
---	---

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 3/1:10,000 and 1:25,000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (HL977: similar integrated transport and settlement characteristics, development and transport through links... Both are adjacent urban industrial ribbon settlement and transport corridors with through routes to the shipping points at Barry and Cardiff... HL409: Disused and reclaimed workings closely associated with the industrial settlements and transport networks which characterise HL117...)

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow With Trees <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Stone Walls <input type="checkbox"/> Mortared Wall <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Wire Fence <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Drainage
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Earthworks <input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Stone Monuments <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Archaeology
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	No
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	No

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?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
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 dominated by the settlement corridor that follows the major transport route through the region, specifically the A4059...

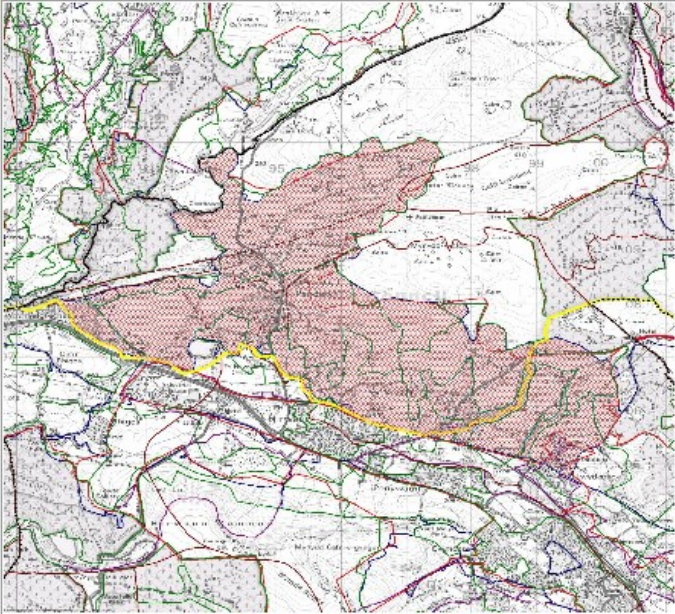
Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	Barrie, DSM, 1980, A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain... Vol... 12: South Wales... Narin... Cadw and ICOMOS, 2000, Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historical Interest in Wales: Pt1 Parks and Gardens of Glamorgan... Cardiff... Hughes, S, et al, 1992... Collieries of Wales Engineering & Architecture... RCAHMW, Mid Wales Litho Limited, Pontypool... Newman, J, 1995, The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan... University of Wales Press, Penguin Books, London... Ordnance Survey, 1884/5, First Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1900/1, Second Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1921, Third Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1998, Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil... 1:25000, Explorer 166... Southampton... RCAHMW, 1976a, An inventory of the ancient monuments in Glamorgan... Vol 1: Pre-Norman, Part I, The Stone and Bronze Ages... Cardiff (HMSO)... RCAHMW 1976b, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan... Vol I: Pre-Norman, Part II, The Iron Age and Roman Occupation... Cardiff (HMSO)... RCAHMW 1976c, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan... Vol I: Pre-Norman, Part III, The Early Christian Period... Cardiff (HMSO)... RCAHMW 1981, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan... Vol IV: Domestic Architecture from the Reformation to the Industrial Revolution, Part I, The Greater Houses... Cardiff (HMSO)... RCAHMW 1988, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan... Vol IV: Domestic Architecture from the Reformation to the Industrial Revolution, Part II, The Farmhouses and Cottages... Cardiff (HMSO)...
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Assessment

Additional Assessments
Additional Comments

Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding
Justification of overall evaluation	An area of outstanding historic importance, based on the fact that it contains some of the best preserved industrial monuments surviving not only within the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape, but in South Wales generally.
Evaluation	
Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	Outstanding (An area of outstanding historic importance, based on the fact that it contains some of the best preserved industrial monuments surviving not only within the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape, but in South Wales generally.)
Trend:	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	Immediate Medium Term Long Term
Description	
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	This aspect area is characterised as an urban and industrial transport and communication corridor stretching along the length of the Cynon Valley from Abercynon, north to Pontneddfechan. This aspect area includes the settlements of Mountain Ash, Cwmaman, Aberdare and Hirwaun. The aspect area has a strong prehistoric presence to the north of the valley corridor; many Bronze Age funerary cairns adorn the valley slopes. Abercynon was once a hamlet called Navigation before the main colliery and new town took the name in the 1880s. Aberdare was one of the county's ancient upland parishes (strictly, a chapelry of Llantrisant), as humble medieval St John's church indicates. Industrial growth began early in the 19th century with the Gadlys Ironworks opening in 1827, and the first steam-coal mine a decade later. During the middle decades of the century, the Cynon Valley, with Aberdare at its head, became the most prolific centre of steam-coal production. By 1856 Aberdare's output of coal exceeded one million tons. Industry retreated in the latter half of the 19th century, leaving Aberdare with the air of a market town. What survives of Aberdare's early industry is of great historical importance. Gadlys Ironworks, is one of the most complete remaining groups of ironworks buildings in South Wales. Matthew Wayne, ironmaster and coal-owner of Merthyr Tydfil, in conjunction with G.R.Morgan and E.M.Williams, founded the works in 1827. Two large masonry blast furnaces and a blowing engine house remain intact (Newman 1995, 133/9). Mountain Ash's urban and industrial growth came about through the actions of Henry Austin Bruce, later Lord Aberdare, Thomas Powell and John Nixon. Thomas Powell was sinking pits on the Duffryn estate by the 1840s, and John Nixon's company worked the famous Deep Duffryn mine from the 1850s. By 1863 the population of Mountain Ash was already 6000. In the last twenty years of the 19th century Miskin developed, and Penrhwiцеiber Woods were felled as a
If Classification is "Other", specify here	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Outstanding (The dominant landscape pattern in this area, characterised as an industrial settlement/communications corridor, is very well defined and visually coherent.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Outstanding (This area has not yet been subject to a detailed historic landscape characterisation. There is considerable potential for a comprehensive survey of the exceptionally rich industrial heritage contained within this aspect area. Improvement of visitor information relating to specific sites (e.g. Overton's causeway at Hirwaun and the Robertstown Tramroad Bridge) would certainly be merited.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	High (Although other industrial settlement/transport corridors exist within the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape (Cynon HL378; Cynon HL465), this area is of exceptional significance as it contains some of the earliest surviving monuments to the industrial heritage of South Wales, which can justly be regarded as being of national importance.)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (The survival of many Bronze Age funerary cairns on the elevated slopes of the Cynon Valley attest to a long history of settlement in this area. 18th-20th century industrial activity predominates in the archaeological record for this area, which contains some of the best preserved industrial monuments within the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape, including the remains of the Robertstown Tramroad Bridge (GGAT PRN 00969m) the earliest dated iron railway bridge in the world and the Gadlys Ironworks at Aberdare (GGAT PRN 02162m), one of the most complete remaining groups of ironworks buildings in South Wales, the remains of four substantial blast furnaces of late 18th-early 19th century date at Hirwaun Ironworks (NPRN 85173-85176), to the E of which is the impressive survival of a high drystone causeway built by George Overton in 1806-8, the longest structure of its type to survive in South Wales (GGAT PRN 01093.0m).)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	Moderate
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2013-03-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Trysor at monitoring and implementation stage 3 plus CPAT at stage 2, Govannon and/or Border at stage 1, all in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Historic Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Penderyn
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Agricultural/Other fieldscapes (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL176
Date Of Survey : 23/10/2003	
	

Description	
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? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Fieldscapes <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland <input type="checkbox"/> Water & Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Non-nucleated Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Extractive <input type="checkbox"/> Communications
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 3/1:10,000 and 1:25,000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (This aspect, dominated by rural fieldscapes, has an agricultural relationship with the unenclosed upland of CYNONHL580...)

Description	
Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow With Trees <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Stone Walls <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder Wall <input type="checkbox"/> Earth/Turf Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Wire Fence <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Drainage
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Stone Monuments <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings & Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Archaeology
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Post Medieval (1536+) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	Yes
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	Yes

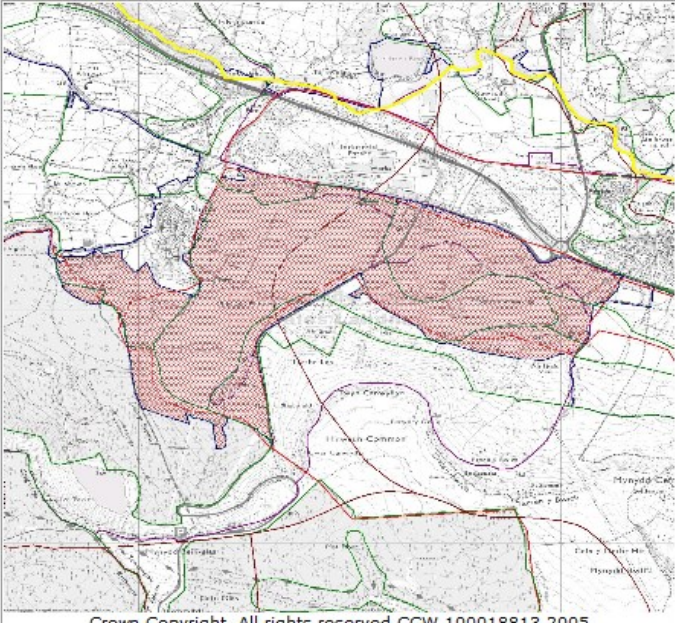
Aspect Area Boundary	
To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000 and 1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	The northern, western and eastern boundary of the aspect is defined by the Unitary Authority boundary and the unenclosed upland of CYNONHL580 and CYNONHL150... The transport corridor CYNONHL117 defines the southern limits of the aspect...

Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	Newman, J, 1995, The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan... University of Wales Press, Penguin Books, London... Ordnance Survey, 1884/5, First Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1900/1, Second Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1921, Third Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 2002, Breacon Beacons National Park, West and Central Areas... 1:25000, Explorer OL12... Southampton...

Assessment	
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding
Justification of overall evaluation	An important, multi-period landscape with significant evidence of prehistoric funerary activity/field clearance incorporated into a later medieval/post medieval fieldscape, with substantial remains of 18th-20th century industrial activity superimposed onto this landscape.

Evaluation	
Condition:	Unassessed
	Outstanding (An important, multi-period landscape with significant evidence of prehistoric funerary

Value:	activity/field clearance incorporated into a later medieval/post medieval fieldscape, with substantial remains of 18th-20th century industrial activity superimposed onto this landscape.)
Trend:	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	
Description	
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	A large rural aspect characterized by regular fieldscapes interspersed with natural woodland. Several large reservoirs define the character area's most southerly and easterly aspect. The dominant field boundary within the aspect is drystone boulder dykes and earth and stone banks, although deteriorated post and wire fencing has patched some breeches in the afore mentioned boundaries. The aspect is bounded to the north and east by the interface between the unenclosed upland of Cefn Cadlan, Cefn Sychbant and Mynydd-y-glog, and Cwm Cadlan's enclosed fieldscape. The now dismantled Trappenden's tramroad from Bryngwyn to Glyn-neath defines the aspect's limit to the south, whilst the unenclosed aspect CynonHL150 borders the west. The eastern and northern area of this aspect belong to the Registered Historic Landscape HLW(MGI/P)3. The dramatic landscape south of Fforest Fawr was first manipulated in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. These periods are represented by the numerous lithic monuments,
If Classification is "Other", specify here	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Outstanding (This area may be characterised as a multi-period upland valley landscape, occupying the valley of the Nant Cadlan and Ceunant Du streams, exhibiting evidence of a prehistoric domestic and funerary landscape incorporated into a later fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval origin incorporating elements of regular and irregular enclosure defined by a network of drystone walls and stone banks, and a diffuse settlement pattern of isolated, often abandoned farmsteads. These dominant characteristics have remained mostly intact although extensive industrial extractive activity in this area from the 18th century through to the present has disrupted this landscape pattern to a certain extent.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Outstanding (This area has been subject to a detailed historic landscape characterisation (CPAT, 2008) (forming HLCA 1202 Cwm Cadlan within the East Fforest-Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog HL), while the prehistoric monuments within this landscape have been surveyed in the RCAHMS Brecknockshire Inventory (RCAHMS, 1997); however, there remains significant potential for further investigation. Apart from the round cairn at Nant-maden, few of the prehistoric sites have been subject to comprehensive archaeological investigation. Similarly, the ruined farmsteads of medieval/post-medieval origin scattered throughout this landscape have yet to be thoroughly investigated. There remains potential for more prehistoric sites to be identified through study of aerial reconnaissance and field survey. The extensive remains of 18th-20th century industrial activity within this landscape also await detailed investigation and recording.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (Shares common characteristics with neighbouring areas of enclosed upland with evidence of multi-period occupation disturbed by later post-medieval industrial activity within the northern periphery of the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape (e.g. Cynon HL 150; Cynon HL409).)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (The archaeological record for this area is remarkably diverse, with evidence of human activity dating back to the Neolithic/Bronze Age periods, represented by a concentration of monuments in the northern part of the aspect area, including round cairns, clearance cairns and burnt mounds at Cwm Cadlan(GGAT PRN 00773;(and Nant-maden (GGAT 00741m) situated close to the moorland edge, some of which have been incorporated into the existing field boundaries. Evidence of prehistoric settlement activity, represented by hut circles and field systems, is located immediately E of the aspect area boundary. It is likely that similar features within the aspect area were cleared during the establishment of the existing fieldscape (of medieval, post-medieval origin). There are extensive visible remains of 18th-20th century industrial extractive activity across the area, represented by quarries, limekilns and associated communications features (dismantled tramroads, railways), which survive in reasonably good condition.)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	High
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2013-03-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Trysor at monitoring and implementation stage 3 plus CPAT at stage 2, Govannon and/or Border at stage 1, all in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Historic Landscape		
Aspect Area Name	Tower Colliery	
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Non agricultural/Reclaimed land (Level 3)	
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL183	
Date Of Survey : 23/10/2003		
		

Description

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? (Tick all that apply)	Extractive
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 3/1:10,000 and 1:25,000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Hedgerow Hedgerow With Trees Post & Wire Fence Cut Drainage
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Industrial Archaeology
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	Industrial
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SHR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	No
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	No
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	No

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?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
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?	The area encompasses a distinct zone of reclaimed land..... It is bordered on the north by the Cynon valley settlement corridor (Cynon HL117) and on the west, south and east by the marginal and woodland of Cynon HL687.....

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	Hughes, S, et al, 1992..... Collieries of Wales Engineering & Architecture..... RCAHMW, Mid Wales Litho Limited, Pontypool..... Ordnance Survey, 1884/5, First Edition 6' Map..... Ordnance Survey, 1900/1, Second Edition 6' Map..... Ordnance Survey, 1921, Third Edition 6' Map..... Ordnance Survey, 2002, Brecon Beacons National Park, West and Central Areas..... 1:25000, Explorer OL12..... Southampton.....
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Assessment

Additional Assessments
Additional Comments

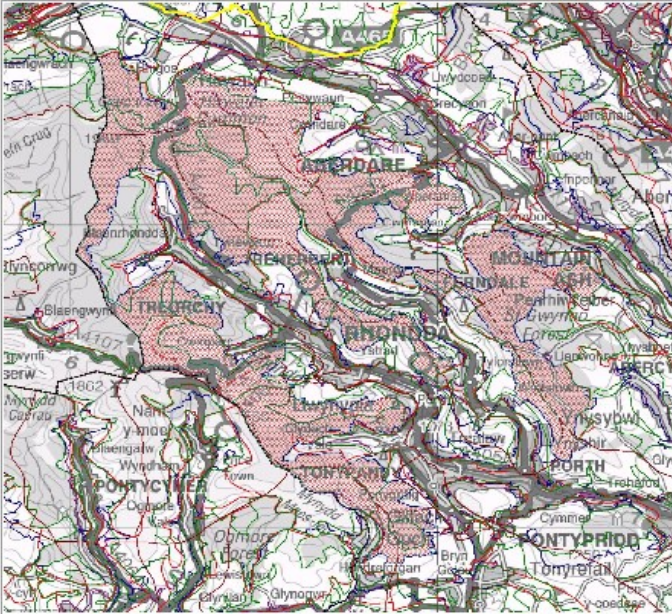
Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High
Justification of overall evaluation	The high value of this aspect area is chiefly due to the survival of substantial and historically important remains of 19th - 20th century industrial extractive activity (in particular the Tower No...4 Colliery); extensive modern opencast mining and forestry plantation has largely obliterated earlier patterns of settlement and consequently the archaeological record for this area prior to the 19th century is very limited...

Evaluation

Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	High (The high value of this aspect area is chiefly due to the survival of substantial and historically important remains of 19th - 20th century industrial extractive activity (in particular the Tower No...4 Colliery); extensive modern opencast mining and forestry plantation has largely obliterated earlier patterns of settlement and consequently the archaeological record for this area prior to the 19th century is very limited...)
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations	
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	
Description	
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	<p>This aspect represents the extent of opencast industrial activity to the west of Hirwaun common (CynonHL903), north of the Rhondda Uplands (CynonHL687), and south of the Hirwaun transport corridor (CynonHL117). This radically altered landscape is the result of recent opencast exploitation of the mineral resource over the past several centuries. The landscape, once open moorland, has been irrevocably altered by this industry and recently altered once more by the complete reclamation and drainage of this area converting coal faces and tips into open improved pasture. The industrial activity within this landscape seems to have obliterated all evidence of past human activity; however not without record. During the Bronze Age this aspect was predominantly open moorland; within this landscape funerary activities have been suggested to have taken place with the construction of stone cairns. Partly excavated before destruction by opencast mining in 1992, none of the excavated cairns gave any evidence for burials, or any structure other than the piling of smaller stones around naturally occurring slabs or boulders. Aerial photography by the RAF has suggested a possible oval earthwork feature c20m in width immediately south of the afore mentioned cairns (Ref: RAF 58/1452 0091-009), which could well have been a cairn or barrow. During opencast working a bronze spearhead was recovered in the Hugh Patches Colliery site. The implement was in a badly corroded condition; however this find does indicate that, whether casually discarded as an isolated incident or lost by the occupants of a busy landscape, such as CynonHL176 and CynonHL580 a little farther north, some sort of occupation activity did exist here in the Bronze Age. Roman influence within the area is represented by a Folles (coin) of Constantius I ("Chlorus") recovered from the extreme east of this aspect, another coin is said to have been found on the same coal site; however this is remains unsubstantiated. An inscribe</p>
If Classification is "Other", specify here	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	<p>High (The dominant landscape pattern in this area is characterised by 19th-20th century industrial extractive activity... This consists of substantial opencast workings associated with the recently closed Tower Colliery (much of which has recently been reclaimed and converted into improved pasture), the extensive complex of buildings at Tower No... 4 Colliery and Tower Drift Mine and numerous other relict industrial features (e...g... disused levels, ironstone workings, spoil tips, trackway formations, water management features)... This landscape pattern is well defined and extremely coherent in visual terms, largely obliterating the pre-existing landscape of enclosed upland common with evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity shown on the OS 1st-3rd edition maps... The remaining area of intact upland moor lying to the W of the Nant Gwranon was heavily afforested in the 1950s, resulting in the destruction of the Cefn yr Esgyn cairnfield...)</p>
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	<p>High (This area has not been subject to a detailed historic landscape characterisation and consequently there is significant potential (and indeed, an urgent requirement) for further survey work in terms of recording the surviving industrial features within this landscape (especially regarding the complex of buildings at Tower No... 4 Colliery) before they are destroyed in the process of site clearance and demolition prior to re-development...)</p>
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	<p>High (This area forms one of several areas of former enclosed upland common heavily exploited for industrial extractive purposes in the 19th-20th century (Cynon HL648; Cynon HL995)... However, the engine house, fan house and colliery headgear at Tower No... 4 Colliery all remain in an exceptionally well-preserved condition and constitute rare surviving examples of their type...)</p>
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	<p>N/A (The extensive modern opencast mining activity within this landscape has destroyed much of the evidence for earlier patterns of settlement and funerary activity, most notably for the Bronze Age period, represented by a series of finds and features distributed across the landscape associated with occupation, possible burial or farming activity... The extensive remains of the Cefn yr Esgyrn cairnfield were also ploughed up and largely destroyed to make way for a forestry plantation established in the 1950s (RCAHMW, 1976, 118)... The earlier pre-industrial pattern of enclosure and settlement characterised by isolated farmsteads such as Blaengrwangon Farm (GGAT PRN 04266m) shown on the OS 1st -3rd edition maps has also been obliterated by modern opencast mining and afforestation... Across this aspect area, extensive remains survive of 19th-20th century industrial extractive activity, most significantly the recently closed Tower No... 4 Colliery, the site of which is in the process of being redeveloped, although the well-preserved engine house, fanhouse, colliery headframe and pit head of the early 1940s have been granted scheduled monument status (GGAT PRN 02382m-02384m)... Substantial remains of 19th-20th century disused shafts, spoil tips, water management features and ironstone workings (eg... at Hughes Patch - GGAT PRN 01795m) are broadly distributed across the aspect area and survive in variable condition...)</p>
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	Moderate
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2012-03-21
Monitoring undertaken by	Govannon
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs Fieldwork
What has changed?	

Historic Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Rhondda Uplands
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Non agricultural/Marginal Land (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL687
Date Of Survey : 27/10/2003	
	

Description

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? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodland <input type="checkbox"/> Reclaimed land <input type="checkbox"/> Water & Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Extractive <input type="checkbox"/> Marginal Land <input type="checkbox"/> Other Settlement
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 3; 1:10,000 and 1:25,000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Upland grazing (now largely superceeded by forestry) associated with enclosed land and farmsteads within Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side CynonHL805, Rhondda Fach Enclosed Valley Side CynonHL870, Cynon Enclosed Valley Side CynonHL515, and Llanwonno and Cwm Clydach CynonHL833.....)

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Stone Walls <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Wire Fence <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Earth/Turf Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Cloddiau Variants/Stone & Earth Banks
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Earthworks <input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Stone Monuments <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Archaeology <input type="checkbox"/> Buried-dry
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Medieval (to 1536)
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	Yes (Roberts, R, 2001 Historic Landscape Characterisation: Y Rhondda/The Rhondda Part 1: landscape characterisation March 2001 GGAT report no..... 2001/019)
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	Yes
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	No

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?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
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?	An extremely large character area that is dominated by unenclosed upland..... It is bounded on the north by the reclaimed land of CynonHL183, on the east and south by the settlement corridors, ie extent of current urban expansion, and main industrial/public transport links of the 18th-21st centuries of CynonHL378 and CynonHL117 and on the west by the UA boundary with Neath-Port Talbot.....

Bibliography

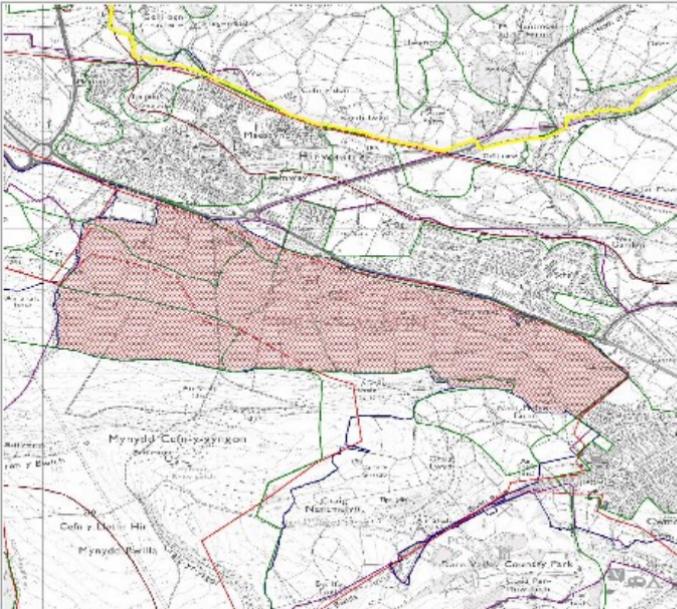
List the key sources used for this assessment	Evans, EM and Lewis, RL, 2003, Funerary and Ritual Monument Survey of Glamorgan and Gwent: a synthesis..... GGAT Report No..... 2003/068, Swansea..... Evans, EM, 2002, Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites: Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff..... GGAT report no..... 2002/015, Swansea..... Ordnance Survey, 1884/5, First Edition 6' Map..... Ordnance Survey, 1900/1, Second Edition 6' Map..... Ordnance Survey, 1921, Third Edition 6' Map..... Ordnance Survey, 1998, Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil..... 1:25000, Explorer 166..... Southampton..... Pearson, A & Lewis, RL 2003, Prehistoric funerary & ritual sites: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan..... GGAT report no..... 2003/027, Swansea..... RCAHMW, 1976a, An inventory of the ancient monuments in Glamorgan..... Vol 1: Pre-Norman, Part I, The Stone and Bronze Ages..... Cardiff (HMSO)..... RCAHMW, 2003, The Archaeology of the Welsh Uplands..... Aberystwyth..... Roberts, R, 2001 Historic Landscape Characterisation: Y Rhondda/The Rhondda Part 1: landscape characterisation March 2001 GGAT report no..... 2001/019.....
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Assessment

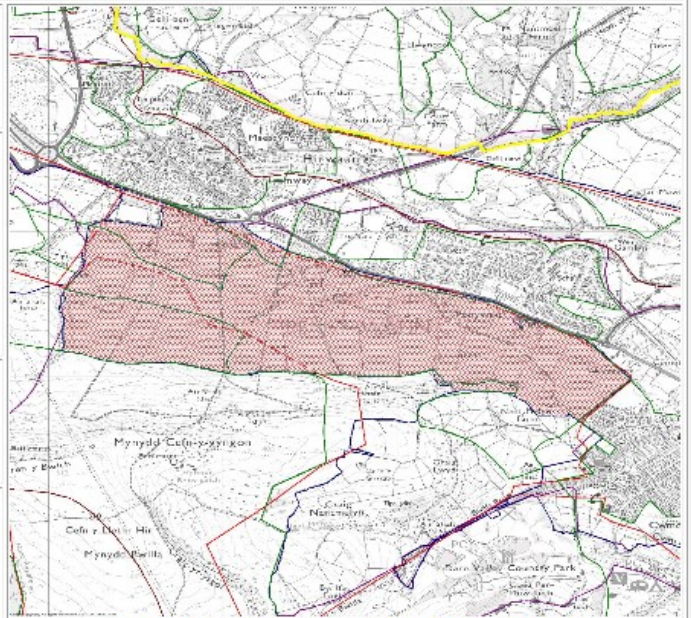
Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	
Evaluation Matrix	

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation		Outstanding
Justification of overall evaluation		The outstanding value assigned to this area is based on the fact that it represents a remarkably well preserved multi-period upland landscape, containing evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic era, including sites of national importance such as the extensive settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd, the largest undefended Iron Age settlement in SE Wales...
Evaluation		
Condition:		Unassessed
Value:		Outstanding (The outstanding value assigned to this area is based on the fact that it represents a remarkably well preserved multi-period upland landscape, containing evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic era, including sites of national importance such as the extensive settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd, the largest undefended Iron Age settlement in SE Wales...)
Trend:		Unassessed
Recommendations		
Existing management		Unassessed
Existing management remarks:		
Principal management recommendations		
Guideline		
Description		
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements		This aspect area of dramatic escarpments of Pennant Sandstone cliffs, glacial cymoedd or corries, and extensive open upland ridges and mountain is a landscape of some importance recognised by its inclusion within the Rhondda Historic Landscape on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register. It is characterised as a relict upland agricultural landscape, chiefly mountain sheepwalk, though partially forested with post-medieval industrial incursion typically extraction related. The area is a multi-period and multi-functional upland landscape dominated by prehistoric funerary and ritual features, and with prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval upland settlement, also included are Roman and medieval military structures, prehistoric/early medieval boundaries, the cross dykes (some with administrative significance from at least the early medieval period) are also visible and characteristic features of the area. The area was also established as a ridge-top communication corridor from the prehistoric period. During the medieval period the area encompassed at least one, possibly two medieval hunting parks. Lesser features include relict post-medieval field boundaries and industrial remains now largely reclaimed. The area displays a variety of archaeologically important sites of all periods since, and including the Mesolithic, with numerous finds of prehistoric flint tool assemblages. The area is dominated, literally, by prehistoric funerary monuments, burial cairns of the Bronze Age, which include Bachgen Carreg (SAM Gm 234), Carn Fach, Carn-y-Pigwn (SAM Gm 372), Carn-y-wiwer (SAM Gm 323), Carn-y-Bica, Bedd Eiddil, Carn Fawr, Garnwen, Pebyll, the cairn and cist on Mynydd Penygraig, Mynydd Brith-weunydd and Mynydd Troed-y-rhiw, and the cairn group on Mynydd Ton. Unusual for the uplands, is the ditched barrow, Crug-yr-Afan (SAM Gm 233), similar to the bell barrows of Wessex (c. 2000-1450 BC), excavated in 1902. Prehistoric settlement in the area dates back to the Mesolithic
If Classification is "Other", specify here		
Evaluation Matrix		
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity		High (The dominant character of this landscape, consisting of unimproved, common upland sheepwalk with discrete components of relict irregular field enclosure, is well defined and visually coherent... Extensive 19th-20th century industrial extractive activity (mainly quarrying) and modern forestry plantation has impinged upon the coherence of this landscape to a certain extent...)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential		Outstanding (This area has been subject to a detailed historic landscape characterisation, forming HLCA 30 (Rhondda Uplands) within the Rhondda historic landscape (Roberts, 2001); however, there remains considerable potential for further investigation; a comprehensive survey and gazetteer of the numerous prehistoric funerary and settlement sites within this landscape would be particularly valuable... Many of the extant medieval house platform sites have been surveyed by the RCAHMW, however an up to date, comprehensive assessment of these sites and their current condition would be extremely useful... The cross dyke ridge sites within the area have been investigated recently by GGAT (Lewis, 2006)...)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity		Outstanding (Shares similar characteristics to adjacent HL805 (Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Sides); both areas are distinguished by the remarkable extent and diversity of their archaeological resource, ranging in date from the Mesolithic period through to the present day... One specific site within the aspect area, the extensive settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd, the largest undefended Iron Age settlement in SE Wales, is of national importance...)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival		N/A (This area constitutes an exceptionally rich multi-period landscape, with evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic period... Significant surviving elements of the historic landscape include prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments, the extensive Iron Age undefended settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd (GGAT PRN 00020m-PRN 00021m) a Roman marching camp, several well-preserved early medieval cross ridge dykes guarding the upland ridge way routes into the Rhondda, numerous medieval house platforms and agricultural features of medieval/post-medieval date (i...e... field systems, sheepfolds)... These survive in variable condition, often being damaged by erosion, disturbance by farming practices or quarrying... Extensive, largely relict remains of 19th-20th century industrial extractive activity are visible across much of the aspect area, represented by the extensive workings of the National Colliery, Wattstown, numerous smaller quarries and associated communications features (i...e... tramroads)...)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition		Moderate
Monitoring		
Date of monitoring?		2012-03-21
Monitoring undertaken by		Govannon
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?		This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by		OS Data, Aerial Photographs Fieldwork
What has changed?		

Historic Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Hirwaun Common, Enclosure
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Agricultural/Regular Fieldsapes (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL903
Date Of Survey : 23/10/2003	



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Description

<p>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? (Tick all that apply)</p>	<p>Water & Wetland Recreational</p>
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 3/1:10,000 and 1:25,000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Hedgerow Hedgerow With Trees Post & Wire Fence Cut Drainage
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Industrial Archaeology
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	Post Medieval (1536+) Industrial
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	No
Are there Listed Buildings here?	No
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	No
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	Yes

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?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
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?	A region dominated by regular fieldscape, but also heavily influenced by extraction... It is bordered on the north by the Cynon valley settlement corridor (Cynon HL117), and on the south by the marginal land of the Rhondda uplands (Cynon HL687)...

Bibliography

<p>List the key sources used for this assessment</p>	<p>Barrie, DSM, 1980, A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain... Vol... 12: South Wales... Narin... Cadw and ICOMOS, 2000, Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historical Interest in Wales: Pt2...2: Landscapes of Special Historic Interest Ordnance Survey, 1884/5, First Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1900/1, Second Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1921, Third Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1998, Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil... 1:25000, Explorer 166... Southampton...</p>
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	Bute Colliery and Hirwaun tramway present...
Additional Comments	

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High
Justification of overall evaluation	Of high value as a well-preserved example of a late 19th -20th century regular enclosed fieldscape with extensive, broadly distributed relict remains of 18th-19th century industrial extractive activity.

Evaluation	
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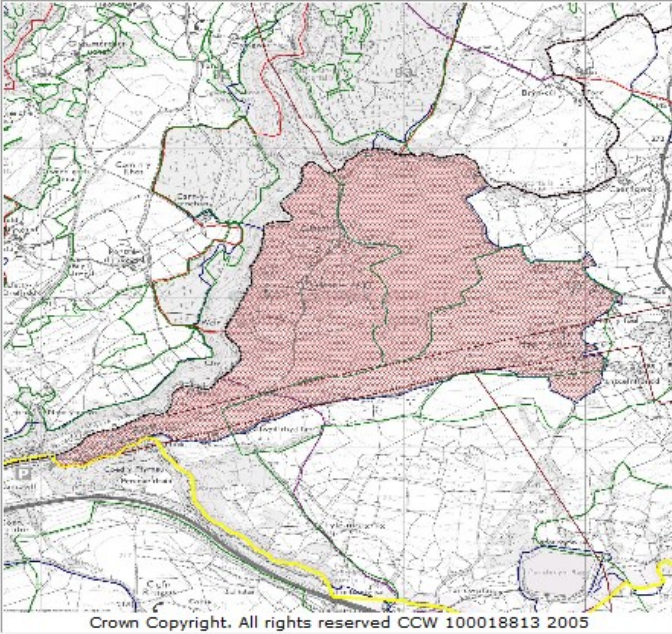
Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	High (Of high value as a well-preserved example of a late 19th -20th century regular enclosed fieldscape with extensive, broadly distributed relict remains of 18th-19th century industrial extractive activity.)
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations

Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	

Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	
Description	
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	This aspect area is characterised by a regular fieldscape, defined by a turf-stone walled boundary, which probably predates industrial activity in the area and may represent the pre-industrial boundary form. These large regular shaped fields enclose what was once the open moorland of Hirwaun Common. The aspect area is bounded to the north and east by the Cynon Valley settlement corridor (CynonHL117); the southern boundary is defined by Cwmdare enclosed valley side (CynonHL836) and the Rhondda Uplands (CynonHL687). Tower Colliery (CynonHL183) bounds the aspect area's western boundary. The aspect area in the late 18th and 19th centuries was characterised by an extensive network of tramroads servicing the ironworks at Hirwaun, and farther east to those at Merthyr and Ebbw Vale. By 1792 Glover's Rail Road, from Bryngwyn, entered Hirwaun and joined with the Hirwaun Iron Company's tramroad from the mountain Levels south of the common. At the river bridge, the tramroads united and entered the Ironworks within the village. The present landscape consists of marginal upland grazing dominated by irrigation ditches; in attempt to remove mountain run off from the common.
If Classification is "Other", specify here	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Outstanding (The existing landscape pattern, characterised by large rectilinear enclosures of 20th century date imposed on what was formerly a large tract of upland moor (Hirwaun Common) extensively mined and quarried in the late 18th and 19th centuries, is well defined.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Outstanding (This area has not yet been subject to a detailed historic landscape characterisation and there is thus potential for further investigation of the extensive relict remains of 18th-19th century industrial activity within this area, both in terms of detailed field survey and documentary study.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (Other areas of marginal upland common with evidence of intensive industrial exploitation exist within the RCT historic landscape area.)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (The turf stone wall boundary defining the extent of the common area largely survives intact. The archaeological record in this area is dominated by the extensive remains of 18th-19th century industrial activity associated with the several collieries which operated within this area; these remains are broadly distributed across the area and include disused quarry sites, levels, spoil tips and tramroad formations. These industrial extractive remains survive in a variable condition.)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	Moderate
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2013-03-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Trysor at monitoring and implementation stage 3 plus CPAT at stage 2, Govannon and/or Border at stage 1, all in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Historic Landscape	
Aspect Area Name	Moel Penderyn
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Non agricultural/Marginal Land (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL150
Date Of Survey : 23/10/2003	



Description

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? (Tick all that apply)	Woodland Marginal Land Extractive
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Level 3/1:10,000 and 1:25,000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (The aspect has an agricultural relationship with the enclosed fieldscape of CYNONHL176...)

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Boulder Wall Earth/Turf Bank Post & Wire Fence
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	Industrial Archaeology
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	Industrial
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	No
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes
Are there Listed Buildings here?	No
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	Yes
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	Yes

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?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
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?	The Unitary Authority boundary defines the western and northern limits of the aspect area... The southern boundary is identified as the interface between the unenclosed upland of the aspect and the enclosed fieldscapes of CYNONHL176...

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	Evans, EM and Lewis, RL, 2003, Funerary and Ritual Monument Survey of Glamorgan and Gwent: a synthesis... GGAT Report No... 2003/068, Swansea... Evans, EM, 2002, Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites: Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff... GGAT report no... 2002/015, Swansea... Ordnance Survey, 1884/5, First Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1900/1, Second Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 1921, Third Edition 6' Map... Ordnance Survey, 2002, Brecon Beacon National Park, West and Central Areas... 1:25000, Explorer OL12, Southampton... RCAHMW, 1976a, An inventory of the ancient monuments in Glamorgan... Vol 1: Pre-Norman, Part I, The Stone and Bronze Ages... Cardiff (HMSO)... RCAHMW 1976b, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan... Vol 1: Pre-Norman, Part II, The Iron Age and Roman Occupation... Cardiff (HMSO)... RCAHMW, 2003, The Archaeology of the Welsh Uplands... Aberystwyth...
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	

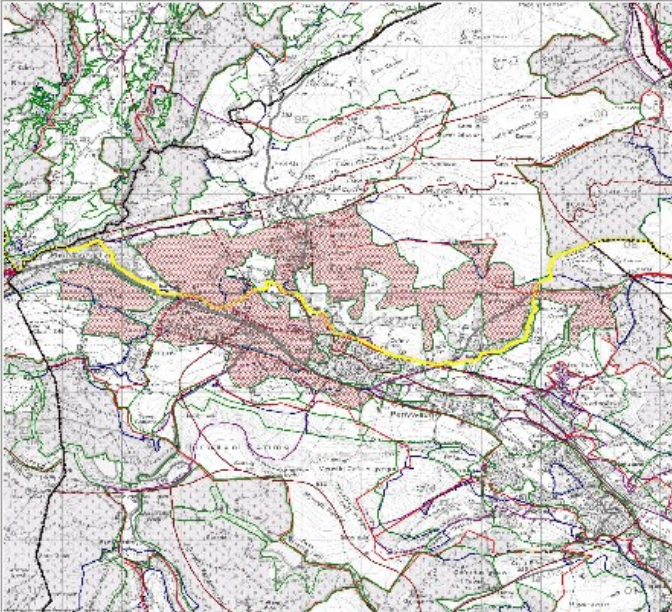
Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding
Justification of overall evaluation	The outstanding value assigned to this landscape lies primarily in the rich industrial heritage which it contains, in particular the extensive remains of the Glyn Neath Gunpowder works on the western edge of the aspect area, which represent a unique survival within the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape and further to the E, the 18th - 19th century quarries and associated tramroad network on Moel Penderyn.

Evaluation

Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	Outstanding (The outstanding value assigned to this landscape lies primarily in the rich industrial heritage which it contains, in particular the extensive remains of the Glyn Neath Gunpowder works on the western edge of the aspect area, which represent a unique survival within the Caerphilly/RCT historic landscape and further to the E, the 18th - 19th century quarries and associated tramroad network on Moel)

	Penderyn.)
Trend:	Unassessed
Recommendations	
Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	
Description	
Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	An island of exposed carboniferous limestone supporting unenclosed upland pasture surrounded by enclosed fieldscapes and forestry. Our earliest endeavours within the landscape are represented by Craig y Ddinas Iron Age hillfort. The hillfort is situated at the southwestern end of the long narrow limestone promontory of Moel Penderyn at the confluence of Afon Mellte and Afon Sychryd. The occupants took advantage of this natural promontory, with its sheer cliffs to the north and south, to build a domestic and defensive space enclosed by two linear earthworks (RCAHMW 1986, 24/5). More recently the hillfort has had aspects of its western and northern boundary quarried away in the pursuit of silica. A tramroad now dissects the extreme western edge of the forts ramparts, a testament to its recent industrial history. It is this period of activity, which so defines the appearance, and nature of the present landscape. To the north of Craig y Ddinas fort, stretching along the valley bottom of
If Classification is "Other", specify here	
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Outstanding (The dominant landscape pattern, characterised by unenclosed upland common on Moel Penderyn bordered by extensive tracts of forestry and enclosed fields, has largely remained unchanged from that shown on the OS 1st edition map, with significant relict remains of 18th-20th century industrial extractive activity including limestone quarrying and, along the banks of the Afon Mellte, silica mining associated with the extensive remains of the Glyn Neath Gunpowder Works.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Outstanding (This area has not been subject to a detailed historic landscape characterisation and consequently there is considerable potential for further investigation, both in terms of field survey and documentary study, of the extensive remains of the Glyn Neath Gunpowder Works and associated silica mines on the E bank of the Afon Mellte, as well as the Penderyn Quarries and associated tramroad network. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has undertaken considerable work to conserve the remains of the Gunpowder Works and provide excellent visitor access and information relating to the extant buildings.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	High (Although this area shares many characteristics with neighbouring areas (e.g. Cynon HL 176), as an area of extensive upland common exploited for industrial extractive purposes during the 18th-20th centuries, it is of exceptional importance due to the extensive surviving remains of the Glyn Neath Gunpowder Works and associated silica mines along the E bank of the Afon Mellte, which represent a unique survival not only within the RCT historic landscape but within South Wales as a whole.)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (The archaeological record in this area is reasonably diverse, the earliest evidence of human activity represented by the remains of the Iron Age promontory fort of Craig-y-ddinas (GGAT PRN 1107m) which however has been significantly damaged by silica quarrying activity. The ruined remains of a number of isolated farmsteads of medieval or early post-medieval date also survive within the area (e.g. Cil-hepste Fach - GGAT PRN 02586m). The dominant period in the record is undoubtedly industrial, represented by extensive evidence of 18th-20th century industrial extractive activity, including limestone quarrying and associated tramroad features on Moel Penderyn (NPRN 88073; NPRN 308305-308306) and, along the banks of the Afon Mellte, silica mining, associated with the substantial, though ruined remains of the Glyn Neath Gunpowder Works (GGAT PRN 02606m) which are designated as a scheduled ancient monument.)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	High
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2013-03-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Trysor at monitoring and implementation stage 3 plus CPAT at stage 2, Govannon and/or Border at stage 1, all in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Landscape Habitats	
Aspect Area Name	
Aspect Area Classification	Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats/Grassland & Marsh/Mosaic (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONLH051
Date Of Survey : 05/07/2000	
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Monitoring

Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?	1400 Hectares

Description

What are the dominant soil types? (specify up to 3 types)	Peat soils
What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Only select the five most dominant types and, for each of these, specify below what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.	Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland (7%) Semi-improved Neutral Grassland (12%) Improved Grassland (27%) Marshy Grassland (38%) Not Accessed Land (6%)
Does the area contain habitats of international importance?	Yes
Does the area contain BAP habitats?	Yes
Does the area contain protected sites?	Yes
If yes, which ones?	SSSI (Cor Bryn-Y-Gaer, Woodland Park & Pontpren, Bryncarnau grasslands) pSNCI (Sinc ref is 2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,18) SAC (Blaen Cynon)
Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?	11-20%
Does the area support important species?	Yes
Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)	Not known
Are any of these features in a very good condition? (Field visit required)	
Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)	
What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)	Stock grazing
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	None
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	Some (Stock grazing will prevent the grassland from reaching higher levels of ecological value.....)
Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?	Not known
Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?	Yes (Introduce Glastir scheme.....)
Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character	Lowland marshy grassland with transition to upland marshy grassland including the largest area of peat based valley mire in Mid Glamorgan.....Hirwaun ponds supports a rich dragonfly fauna.....

Evaluation

Value	Outstanding (Large areas of Purple moor grass priority habitat which is a much declined and threatened habitat..... SAC and SSSI designations are present.....)
Condition	Good
Trend	Constant

Description

If yes, which habitats of international importance?	Purple moor-grass meadows
If yes, which BAP habitats?	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures Fens

Recommendations

Existing management	Unassessed
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	Long Term (Long Term - Ensure grazing levels do not degrade habitat..... - Long Term - preserve Marsh Fritillary habitats..... - Medium Term - Introduce Glastir scheme) Long Term (preserve Marsh Fritillary habitats.....) Medium Term (Introduce Tir Gofal scheme)

Monitoring

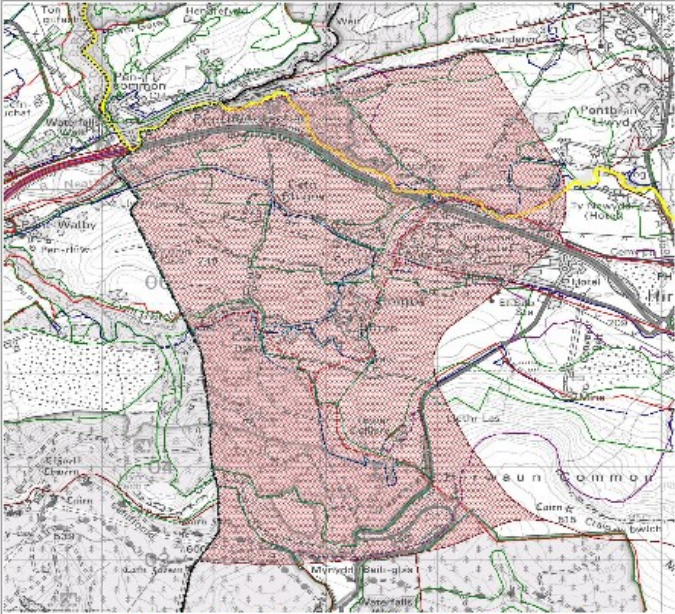
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes
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Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is species?	All

At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	All
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (OS raster, OS landline, Phase 1 habitat.....)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	They encompass a large area of grassland within which areas of marshy are frequent.....
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	Relevant LBAP
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	Sinc ref is 2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,18
Additional Comments	N/A
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Priority Habitats	High (Numerous areas of Purple moor grass priority habitat are present.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Significance	High (Areas of such habitats covering such extensive areas are rare.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Opportunity	Moderate (Area could be further enhanced by alterations to grazing pressure.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Expansion rates	Low (Purple moor grass marshy grassland has greatly declined)
Evaluation Criteria: Sensitivity	High (Areas of habitat could be easily lost due to intensification of grazing.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Connectivity/Cohesion	High (Areas of semi-improved and marshy grassland are fragmented within the wider improved grassland landscape, particularly in lowland areas.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Habitat Evaluation	Outstanding (Such large areas of valuable grassland are rare.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Importance for key species	High (Marsh Fritillary are present.....)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species	Outstanding
Description	
If yes, which species? (for each of the species, also note the source of information)	(Eurodryas aurinia) Marsh Fritillary, (Euphydryas aurinia) Marsh Fritillary, (Cirsium dissectum) Meadow Thistle, (Sanguisorba officinalis) Great Burnet, (Hipparchia semele) Grayling, (Pyrrhosoma nymphula) Large Red Damselfly, (Campylopus introflexus) Heath Star Moss, (Dactylorhiza fuchsii) Common Spotted Orchid, (Boloria selene) Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, (Carum verticillatum) Whorled Caraway, (Rhinanthus minor) Yellow-rattle, (Ulex gallii) Western Gorse, (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) Bluebell, (Cladopodiella fluitans) Bog Notchwort, (Carum verticillatum) Whorled Caraway, (Boloria selene) Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, (Alchemilla glabra) Smooth Lady's-mantle, (Boloria selene) Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, (Scutellaria minor) Lesser Skullcap, (Inachis io) Peacock butterfly, (Lasiommata megera) Wall Brown, (Orithetrum coerulescens) Keeled Skimmer, (Sphagnum compactum) Compact Bog-moss, (Coenonympha pamphilus) Small Heath, (Sphagnum tenellum) Soft Bog-moss, (Coenonympha pamphilus) Small Heath, (Polyommatus icarus) Common Blue, (Polygonia c-album) Comma, (Libellula quadrimaculata) Four-spotted Chaser, (Sympetrum danae) Black Darter, (Pyrrhosoma nymphula) Large Red Damselfly, (Tyria jacobaeae) Cinnabar, (Pinguicula vulgaris) Common Butterwort, (Rana temporaria) Common Frog, (Euphrasia anglica) Eyebright, (Eleocharis quinqueflora) Few-flowered Spike-rush, (Euphrasia anglica) Eyebright, (Bufo bufo) Common Toad, (Cordulegaster boltonii) Golden-Ringed Dragonfly, (Platanthera chlorantha) Greater Butterfly-orchid, (Menyanthes trifoliata) Bogbean, (Splachnum ampullaceum) Cruet Collar-moss, (Dactylorhiza maculata) Heath Spotted Orchid, (Cordulegaster boltonii) Golden-ringed Dragonfly, (Pedicularis palustris) Marsh Louisewort, (Buteo buteo) Buzzard, (Callophrys rubi) Green Hairstreak, (Euphrasia rostkoviana) Eyebright, (Genista tinctoria) Dyer's Greenweed, (Vanellus vanellus) Lapwing, (Vicia orobus) Wood Bitter-vetch, (Vicia orobus) Wood Bitter-vetch, (Turdus philomelos)
Evaluation Matrix	
Justification of overall evaluation	A large area of amuch declined, threatened Priority habitat as well as valuable asareas of semi-improved grassland..... area has both SSSI and SAC designations within it which show its great value..... An important area for Marsh Fritillary
Recommendations	
Existing management remarks:	Ensure protection of/appropriate management of habitat
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2012-07-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Environment Systems Limited
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available
Change indicated by	Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps
What has changed?	

Geological Landscape

Aspect Area Name	Rhigos	 <p>Crown Copyright. All rights reserved CCW 100018813 2005</p>
Aspect Area Classification	Mountain and upland valley/Glaciaded mountain terrain/Glacial mountain valley (Level 3)	
Aspect Area Code	CYNONGL028	
Date Of Survey	24/04/2000	

Description

What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?	S margin of the NE-SW Upper Neath valley, S of the Neath fault zone (including part of SSSI Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Melte, a Moel Penderyn SSSI)... Steep scarp slope in gently S-dipping Pennant sandstones (Upper Carboniferous), eroded into prominent cirque with landslips in Craig y Llyn SSSI... Lower gentle slopes in Productive Coal Fm (Upper Carboniferous), covered with extensive boulder clay & patches of peat, which fills a glacial lake at Hirwaun Ponds... NW-SE Hirwaun fault zone... Coal Measures worked in Tower colliery & reclaimed opencast sites... Adits in Pennant measures...
What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?	Glacial mountain valley
Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?	Stratigraphic formation(s) (Productive Coal Fm, South Wales Pennant Fm (Upper Carboniferous)) Superficial deposits (Boulder clay, alluvium, peat) Structural features (NW-SE Hirwaun Fault Zone, E-W thrust zone) Active processes (Fluvial) Past processes (Glacial, periglacial)
What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?	Active upland river or stream channel system Ancient upland river / stream systems Mass movement Mineral workings Other (Tectonically controlled topography)
What Level 4 components are notable in this area?	Scarp slope Landslip (ancient) Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit Reclaimed land Lagoon/lake/pool (natural) Lake / reservoir (artificial) Slope Hill top Former lake (e.g. silted up) Cwm/corrie Coal / mineral spoil tips
What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?	Fluvial
Are there components of significant hydrological importance?	Yes (Neath valley, reservoirs, streams...)
Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?	Yes (High - low permeability soils...)
Is there current mineral extraction?	Yes (Coal)
Has there been mineral extraction in the past?	Yes (Coal)
Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?	Yes (Includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Melte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSIs - interests include Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous)...)
Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?	Yes (Cefn Rhigos Drumlins Site (RIGSID 784): Geomorphological; Dinas Silica Mines (RIGSID 563, part): Carboniferous / Industrial.)

Evaluation

Value	Outstanding (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Melte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSIs with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Condition	Good (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - lower ground to north with some development, but not threatening former...)
Trend	Constant (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - lower ground to north with some development, but not threatening former...)

Recommendations

Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Principal management recommendations	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.
Guideline	Long Term (Maintain SSI in favourable condition by implementation of management plans and ensure that RIGS are safeguarded using Local Plan policies and constraint mapping.) Long Term (Ensure that no significant features of geological or geomorphological significance, including glacial cirques in south of AA and lake sediments at Hirwaun Ponds, are lost/damaged due to development/forestry, etc.)

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?	Yes (Ensure that no significant features of geological or geomorphological significance, including glacial cirques in south of AA and lake sediments at Hirwaun Ponds, are lost/damaged due to development/forestry and that SSSI is maintained in favourable condition by implementation of management plan...: No net loss of key geological/geomorphological features should be considered acceptable.)
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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?	None (Aspect Area boundaries plotted at 1:25,000...)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (1:50 000 BGS Geological map sheet; 1:25 000 OS Explorer map sheet; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution))
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	AA corresponds to Pennant sandstone outcrop of the upper Neath valley...
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Research Value	Outstanding (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Evaluation Criteria: Educational Value	High (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Evaluation Criteria: Historical Value	High (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Outstanding (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Evaluation Criteria: Classic Example	High (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding (Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.)
Justification of overall evaluation	Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - includes Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte, a Moel Penderyn and Craig y Llyn SSSI with interests including Westphalian stratigraphy (Upper Carboniferous) and RIGS for glacial geomorphology and Carboniferous stratigraphy.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	1:50 000 BGS Geological Map sheet 231 Merthyr, S&D, 1979; 1:25 000 Explorer Map OL12 Brecon Beacons National Park, Western and Central Regions ; 1:25 000 Explorer Map 166 Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution); 1:100 000 Groundwater Vulnerability Map, Environment Agency... Sheet 36, Gwent, South and Mid Glamorgan, 1996; 1:625 000 Geological Map of the UK: Quaternary Geology, S sheet, 1977; Barclay, W...J..., Taylor, K... and Thomas, L...P... 1988... Geology of the South Wales coalfield... Part 5, The country around Merthyr Tydfil : Memoir of the British Geological Survey, Sheet 231 (England and Wales)... 3rd ed..., H...M...S...O..., London, x+52p...
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	South Wales RIGS survey (2013); LANDMAP monitoring project (2012-2013).
Additional Comments	Additional Level 4 features include: Stream; Disused quarry; Natural crags and inland outcrops...
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	No
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
Description	
If Classification is "Other", specify here	N/A
Recommendations	
Existing management remarks:	Southern area includes edge of plateau with well developed cirques - lower ground to north with some development, but not threatening former...
Description	
Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?	Sedimentary
Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?	Carboniferous
Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?	Sandstone
Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?	Glacial
Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?	Boulder clay/till
Monitoring	
Date of monitoring?	2012-03-01
Monitoring undertaken by	K.N. Page (Geodiversity and Landscape Specialist) in conjunction with L.Cherns (University of Cardiff) at the change detection stage of the monitoring process and with input from the local planning authority (2012-2013).
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available
Change indicated by	Policies, plans & information resources (South Wales RIGS survey (2013)).
What has changed?	

- 12.2 The tables below identify the Aspect Areas that fall within the ZTV and Study Area.
- 12.3 Further scoping for assessment identifies areas (shaded grey) for detailed assessment i.e. all host areas and areas with a High or Outstanding evaluation that have the theoretical potential to experience Significant indirect effects as a result of the proposed development.

Visual and Sensory

Unique ID	Area Name	Published classification and (Evaluation)	Potential Landscape Character Effects (and Representative Viewpoints)
CYNONVS833	Penderyn	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (Moderate)	Host Area and surrounding landscape – Direct and Indirect intervisibility from close to long range (VPs A, B, C, D, G, H, I & L)
CYNONVS522	Abedare	Urban (Low)	Indirect. Largely outwith the ZTV – occasional close range theoretical intervisibility largely of stack top and building ridge (VP E & F)
CYNONVS001	Tower Colliery	Excavation (Low)	Indirect. Theoretical medium to long range intervisibility – largely of stack top and building ridge (VP K)
CYNONVS340	Hirwaun Common	Upland Grazing (High)	Indirect. Theoretical long range intervisibility from elevated land in context of opencast workings (VP J)
CYNONVS580	St Gwynno	Wooded Upland & Plateau (Moderate)	Indirect. Theoretical long range intervisibility from ridge and upper slopes of Mynydd Beili-glas (VP N)
CYNONVS890	Craing Nantmelyn	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing (Moderate)	Indirect. Theoretical long range intervisibility of stack top and building ridge south of Hirwaun and Penywaun
CYNONVS735	Cadair Fawr	Upland Grazing (High)	Indirect long range intervisibility from elevated land east of Penderyn (VP M)

Cultural

Unique ID	Area Name	Published classification and (Evaluation)	Potential Landscape Character Effects (and Representative Viewpoints)
CYNONCL056	Designated Landscape Areas	Other Institutions (High)	Host Area (south eastern part of Site) and land to the east where ZTV indicates ridge and stack top close range intervisibility. Also long range intervisibility from land to south of Hirwaun and Penywaun.
CYNONCL044	Brecon Beacons National Park	Land Divisions (Outstanding)	Host area (northwestern part of Site within BBNP) and land to the north and northeast. Frequent close to long range intervisibility (VPs A, B, C, D, G, H & M).
CYNONCL042	Hirwaun	Heavy Industry (High)	Indirect effects. South of Site with ZTV indicating limited close range intervisibility (VPs E & F).
CYNONCL041	The Rhigos	Sense of Place (High)	Indirect effects. South and east of Site including Rhigos and environs and Hirwaun Common ZTV indicates frequent medium to long range intervisibility (VPs I, J, K, L & N).

Historic

Unique ID	Area Name	Published classification and (Evaluation)	Potential Landscape Character Effects (and Representative Viewpoints)
CYNONHL117	Cynon Valley Corridor	Nucleated Settlement (Outstanding)	Host Area and land in the valley including the A465 corridor, Hirwaun and Rhigos. Close range intervisibility and restricted further afield (VPs A, B, C, E, F & I).
CYNONHL176	Penderyn	Other Fieldsapes (Outstanding)	Indirect effects. Medium to long range intervisibility from elevated land around Pontbren Llywd and Penderyn (VPs D, G, H & M)
CYNONHL183	Tower Colliery	Reclaimed land (High)	Indirect effects. Medium to long range intervisibility south of Hirwaun (VPs J & K)
CYNONHL722	Cwm Wyrfa	Regular Fieldsapes (Moderate)	Indirect Effects. Long range intervisibility south of Cefn Rhigos (VP L)
CYNONHL687	Rhondda Uplands	Marginal Land (Outstanding)	Indirect Effects. Long range intervisibility at Hirwaun Common (VPs J & N)
CYNONHL903	Hirwaun Common, Enclosure	Regular Fieldsapes (High)	Indirect Effects. Long range intervisibility south of Penywaun – building ridge and stack only
CYNONHL150	Moel Penderyn	Marginal Land (Outstanding)	Indirect effects only. Long range intervisibility from elevated land (VP H)

Landscape Habitats

Note – Host Area only covered. Other Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas within the Study Area are not covered as there is no potential for significant indirect effects.

Unique ID	Area Name	Published classification and (Evaluation)	Potential Landscape Character Effects
CYNONLH051	Not given	Mosaic (Outstanding)	Host Area and immediately adjoining land. Direct landscape impacts focusses on additions to the landscape structure on the site and the relationship to adjoining vegetation/habitats.

Geological Landscape

Note – Hoist Area only covered. Other Geological Aspect Areas within the Study Area are not covered as there is no potential for significant indirect effects.

Unique ID	Area Name	Published classification and (Evaluation)	Potential Landscape Character Effects
CYNONGLO28	Rhigos	Glacial Mountain Valley (Outstanding)	Host Area and immediately adjoining land. Limited potential for significant effects as existing ground levels would remain largely unchanged.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

- 12.4 All host areas have been included for the five LANDMAP layers. Other aspect areas have been scoped for inclusion where the published Evaluation is High or Outstanding i.e. where there is the potential for Significant indirect effects on Landscape Character.
- 12.5 The assessment below focuses on the worst case scenario i.e. Operational at Year 1 winter, with any Significant effects shaded grey. Construction effects are covered in the main chapter text together with Year 15 effects (where Significant Year 1 effects only have been identified).
- 12.6 Cross reference to Viewpoints has been included; however the assessment of effects on the key characteristics of the landscape as recorded in the LANDMAP is different to an assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the visual amenity as experienced by human receptors. In theory there can be indirect effects from a Proposed Development on aspect areas within the wider study area without intervisibility, however in reality for developments of this nature most indirect effects do not occur unless there is some level of intervisibility.

Area Name (Unique ID)	Value	Susceptibility to Change	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Landscape Character Effect (Year 1 winter)
Visual and Sensory					
Penderyn (CYNONVS833)	Medium	Direct and Indirect Effects: Medium	Medium	Very Large to Medium at close to medium range (e.g. VPs A, B, C, D & H)	Major to Moderate/Major (Significant)
				Small to Very Small at medium to long range (e.g. VPs G, I & L)	Minor (Not Significant)
Hirwaun Common (CYNONVS340)	High	Indirect Effects: Low	Medium	Very Small at long range (e.g. VP J)	Minor (Not Significant)
Cadair fawr (CYNONVS735)	High	Indirect Effects: Low	Medium	Small at long range (e.g. VP M)	Minor/Moderate (Not Significant)
Cultural Landscape					
Designated Landscape Areas (CYNONCL056)	High	Direct and Indirect effects: Low	Medium	No direct or indirect effects upon prehistoric monuments, redundant industrial workings or forestry	Neutral (No effect)
BBNP (CYNONCL044)	Very High	Direct and Indirect effects: Medium	High	Close range: Proposed Development within infrastructure of established industrial estate within the BBNP (VPs A, B, C & D): Medium	Moderate/Major (Significant)
				At medium to long range as above (VPs G, H and M): Very Small to Medium	Moderate/Major (Significant) to Minor/Moderate (Not Significant)
Hirwaun (CYNONCL042)	High	Indirect Effects: Low	Medium	Generally limited at close to medium range	Minor/Moderate (Not Significant)

				intervisibility and within context of industrial estate: Small to Medium (VPs E & F).	
The Rhigos (CYNONCL041)	High	Indirect Effects: Low	Medium	Generally limited intervisibility and within context of industrial estate: Small to Very Small (VPs I, J, K, L & N).	Minor (Not Significant)
Historic Landscape					
Cynon Valley Corridor (CYNONHL117)	Very High	Direct and Indirect effects: Low	Medium to High	Close to long range: No effect on the key characteristics of the urban and industrial transport and communication corridor (VPs A, B, C, E, F & I)	Neutral (Not Significant)
Penderyn (CYNONHL176)	Very High	Indirect Effects: Very Low	Medium	Medium to long range: No effect on the key characteristics of prehistoric funerary activity & medieval/post medieval fieldscape (VPs D, G, H & M)	Neutral (Not Significant)
Tower Colliery (CYNONHL183)	High	Indirect Effects: Very Low	Low to Medium	Medium to long range: No effect on the key characteristics of 19 th to 20 th century extractive activity (VPs J & K)	Neutral (Not Significant)
Rhondda Uplands (CYNONHL687)	Very High	Indirect Effects: Very Low	Medium	Long range: No effect on the key characteristics of prehistoric and funerary monuments (VPs J & N)	Neutral (Not Significant)
Hirwaun Common, Enclosure (CYNONHL903)	High	Indirect Effects: Very Low	Medium	Long range: No effect on the key characteristics of regular fieldscape and turf-stone wall field boundaries	Neutral (Not Significant)
Moel Penderyn (CYNONHL150)	Very High	Indirect Effects: Very Low	Medium	Long range: No effect on the key characteristics of the historic tramway on the eastern side of the hill (outwith ZTV)	Neutral (Not Significant)
Landscape Habitats					
CYNONLH051	Very High	Low	Medium	Small (beneficial) from addition of native perimeter tree and shrub planting	Minor/Moderate beneficial (Not Significant)
Geological Landscape					
CYNONGLO28	Very High	Low (at a Site level)	Medium	Very Small from minor changes to ground levels within Site	Minor (Not Significant)