

FFOS-Y-FRAN FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

for

MERTHYR
(SOUTH WALES) LTD

November 2024

3274\11

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APPENDIX 2 – Landscape Character Area Descriptions

Table 1: Acronyms used

Acronym	Name
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MSW	Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd
CRoW	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
NERC	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
TAN(s)	Technical Advice Note(s)
SLA	Special Landscape Area
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition
LI	Landscape Institute
IEMA	Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment
NLCA	National Landscape Character Area
OS	Ordnance Survey Great Britain
ES	Environmental Statement
HLA	Historic Landscape Area (also known as: Registered Landscape of Outstanding and Special Interest in Wales)
LCA	Landscape Character Area
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility
mAOD	metres Above Ordnance Datum
RHPG	Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
CA	Conservation Area
NLCA	National Landscape Character Area
FLRS	Ffos-y-Fran Land Reclamation Scheme
EMRS	East Merthyr Reclamations Scheme
EW	Earthwork operations
PM	Planting maturity
DNS	Developments of National Significance
RSK	RWE Renewables UK Swindon Ltd
BGT	Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen
BBNP	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
HOV	Heads of the Valleys
VILL	Visually Important Local Landscape
IAN	Interim Advice Note



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1 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report presents the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), carried out for Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd referred to hereafter as (MSW).

1.1.2 The European Landscape Convention 2000 defines 'Landscape' as '*...an area perceived by people, whose character is the result of natural and/or human factors.*'

1.1.3 The project involves the final restoration of the Ffos-y-Fran surface coal mine. Key impacts and effects considered within this report include the following:

- a. Direct physical changes to the landscape in terms of landform and surface elements, fragmentation of landscape features or designated areas and the cessation of mining activities.
- b. Indirect effects on the character and quality of the landscape in terms of change in the perception of the landscape through the introduction of new landscape elements.
- c. Direct day time and night-time effects on the amenity of visual receptors in terms of the change in view.
- d. Indirect effects on views and visual receptors in terms of change to public attitude and behaviour towards the use of a place.

1.1.4 This report presents the legislation and policy context, describes, and evaluates the baseline landscape resource, views, and the visual amenity of visual receptors. A study area is defined by relevant guidance and agreement with regulators and stakeholders and considers the expected change brought about by the project during construction and operation, and during day and night. The significance of the identified effect is identified in terms of change to land use, loss of landscape features, and the scale and duration of the project within views.

1.1.5 This report includes a combination of desk study review and field work carried out in 2024. Field work has been carried out during Spring when deciduous plants have yet to fully develop leaves and Summer when deciduous plants are in full leaf. Further visits are made to review specific receptor impacts and to take photographs from key viewpoints.

1.1.6 Mitigation is assessed as part of an iterative design and assessment process. The design approach is described in section 4 of this report. This report should be read together with Figures 1 to 6, and appendices 1 to 3.

1.2 Legislation and Policy Framework

1.2.1 A review of topic specific published landscape policies has been carried out to inform this assessment and mitigation strategy. The following section summarises the relevant legislation and policy context.



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Relevant Legislation

1.2.2 The following legislation, including subsequent amendments, is relevant to the project and have been considered:

- a. National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- b. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.
- c. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- d. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- e. Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- f. Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

National Planning Policy

1.2.3 The current land use planning policies for the Welsh Government are set out in Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (February 2024). The principal chapter of relevance to LVIA is Chapter 6 '*Distinctive and Natural Places*', which includes policies relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, which must be considered alongside the need to meet social and economic objectives and the need of local communities.

1.2.4 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) supports the use of Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) LANDMAP data system as an important information resource.

1.2.5 PPW is supplemented by a series of topic based Technical Advice Notes (TANs). The TANs relevant to the project include:

- a. TAN12: *Design* (March 2016), which provides guidance on how good design should be achieved through the planning process.
- b. TAN 16: *Sport, Recreation and Open Space* (January 2009), provides advice in making provision for informal open spaces in urban and rural areas.

1.2.6 Procedural guidance relevant to LVIA is provided in Welsh Government Circulars. These include:

- a. Welsh Office Circular 5/93 *Public Rights of Way* (Department of the Environment, Welsh Office 1993).
- b. Welsh Office Circular 60/96 *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* (Welsh Office 1996).
- c. National Assembly for Wales (2002) Circular 30/01 *Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)*.

Local Planning Policy

1.2.7 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) adopted the *Replacement Local Development Plan 2016 - 2031*¹ in January 2020, and this plan will be considered within this report.

¹ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/5642/replacement-ldp-written-statement-final-composite-version-140120.pdf>



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- 1.2.8 Policy EnW4 *Environmental Protection* requires that proposals will not result in an unacceptable impact on people, residential amenity, property or the natural environment from either:
- Pollution of land, surface water, ground water and the air.
 - Land contamination and hazardous substances.
 - Land stability.
 - Noise, vibration, dust, odour nuisance and light pollution.
 - Other identified risk to public health and safety.
- 1.2.9 Policy EnW4 promotes a precautionary approach that urges developers to assess and minimize environmental impacts early in the development process, ensuring conditions are attached to approvals to reduce pollution and monitor effects to protect the environment and public health.
- 1.2.10 Policy EnW5 *Landscape Protection* requires that proposals do not cause unacceptable harm to the character and quality of the County Borough.
- 1.2.11 Policy EnW5 promotes that development and land use changes should protect and enhance the area's distinct environmental and cultural landscape assets while reinforcing its character through appropriate landscape schemes and conserving important features and tranquil areas.
- Neighbouring Authorities*
- 1.2.12 Caerphilly County Borough Council's adopted local development plan (LDP) is the *Local Development Plan up to 2021*², adopted November 2010. This document is currently under review and publication of the revised LDP is indicated as August 2027.
- 1.2.13 *Strategy Area 1: Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area* bounds the eastern flank of the project site. *Policy NH1 Special Landscape Areas* promotes that the two Special Landscape Areas that intersect the study area will be protected from development that would harm their distinctive features or characteristics.
- 1.2.14 *Policy NH2 Visually Important Local Landscapes* seeks to protect distinctive features or characteristics from further degradation. They are areas of importance to urban areas in the upper Rhymney valley for their views out.
- 1.2.15 The project site is not situated within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, but distant views of the changes may be available to summits, ridges and south facing slopes of high ground to the south of the National Park.

² <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillydocs/ldp/written-statement.aspx>

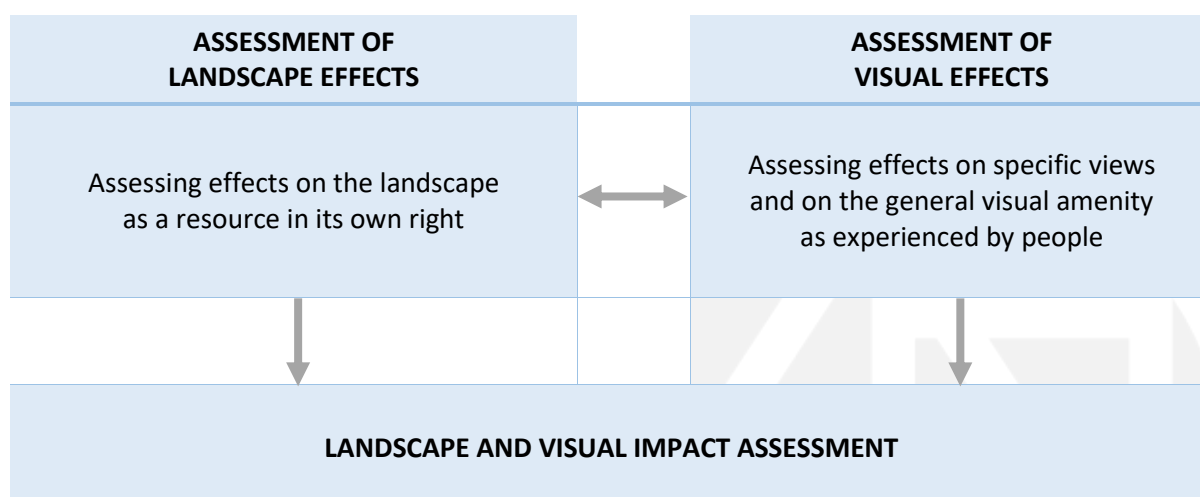


2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Relevant Guidance

- 2.1.1 This LVIA has been carried out in accordance with methodology set out within *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 2013). GLVIA3 provides guidance on defining landscape and visual sensitivity categories and landscape and visual impact magnitude and nature of effect descriptions. Combining sensitivity and magnitude determines the significance of effect.
- 2.1.2 Other relevant guidance documents referred to include:
- Landscape Character Map for Wales (Countryside Council for Wales and Land Use Consultants).
 - LANDMAP, dataset maintained by Natural Resources Wales, including guidance notes GN46 *Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments* and GN6 LANDMAP and the Geological Landscape.
 - Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3 (2024)
 - LI Technical Guidance Note 06/19 *Visual Representation of Development Proposals* (September 2019).
- 2.1.3 The assessment of landscape and visual effects are two related but separate processes and should be clearly distinguished from each other. The assessment of landscape effects relates to the potential impact on the landscape resource in its own right. The assessment of visual effects relates to the potential impact on specific views and on the general visual amenity as experienced by people.

Table 2: Relationship between landscape and visual impact assessment



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2.2 Review of Previous Work

- 2.2.1 An Environmental Statement (ES) was published by Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited in May 2003 submitted with the planning application for the Ffos-y-Fran Land Reclamation Scheme³.
- 2.2.2 The Miller Argent ES describes the pre-surface mine landscape around Merthyr Tydfil as featuring a mix of high-quality landforms, including steep ridgelines with open seminatural vegetation, which contrasts with less attractive elements like power lines and old colliery spoil heaps that detract from its overall aesthetic. The mixture of landscape elements reflects region's industrial and agricultural legacy. The site is located about 3 km from the National Park and, due to its elevated terrain, can be seen from the high ground within the park, along with nearby refuse pits and power lines.
- 2.2.3 The Miller Argent ES assesses the effect on the historic landscape character areas (HLCAs) within the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding and Special Interest in Wales (HLW). Significant adverse impacts were predicted for the Merthyr Common and Ffos-y-Fran HLCAs. An overall significance of impact of moderate was predicted for the Merthyr Tydfil HLW, this was not considered a significant adverse effect.
- 2.2.4 The Miller Argent ES assesses the visual impact with a series of appraisal panoramic views. The most visually sensitive locations were identified as residential settlements to the west and north of the workings.
- 2.2.5 Generally, receptors nearest to the site are screened by rising topography, and the impacts were assessed as slight to moderate, and not considered to experience a significant detrimental effect.
- 2.2.6 For receptors at a mid-distance and located cross-valley to the workings at similar elevations, the assessed impact was moderate, and not considered a significant detriment.
- 2.2.7 For receptors with distant views from elevated positions cross-valley the view of mining and reclamation operations would be more sustained. The visual impact would be ameliorated by long distance (more than 2 km) and assessed as slight to moderate detriment.
- 2.2.8 Receptors located to the east to south would have their views interrupted by grassed mounds of overburden, which would have less impact on the mountainous landscape than excavation works. Impact was assessed as slight detriment.

³ Ffos-y-Fran Land Reclamation Scheme Environmental Statement, Miller Argent (South Wales) Ltd (FLRS ES/1-020503)



- 2.2.9 The long-term impact after completion of the proposed reclamation was assessed as substantially beneficial, when compared to the landscape of former mine works with tips of colliery waste and tipped domestic waste.

2.3 Study Area

- 2.3.1 Following guidelines within GN46 a typical extent of search and study areas for structures can be based on the height of a structure. The extent of visual effects will be specific to the development and the landscape within which it sits. As a starting point for discussion with regulators and stakeholders a study area of 5 km, based on the height of the overburden mounds in relation to the surrounding ground, is considered appropriate for the extent of likely significant effects of the project.
- 2.3.2 Field work is carried out to refine the study area to identify where potentially significant effects upon the existing landscape resource, views and visual amenity are likely to occur due to the project.
- 2.3.3 Representative viewpoints are selected to assess the effects of the project on landscape character areas. The viewpoints are chosen to assess the project from a range of directions and distances and from locations that can be accessed from public roads, public rights of way or open access areas.

2.4 Approach to Identification of Baseline Conditions

- 2.4.1 As part of the desk study, a review of the landscape resource and topography within the study area is carried out to establish the regional and local landscape character, with reference to the following published sources:
- National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA), NRW.
 - LANDMAP, dataset maintained by NRW.
 - National and local planning policy as outlined in section 1.
 - Ordnance Survey (OS) Landranger Maps (1:50,000 scale), Explorer maps (1:25,000 scale), OS VectorMap Local (1:10,000 to 1:5,000 scale).
 - Aerial photography.
 - OS Terrain 5 height data.
- 2.4.2 Landscape character is a combination of geology, soils, landform, vegetation, field patterns, land use and settlement. Wales is divided into 48 broad national-scale character areas. The project is located within NLCA 37 South Wales Valleys.
- 2.4.3 LANDMAP further divides Wales into geographical areas identified by their own landscape characteristics and qualities. There are 5 datasets (or aspects). These are *Geological Landscape*, *Landscape Habitat*, *Visual and Sensory Landscape*, *Historic Landscape* and *Cultural Landscape Services*. Each aspect area has been evaluated in a nationally consistent set.



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- 2.4.4 Information contained within the 5 aspect layers of LANDMAP combined with field work, define Landscape Character Area (LCA) boundaries, which are taken forward for assessment. The LCAs that are within the study area are identified by:
- Organising the landscape into areas of distinct, consistent and recognisable character.
 - Describing the key characteristics such as landcover and pattern, scale and appearance, human interaction and tranquillity, sense of place and scenic quality, seasonal interest, and night-time activities.
 - Assessing their condition and quality.
 - Judging importance or value, which considers any landscape, ecological or cultural heritage designations, and any assets of local significance without designation that may be valued by local communities.
 - Considering their ability to accommodate change of the type proposed without unjustifiable change to the baseline condition and/or the achievement of landscape strategies and policies.
- 2.4.5 The visual baseline assessment describes specific or general views of the study area that may be changed by the project that are experienced by people. To establish a visual baseline, a review of the visual resource and topography within the study area is carried out as part of the desk study, with reference to the following relevant published sources:
- OS Explorer small scale mapping.
 - OS VectorMap Local mid-scale mapping.
 - Aerial photography.
 - NRW Urban Trees and National Forest Inventory datasets.
- 2.4.6 Potential screening features including buildings, structures and substantial vegetation are identified during this process together with potential visual receptors such as residential and business properties, recreational areas and public rights of way.
- 2.4.7 Field work is carried out when deciduous trees are in full leaf and when they have dropped their leaves. It identifies the number and type of properties and places where people would experience a change in view, the nature of the view and the activity and sensitivity of the viewer.

2.5 Assessment Criteria and Assessment of Significance

Landscape Receptors

- 2.5.1 The sensitivity of a landscape is a combination of judgements of a character area's ability to accommodate change of the type proposed (in this case the reclamation of a colliery landscape), and the value of the character area as established during the baseline assessment.
- 2.5.2 The criteria used to assess the value and susceptibility of each LCA is set out in Table 3. Landscape sensitivity is a combination of judgments based on the physical condition of



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the landscape and the value attached to it, often based on designation or recognition as expressed by national or local consensus.

Table 3: Landscape sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptors

Sensitivity	Typical descriptions
Very high	Landscapes of very high international/national importance and rarity or value with no or very limited ability to accommodate change without substantial loss/gain. These areas may be important tourist destinations such as National Parks or internationally acclaimed landscapes such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
High	Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/elements with limited ability to accommodate change without incurring substantial loss/gain. The area may be associated with tourism although it would not be the main destination such as designated areas, areas with a strong sense of place, registered parks and gardens, country parks.
Medium	Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance able to accommodate some change. Areas that may be appreciated locally with features worthy of conservation, some sense of place or value through use/perception.
Low	Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance with ability to accommodate change. Non-designated areas, designated areas of local recognition or areas of little sense of place.
Negligible	Landscapes of very low importance and rarity able to accommodate change.

- 2.5.3 The relevant LANDMAP character areas, across each of the five aspect layers that overlap the LCAs have been identified and are presented within Figures 3A to E. The evaluations attached to the LANDMAP aspect areas are included in Appendix 1 and are used to inform the judgment of the sensitivity of the LCAs.

Visual Receptors

- 2.5.4 The sensitivity of the visual receptor is a judgment of the type of change to views and visual amenity brought about by the project combined with the activity of the viewer.
- 2.5.5 Visual amenity receptors or people engaging in certain activities are identified during desk study assessment and are verified during field work. The extent and nature of their views are described, and the sensitivity of the receptors defined.
- 2.5.6 Visual receptors are categorised by their sensitivity, which is the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view in specific locations and the extent to which their attention or interest may be focused on the views. The criteria used to assess visual receptor sensitivity are presented in Table 4.



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Table 4: Visual receptor sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and typical descriptors

Sensitivity	Typical descriptions
Very high	Static views from and of major tourist attractions. Views from and of very important national/internationally designated landscapes, cultural/historical sites such as National Parks or UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies.
High	Views by users of nationally important public rights of way such as promoted long distance routes and national trails. Views by users of public open spaces for enjoyment of the countryside such as country parks. Static views from dense residential areas, longer transient views from designated public open space or recreational areas. Views from and of rare, designated landscape of national importance.
Medium	Static views from less populated residential areas, schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoor areas. Views by outdoor workers. Transient views from local/regional areas such as public open space, scenic roads, railways or waterways, users of local/regional designated tourist routes of moderate importance. Views from and of landscapes of regional importance.
Low	Views by users of main roads or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes. Views by indoor workers. Views by users of recreational/formal sports facilities where the landscape is secondary to enjoyment of the sport. Views by users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness.
Negligible	Quick transient views such as from fast moving vehicles. Views from industrial areas or land awaiting re-development. Views from landscapes of no importance with no variety or distinctiveness.

2.5.7 For both landscape and visual impact assessment, impacts are graded according to their scale and magnitude. The following aspects are used to determine the magnitude of impact:

- The size or scale of the impact i.e., the quantity of landscape elements that would be affected, and the proportion that this represents within a character area or the extent of the view that would be changed and whether the changes affect key characteristics of the landscape or views.
- Geographical extent i.e., the area that the project would influence.
- Duration and reversibility of impact i.e., whether the impact is short term to long-term and whether the impact is permanent or can be reversed to original condition.



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- 2.5.8 The magnitude of impact is rated to a five-point scale of major, moderate, minor, negligible and no change. Magnitude can be assessed as detrimental or beneficial. Terms used to describe magnitude of landscape impacts are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Magnitude and nature of landscape impact and typical descriptors

Magnitude	Typical criteria descriptor
Major adverse	Total loss or large-scale damage to existing character or distinctive features or elements and/or the addition of new and uncharacteristic conspicuous features or elements.
Moderate adverse	Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements and/or addition of new uncharacteristic, noticeable features or elements.
Minor adverse	Slight loss or damage to existing landscape character of some key features and elements and/or addition of new uncharacteristic features.
Negligible adverse	Very minor loss, damage or alteration to existing landscape character of some features and elements.
No change	No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.
Negligible benefit	Very minor noticeable improvement of character by the restoration of some existing features and elements.
Minor benefit	Slight improvement of landscape character by the restoration of some key existing features and elements and/or the addition of new characteristic features.
Moderate benefit	Partial or noticeable improvement of landscape character or distinctive features or elements and/or the addition of new characteristic features or elements or removal of noticeable features or elements.
Major benefit	Large scale improvement of landscape character to features or elements and/or addition of new distinctive features or elements, or removal of conspicuous elements.

- 2.5.9 Terms used to describe the magnitude of visual impact are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Magnitude of visual impact and typical descriptors

Magnitude	Typical criteria description
Major	The project, or a part of it, would become the dominant feature or focal point of the view.
Moderate	The project, or a part of it, would form a noticeable feature or element of the view which is apparent to the receptor.
Minor	The project, or a part of it, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.



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Magnitude	Typical criteria description
Negligible	Only a very small part of the project would be discernible, or it is at such a distance that it would form a barely noticeable feature or element of the view.
No change	No part of the project work or activity associated with it is discernible.

- 2.5.10 Criteria apply to both negative (detrimental), and positive (beneficial), due to the nature of the change according to their scale and magnitude. Where the project, or a part of it, would become a detracting feature of the view, this is assessed as adverse. Where the project, or part of it, would result in an improvement of the view, this is assessed as beneficial.
- 2.5.11 The magnitude of impact and the sensitivity of the receptor are combined to establish the significance of effect. This is expressed as a scale ranging from neutral to very large. The scale can be both positive (benefit) and negative (adverse). The matrix used to determine the significance of effect is the same for both landscape and visual impact and is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Significance of effect categories (both landscape and visual impact)

		Magnitude of impact (degree of change)				
		No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Sensitivity of receptor	Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Large	Very large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Large	Very large
	Medium	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Large
	Low	Neutral	Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Slight	Slight

- 2.5.12 Effects that fall within the categories *Moderate* to *Very large* are considered significant in this assessment.
- 2.5.13 Where landscape sensitivity is judged as low landscape receptors are unlikely to experience a significant landscape effect unless directly affected by the project or a major magnitude of impact is predicted.
- 2.5.14 Where visual sensitivity is judged as low, visual receptors are unlikely to experience a significant visual effect unless the predicted magnitude of impact is major.
- 2.5.15 The terms used to describe the landscape and visual impact significance of effect categories are presented in Table 8.



Table 8: Typical descriptors of landscape significance of effect criteria

Effect	Descriptor (landscape effect)
Very large	Effects at this level are material in the decision-making process.
Large	Effects at this level are likely to be material in the decision-making process.
Moderate	Effects at this level can be considered to be material decision-making factors.
Slight	Effects at this level are not material in the decision-making process.
Neutral	No effects or those that are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.

2.6 Limitations of the Assessment

2.6.1 The LVIA has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations in a largely rural and urban area without the need for direct access to land not in the Applicant's control, third-party residential properties, and business premises. To ensure a robust assessment, the following measures have been taken.

- Use of Ordnance Survey height data to construct digital terrain model (DTM), and for production of a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).
- Use of large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photography to determine topographical land cover and the position of features that would intervene in views such as buildings and substantial vegetation.
- Field surveys to verify ZTV output and assess views available from public open space, land with public access and public rights of way.
- Assessment of seasonal and night-time variation.



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3 Baseline Conditions

3.1 Landscape Baseline

Landscape Designations

3.1.1 Figure 1 shows the extent of the study area and surroundings, overlain with a ZTV. The ZTV takes no account of surface obstacles such as buildings and substantial vegetation. It predicts that there could be a view of the project from elevated points such as hills, ridges and gently sloping ground with open aspects facing towards the project site.

3.1.2 Figure 2 shows the elevation data depicted with a colour relief. The colours range from greens at lower valley floor elevations to browns and greys at the highest points above Ordnance datum. The project site occupies a prominent hill separating the Afon Taf and Afon Rhymni valleys. Natural ground rises to some 450 m above Ordnance datum (AOD), and man-made overburden mounds raise this to a high point of 475 m AOD. The project site forms a visually dominant feature at the head of the valleys.

National Parks

3.1.3 At its closest point at Vaynor, the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is 2.8 km from the Ffos-y-Fran site boundary. A view of the project site is available to ridges, plateaus and south facing slopes of Penmoelalt, Garn Ddu and Cefn yr Ystrad. The most visually prominent parts of the mine are the three overburden mounds and the upper benches of the mine's eastern and southern walls. Each of these elements are visible from the high ground of the National Park. The most visually prominent is the northernmost overburden mound, OB1. The National Park boundary is shown in Figure 3C.

Special Landscape Areas

3.1.4 To the south-west of Ffos-y-Fran in the Rhondda Cynon Taf local authority area is the *Cynon Valley Northern Slopes* Special Landscape Area (SLA). At its closest point near to the summit of Mynydd Gethin it is about 4 km distant. The Mynydd Aberdar and Mynydd Merthyr ridge interrupts the view of Ffos-y-Fran from this SLA.

3.1.5 Within the Merthyr Tydfil local authority area, there are 5 SLAs that overlap the study area. These are *Winchfawr*, *Merthyr West Flank*, *Nant Morlais* and *Cwm Taf Fechan*, *Pontygwaith*, and *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed*.

3.1.6 *Winchfawr* SLA occupies land on the east facing slopes of Mynydd Aberdar to the west of the A470. At its closest point near to the A470/A465 junction *Winchfawr* SLA is about 3.5 km west of Ffos-y-Fran. The 3 overburden mounds and the eastern mine wall are visible from this SLA, but the view of the southern mine wall is interrupted by the backfill that has progressively been restored to pasture during the operation of the mine.



- 3.1.7 *Merthyr West Flank* SLA occupies the east facing slopes of Mynydd Gethin to the west of the A470. At its closest point near to the A470/A4106 Rhyd-y-car junction the SLA is about 1.8 km due west of the Ffos-y-Fran boundary. A part of the eastern mine wall and the 3 overburden mounds are visible from open unwooded slopes of the SLA. The *West Flank* features the remains of the Cwm, Gethin and Glyn-dyrys mine pits and tips, several quarries, tramways and railways. Former mineral workings have since become covered by semi-natural woodland and conifer plantations.
- 3.1.8 *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA occupies the land between the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and the A465 *Heads of the Valleys* road. Landcover is a mosaic of rock outcrops, grassland, moorland, heathland and scrub on hilltops and plateaus, bisected by the wooded Afon Taf Fechan valley. At its closest point near to Pengarnddu Business Park the SLA is about 1 km due north of the Ffos-y-Fran boundary. The three overburden mounds and the upper benches of the southern and eastern wall are visible from ridges and south facing slopes of this LVA. Much of the land is undeveloped but features several railways and tramways associated with limestone quarries, most notably Morlais Castle and Twynau-gwynion Quarries.
- 3.1.9 *Pontygwaith* SLA occupies the lower valley slopes of the Afon Taf, broadly to the east of the A470 and about 3 km south of Ffos-y-Fran. The ridge line separating the Bargoed Taf and Afon Taf valleys (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil), interrupts the view of Ffos-y-Fran.
- 3.1.10 *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed* SLA is immediately adjacent to the southernmost overburden mound (OB3). There is no view of the surface mine excavation of Ffos-y-Fran as it is interrupted by that of the three overburden mounds. *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed* occupies the Bargoed Taf valley slopes from Mynydd Fochriw to Trelewis. A view of the overburden mounds is limited to remote upland areas with north-facing aspects.
- 3.1.11 Within the Caerphilly local authority area, there are 2 LCAs that overlap the study area. These are *Upper Rhymney Valley* and *Gelligaer*. The *Upper Rhymney Valley* is a continuation of the *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* LCA. A part of the eastern mine wall and the 3 overburden mounds are visible from this LCA. At its nearest point by Pengarnddu Business Park the SLA is about 1.1 km due north of Ffos-y-Fran. *Gelligaer* LCA occupies east facing slopes between the Cefn Gelligaer ridge and the Nant Bargoed Rhymni valley. The view of Ffos-y-Fran is interrupted by the Gelligaer ridge.
- 3.1.12 Within the Blaenau Gwent local authority 2 LCAs overlap the study area. These are *Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds* and *Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney and Sirhowy Sides*. *Trefil and Garnlydan* is a continuation of *Upper Rhymney Valley* SLA and is about 3.8 km north-east of Ffos-y-Fran at its nearest point in Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate. Views of Ffos-y-Fran are limited to the three overburden mounds. Similarly, there is a view of the overburden mounds from ridges and west facing slopes of the *Mynydd Bedwellty* SLA, which is about 3.9 km due east of Ffos-y-Fran.



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- 3.1.13 Special Landscape Area boundaries are shown in Figure 3C.

Historic Landscape Areas

- 3.1.14 A very small part of the *East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog*⁴ HLA to the north-west of Merthyr Tydfil overlaps the 5 km study area. The Black Mountains, Brecon Beacons, and Fforest Fawr form a natural ridge that separates South and Mid-Wales, with Fforest Fawr acting as the central section between the Mellte and Taf Fawr valleys. This area, characterized by dissected upland plateaux, has a long history of human occupation, evidenced by extensive archaeological remains ranging from prehistoric funerary monuments and agricultural activities to medieval settlements and later industrial operations such as quarrying and lime burning. Surveys conducted since the mid-1980s uncovered a variety of structures, including burial cairns, hut circles, and remnants of medieval stone buildings, revealing patterns of land use that date back to the Mesolithic period and intensified during the Bronze Age. Despite its current desolate appearance, the area showcases the significant historical human activity that took place, particularly in terms of resource exploitation and settlement patterns. The archaeological evidence highlights how these upland regions have supported past populations while also tracing changes in land use over centuries, reflecting a rich cultural landscape. Long distance views of Ffos-y-Fran are available to open upland areas outside of the forested areas.
- 3.1.15 Ffos-y-Fran is within the *Merthyr Tydfil*⁵ HLA. Merthyr Tydfil stands as a significant Welsh town of the Industrial Revolution, retaining its industrial landscape despite recent land reclamation and the cleaning of surrounding waste tips. The area exemplifies an internationally renowned industrial landscape from the 18th and 19th centuries, reflecting humanity's exploitation of the environment.
- 3.1.16 The landscape features numerous historical elements, including remnants of large ironworks, the coal mining industry, waterpower installations, an early iron bridge, and communication systems like tramways. It is also marked by terraced industrial housing and notable sites such as Cyfarthfa Castle, the residence of ironmasters. Merthyr Tydfil holds economic, religious, literary, and political significance, emphasizing its multifaceted role in history.
- 3.1.17 Key sites include the Dowlais Ironworks, established in 1759 as one of the first to use coke in South Wales, followed by the Plymouth Ironworks in 1763, Cyfarthfa in 1765, and Pen-y-darren in 1784. Additional works arose in the early 19th century at Ynysfach, Ivor, and Dyffryn, underscoring the town's historical importance in the industrial sector.

⁴ <https://www.cpat.org.uk/projects/longer/histland/fforest/1199.htm>

⁵ http://www.ggat.org.uk/cadw/historic_landscape/Merthyr_Tydfil/English/Merthyr_Main.htm#map



Overall, Merthyr Tydfil encapsulates the complexities of industrial growth and its lasting effects on the landscape.

- 3.1.18 Ffos-y-Fran directly impacts part of the HLA and indirectly influences the majority of the HLA.
- 3.1.19 The landscape of *Gelligaer Common*⁶ HLA is a rare example in south-east Wales of a high upland moor that is abundant in diverse archaeological resources. This Common and the adjacent area to the south-east extends from the significant ancient settlement of Gelligaer in the southeast to the peaks of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw in the northwest. The ridge that comprises the Common gradually rises from around 250 m above sea level at Gelligaer to over 470 m at the rounded heights of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw. On both sides of the Common, the slopes steeply descend into Cwm Bargoed to the west and the valley of Bargoed Rhymney to the east, which are both tributaries of the larger Taf and Rhymney valleys, respectively. A view of the overburden mounds is available to the ridge and north facing slopes of Mynydd Fochriw and Pen Garnbugail.
- 3.1.20 HLA areas are shown in Figure 3D.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

- 3.1.21 *Cefn Coed Cemetery and Jewish Burial Ground*⁷ is a Grade II RHPG and occupies the slopes of the Afon Taf Fawr valley within a triangle defined by the A470 to the west, the A465 to the south and the A4054 to the east. Cefn Coed cemetery is the oldest and largest public cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil. Despite the loss of the chapel of rest, the cemetery remains largely intact with its original plan. Many graves hold significant historical interest, showcasing a diverse range of occupations and levels of wealth. It also commemorates notable events, such as mining disasters. Some memorials are particularly valued for their artistic and architectural features, including works by the renowned Victorian sculptor Joseph Edwards RA. Additionally, the Jewish Burial Ground is significant for highlighting the existence of a vibrant Jewish community in Merthyr Tydfil during the nineteenth century.
- 3.1.22 Distant views of the overburden mounds and the restored backfill are available to a section of the cemetery near to the A470/A465 junction. Views of the walls are interrupted by woodland and avenue trees of *Cyfarthfa Castle* RHPG.
- 3.1.23 *Cyfarthfa Castle*⁸ is a Grade II* RHPG and occupies a south-west facing slope that would have overlooked Cyfarthfa Ironworks set in the Afon Taf valley. The Gothic Victorian

⁶ http://www.ggat.org.uk/cadw/historic_landscape/Gelligaer/english/gg_main.html

⁷ <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/parkgarden/FullReport?id=257>

⁸ <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/parkgarden/FullReport?id=384>



mock castle is considered the most significant ironmaster's residence in Wales and the park and garden setting have largely survived. Constructed and expanded by the Crawshay family right next to the ironworks, these grounds are important not only as the picturesque backdrop for the Gothic-style mansion but also because of their closeness and functional relationship to the ironworks.

3.1.24 A view of the overburden mounds is available from the fields located at higher ground at the park's eastern edge, outside of Castle Wood.

3.1.25 *Aberfan Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area*⁹ is a Grade II* RHPG occupying the ridge and broadly south-east facing slopes of Mynydd Merthyr. This location holds significant national importance and meaning, stemming from the tragic collapse of a coal tip above Aberfan on October 21, 1966. Two sections of the site – the cemetery and the Garden of Remembrance – serve as a poignant burial ground and memorial for those who lost their lives in this disaster. A specific area of the cemetery is dedicated to the victims, featuring their graves, a memorial cross, and a small pavilion along with a garden. The site is visually dominated by two rows of interconnected white stone arches, with each arch marking the head of a grave. The Garden of Remembrance is simply arranged on the land where the school was buried by the tip. The third part of the site consists of the landscaped area of the tips and slide above Aberfan, representing a groundbreaking effort in earthmoving, drainage, and large-scale landscaping to create a distinctive landscape focused on stability and effective drainage. The quality of design and effectiveness of this project can be seen in how seamlessly the area now integrates with the hillside.

3.1.26 A distant view of the overburden mounds and part of the eastern wall is available from the ridge and restored landform to the west of the A470.

3.1.27 RHPG areas are shown in Figure 3D.

Conservation Areas

3.1.28 The *Cyfarthfa*¹⁰ Conservation Area (CA) is situated in the Afon Taf valley. It is located about half a mile northwest of Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and is close to historic ironworks neighbourhoods like Morgantown, Williamstown, Georgetown, and the Quar. The Gurnos housing estate, developed in the later part of the 20th century, is found to the north and northeast. To the west lies the Gellideg housing estate. The Cyfarthfa Industrial Estate and Cyfarthfa Retail Park are positioned to the south of the Conservation Area. To the north, the Conservation Area borders rural regions that are part of the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan valleys, which this area encompasses.

⁹ <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/parkgarden/FullReport?id=256>

¹⁰ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1142/cyfarthfacacalowres.pdf>



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- 3.1.29 The area features a distinctive topography, characterized by terraced slopes to the east of the Conservation Area that overlook a relatively flat plateau to the west. Continuing north along the Gurnos Quarry tramroad leads to a narrow, partially artificial valley that is unique to this region. To the northwest, a much broader and more natural basin is created, connected on two sides by the Cefn Viaduct.
- 3.1.30 A view of the overburden mounds is available from the fields located at higher ground at the park's eastern edge, outside of Castle Wood. The view from the land adjacent to the A470 and west of the Afon Taf and Afon Taf Fawr tributary is partially interrupted by Castle Wood.
- 3.1.31 *Morgantown*¹¹, *Thomastown*¹² and *Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre*¹³ CAs are nestled in the Afon Taf valley, on the east bank of the river, characterized by steeply rising slopes to both the east and north. The dense urban developments, alongside the ascending terrain, limits views toward those directions. The landmark buildings at Pontmorlais, positioned on a ridge of higher ground, stand out prominently in the townscape, enhancing their visibility.
- 3.1.32 A significant man-made ridge extends westward from Pontmorlais, creating a visual barrier to the north-west and delineating the northern boundary of the historic town center, as well as its more contemporary expansion to the west. Open spaces and streets provide glimpses of the attractive mountainous backdrop surrounding the town. Notably, the elevated areas to the east, including the vicinity of St Tydfil's Hospital and the park at Thomas Town, serve as excellent vantage points, offering sweeping views down into the conservation area.
- 3.1.33 Glimpses of the northernmost overburden mound (OB1) may be available from parts of *Morgantown* CA, but the rising terrain in east Merthyr interrupts the view.
- 3.1.34 *Council Street and Urban Street*¹⁴ CA is in the Penydarren area, north-east of Merthyr Tydfil town centre. These streets are the furthest east in a series of parallel terraced streets that remain from the original Penydarren settlement. This collection of terraced houses is positioned roughly midway between Merthyr Tydfil and the centre of Dowlais. Until around 1900, Merthyr Tydfil and Dowlais appeared to be similar in size and significance, with a rural area separating them. After 1900, this gap began to be filled in, with Urban Street and Council Street marking the initial phase of this development. The names of Urban Street, District Street (which is adjacent), and Council Street reflect the

¹¹ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/2560/morgantown-character-appraisal.pdf>

¹² <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1249/thomastown-caamp-adopted-july-2014.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1148/towncentrecacalowres.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1138/council-street-and-urban-street-ca>



- brief period of the Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council, which existed from 1895 to 1903, during which these streets were constructed.
- 3.1.35 Council Street and Urban Street are characterized by a linear grid layout of workers' housing dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, reflecting its connection to the long-standing prosperity of the former Dowlais steelworks.
- 3.1.36 A view of the restored backfill and the northernmost overburden mound (OB1) is available from the higher ground at the northern ends of Council Street and Urban Street where they meet Awelfryn Terrace/Penybryn and Gwaunfarren Road respectively. The views of the mine walls are interrupted by the landform created during the restoration of the backfill.
- 3.1.37 *Dowlais*¹⁵ CA is situated on an open hillside to the north-east of Merthyr Tydfil. Just north of the settlement is the A465 'Heads of the Valleys' road, along with the southern border of the Brecon Beacons. The term 'Dowlais' is derived from the interpretation of Welsh words for two "Dow" and stream "Lais", referring to two streams meeting in this mountainous region.
- 3.1.38 The CA includes a series of historic structures linked to the Dowlais and Ivor Iron Works. It stretches along a gentle valley where the A4102 runs from Merthyr Tydfil to connect with the A465. It is divided into two sections: one focused around Union Street, Market Street, and Commercial Street, and a more linear part that runs along High Street. Nestled between these two areas is a housing development from the 1970s, featuring suburban-style residences.
- 3.1.39 A view of the northern part of Ffos-y-Fran mine is available from the part of the CA to the north of the High Street. Included in the view are the restored backfill landform, the ongoing backfill, the mine walls and the northernmost overburden mound (OB1).
- 3.1.40 *Cwmfelin*¹⁶ CA is a well preserved pre-industrial settlement having retained its rural feel within the Bargoed Taf valley at Bedlinog. The views of Ffos-y-Fran are interrupted by the Bargoed Taf valley sides.
- 3.1.41 Within the Caerphilly local authority area *Bute Town*¹⁷ and *Rhymney Town* CAs overlap the study area. *Bute Town* CA is located at the head of the Rhymney Valley and a view of the northernmost overburden mound (OB1) is available across Gelli-Gaer Common and the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway. *Rhymney Town* CA occupies the eastern bank of the Afon Rhymni, the westward views terminate at the Rhymney Valley ridge.
- 3.1.42 CAs are shown in Figure 3D.

¹⁵ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/7866/dowlais-conservation-area>

¹⁶ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/historic-environment>

¹⁷ https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s11404/Bute_Town_Conservation_Area



3.2 Landscape character and context

Regional landscape character

3.2.1 Ffos-y-Fran is located within NLCA37 *South Wales Valleys*¹⁸, which is characterised by deep, urbanized valleys within an extensive upland area, noted for their industrial heritage and distinct cultural identity. The region features extensive ribbon development along valley bottoms and lower slopes, contrasting urban landscapes with the dramatic upland scenery of steep hills, moors, and forests. Historically, the area's underlying geology and mineral deposits fuelled rapid industrial growth in the 19th century, leading to an infrastructure of railways, large industrial buildings, and iconic terraced housing for workers, creating vibrant new settlements. The decline of these industries in the late 20th century has resulted in significant changes, including the abandonment and redevelopment of industrial sites, which has impacted community identity. The region is transitioning into a post-industrial 'city region', with emerging heritage-based activities and the gradual return of greenery to former industrial landscapes. Wildlife conservation efforts are being recognized as essential for the economic regeneration and revitalization of the area.

3.2.2 Key characteristics include:

- a. Extensive upland plateau.
- b. Steep-sided valleys.
- c. Ribbon urban and industrial areas in valleys.
- d. Extensive remains of heavy industry.
- e. Contrast of urban valley activity next to quiet uplands.
- f. Large blocks of coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland.
- g. Heather, rough grassland and steep bracken slopes.
- h. Improved grassland pastures on some lower valley sides.
- i. Dry-stone wall and/or dense hawthorn hedge field boundaries.
- j. Transport routes restricted to valleys.
- k. Iconic cultural identity.

3.2.3 The study area overlaps NLCA30 *Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains*¹⁹, which is characterised as the highest mountain range in southern Britain, featuring the summit of Pen y Fan at 886 m AOD and a landscape of smooth, unenclosed moorland with deeply cut valleys and high mountain passes, primarily composed of Old Red Sandstones. Known for their dramatic slopes and lush, enclosed valleys, the Beacons offer iconic scenery like Eryri and are part of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, attracting walkers and tourists. The Usk Valley separates the central Beacons from the Black Mountains, while the landscape includes distinct areas of open moorland, ridges, and limestone features,

¹⁸ <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/682625/nlca37-south-wales-valleys-description>

¹⁹ <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/682609/nlca30-brecon-beacons-and-black-mountains-description>



such as the renowned 'Waterfalls Country' near Ystradfellte and show caves at Dan-yr-Ogof.

3.2.4 Key characteristics include:

- a. Highest mountains in south Wales.
- b. Heavily glaciated upland.
- c. Source of several major rivers with numerous reservoirs.
- d. Rough moorland habitats.
- e. Classic limestone scenery.
- f. Strong field patterns with many small fields.
- g. Large conifer plantations.
- h. Biodiversity and geodiversity.
- i. Scattered, small settlements.
- j. Highly tranquil uplands recognised for dark skies and major tourist destination.

3.3 Landscape Character Areas

3.3.1 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each with consistent character have been identified within the study area and are shown in Figure 4. LCAs have been derived from the LANDMAP data source. LANDMAP aspect areas that overlap the study area are shown in Figures 3A to E, and a summary of their assessment is presented in Appendix 1.

3.3.2 The LCA boundaries have been derived from the five LANDMAP aspect areas and are at a similar or finer level of detail. The Visual and Sensory aspect is used as a starting point and then refined with data from the other four aspect areas and field survey.

3.3.3 Following guidelines set out in GN46²⁰, for Geological Landscape and Landscape Habitats aspects, areas considered are those that overlap or are immediately adjacent to Ffos-y-Fran. Those Geological Landscape areas that have a special links to the overlapped or adjacent areas are also included. For Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape aspects, areas that overlap the ZTV are considered. The Cultural Landscape Services aspect offers very little to LVIA that isn't included within the other four aspect layers.

3.3.4 The landscape receptors likely to experience a significant landscape effect would be those directly affected by Ffos-y-Fran final restoration works, and those character areas adjacent or near to it. A description of the physical and perceptual characteristics and a judgment of the landscape sensitivity of those LCAs are presented in Appendix 2 and summarized in Table 9.

Table 9 Landscape Character Areas

Ref	Name	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
1	Penmoelallt Plantation	Very high	Low	Low
2	Nant Ffrwd Upland	Very high	Medium	Medium

²⁰ <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/using-landmap-in-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessments>



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Ref	Name	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
3	Winch Fawr Upland	High	Negligible	Negligible
4	Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland	Very high	Low	Low
5	Cefn Coed Cemetery	Very high	Negligible	Negligible
6	Winch Fawr Tramway	High	Negligible	Negligible
7	Cwm Ffrwd	Very high	Negligible	Negligible
8	Gellideg and Heolgerrig	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
9	Vaynor Upland	Very high	Medium	Medium
10	Cefn Coed and Trefechan	Medium	Low	Low
11	Cefn Coed-y-cymmer	High	Negligible	Negligible
12	Cwm Glo	High	Negligible	Negligible
13	A465 Road Corridor (under construction)	Low	Negligible	Negligible
14	Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland	High	Low	Low
15	Cyfarthfa Castle	Very high	Low	Low
16	Cyfarthfa Park Ward and Retail Park	High	Negligible	Negligible
17	Gurnos	Medium	Low	Low
18	Ynys-fach and Rhyd-y-car	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
19	Vaynor Farmland	Very high	Low	Low
20	Upper Abercanaid	High	Negligible	Negligible
21	Morlais Castle	High	Low	Low
22	A470 Road Corridor	Low	Negligible	Negligible
23	Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre	High	Negligible	Negligible
24	Penydarren	High	Medium	Medium
25	Abercanaid	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
26	Mynydd Merthyr	High	Negligible	Negligible
27	Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
28	Aberfan Valley Side	Very high	Negligible	Negligible
29	Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation	High	Low	Low
30	Pant Farmland	High	Low	Low
31	Aberfan Farmland	High	Negligible	Negligible
32	Cwmblacks Farmland	Medium	Low	Low
33	Dowlais	High	Medium	Medium
34	Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
35	Pant and Pengarnddu	High	Low	Low
36	Merthyr Common and Cilfach yr Encil	High	Medium	Medium
37	Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine	Medium	Low	Low
38	Trecatti Landfill Site	Medium	Low	Low
39	Mynydd y Capel	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
40	Cwm Bargoed	High	Medium	Medium
41	Penddeugae and Nant-y-fedw Enclosed Farmland	Medium	Negligible	Negligible



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Ref	Name	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
42	Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland	Very high	Medium	Medium
43	Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland	High	Negligible	Negligible
44	Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland	Medium	Low	Low
45	Cwm Carno	Low	Negligible	Negligible
46	Blaen Rhymni	Medium	Low	Low
47	Fochriw	Low	Negligible	Negligible
48	Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw	High	Low	Low
49	Rhymni	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
50	Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate	Low	Negligible	Negligible
51	Cwm Darran	High	Negligible	Negligible
52	Rhymni Hill and Bryn Oer	Medium	Low	Low
53	Cefn Y Brithdir	Low	Low	Low
54	A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Corridor	Low	Negligible	Negligible
55	Tredeggar Patch	Low	Negligible	Negligible
56	Cwm Tyswg	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
57	Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte	High	Negligible	Negligible
58	Cefn Rhychdir	Low	Negligible	Negligible

3.4 Visual Receptors

Zone of theoretical visibility

- 3.4.1 The baseline visual amenity is outlined below, initially with a description of the ZTV, then by an examination of the type of visual receptors and the existing view of Ffos-y-Fran. This has guided the design of the restoration and the evaluation of the potential significance of visual effect.
- 3.4.2 The ZTV shows the visual extent of the restored landform of Ffos-y-Fran. This is illustrated in Figure 1. It has been used to refine the study area and guide identification of potential visual receptors. The terrain model used as the basis of the ZTV has no surface features such as buildings or substantial vegetation that may potentially screen views of Ffos-y-Fran. The bare earth surface model provides a 'worst-case scenario'.
- 3.4.3 Target points have been set at prominent places on the reclaimed Ffos-y-Fran landform. These include the following:
- Summit and platform edge of the northernmost overburden mound (OB1).
 - Summit and platform edge of the easternmost overburden mound (OB2).
 - Summit and platform edge of the southernmost overburden mound (OB3).
 - Ridge line of the gradually restored backfill, the high point between the A4060 and the mine pit waterbody.



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- e. Top of the north-eastern mine wall, nearest to Trecatti landfill site.
- f. Top of the south-eastern mine wall, to the west and at the toe of OB1.
- g. Top of the south mine wall, nearest to workshops and viewing platform.

3.4.4 The observer height has been set at 1.6 m which is based on an architectural standard average eye-level of people in the United Kingdom²¹. The ZTV for the restored landform extends beyond the 5 km buffer from the Ffos-y-Fran site boundary. It indicates that the landform would be visible from hill summits, ridges and south facing slopes of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park upland, hill summits, ridges and east facing slopes of the Afon Rhymni valley side, hill summits, ridges and north facing slopes of the Bargoed Taf and Bargoed Rhymni valley sides, and hill summits, ridges and east facing slopes of the Afon Taf valley sides.

3.4.5 There would also be a view from built up areas of Merthyr Tydfil including outskirt settlements such as Cefn Coed-y-cymmer, Trefechan, Pant, Dowlais, Abercanaid, Heolgerrig and Gellideg. Also views from upland pasture of Merthyr Common and Gelligaer Common.

Potential visual receptors and visual baseline

3.4.6 Existing views of the potential visual receptors for Ffos-y-Fran and a judgment of their visual sensitivity are summarised in Table 10 below. Selected representative viewpoints and a more detailed baseline description are presented in Figures 6A to H. Their location is also shown on Figure 1. Near distance views are those that are within 0.5 km from the Ffos-y-Fran site boundary. Intermediate distance views are those between 0.5 and 2 km from the site boundary and long-distance views more than 2 km.

3.4.7 The LCAs referred to are shown in Figure 4, and Figure 5 shows the location of roads, rights-of-way and open access areas.

Table 10 Visual baseline and receptor sensitivity

LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
1 Penmoelallt Plantation	A long-distance view of the Ffos-y-Fran mine walls, the restored backfill and the overburden mounds is available to visitors to the National Park and countryside workers from the outer edges of the conifer plantation. Attractive visual elements include the National Park and Afon Taf Fawr valley upland ridges and slopes. Detractive visual elements include Merthyr Tydfil and its outskirts. During hours of darkness there is a little light pollution from Merthyr Tydfil and the A465 Heads of The Valleys corridor.	Very high

²¹ <https://www.firstinarchitecture.co.uk/metric-data-01-average-dimensions-of-person-standing/>

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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
2 Nant Ffrwd Upland	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran mine walls, the backfill restoration under progress, the previously restored backfill and the overburden mounds. The view is available to visitors to the National Park and open access uplands, and countryside workers. Attractive visual elements include the National Park and the Afon Taf Fawr valley upland ridges and slopes. Detractive visual elements include the A465 road construction, Merthyr Tydfil and outskirts and unrestored elements of Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness there is light pollution from the A465 road corridor and Merthyr Tydfil.	Very high
3 Winch Fawr Upland	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran including the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds. The view is available to visitors to the open access upland and countryside workers. Attractive visual elements include the National Park to the north and Gethin Woodland to the south. Detractive visual elements include A465 road construction, Gellideg, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil and Ffos-y-Fran bare surfaces. During hours of darkness there is light pollution from the A465 and A470 corridor, Merthyr Tydfil outskirts and town centre.	Medium
4 Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran including the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds. An open and uninterrupted view is available to countryside workers where not filtered by field boundary vegetation. For users of the Taff Trail long-distance route the view is partially interrupted by vegetation. Attractive visual elements include the National Park and Afon Taf Fawr valley uplands broadly to the north. Detractive visual elements broadly to the south include the A465 corridor, Merthyr Tydfil outskirts and town centre and bare unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness there is little light pollution from the A465 road corridor.	Medium
5 Cefn Coed Cemetery	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran theoretically available from the cemetery at the western side of the Afon Taf Fawr. Mixed woodland planting around the edges of the cemetery and viaducts crossing the Afon Taf Fawr for the A465 and its junction with the A470 interrupt the view. The view would be available to visitors to the cemetery and outdoor workers. Attractive views of the Afon Taf Fawr valley but the Afon Taf Fawr viaduct is the dominant visual detractor. During hours of darkness the lighting required at the A465/A470 junction is the main source of light pollution.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
6 Winch Fawr Tramway	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran including the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds. An open and uninterrupted view is available from parts of the LCA, elsewhere the view is interrupted by tips and naturally colonised woodland. The view would be available to countryside workers, clustered residential areas and visitors to the open access areas. Attractive views of the Afon Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan valleys, and uplands of the National Park. Detractive visual elements include the built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil, retail parks and outskirts, and the bare unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. The semi-natural woodland at Cyfarthfa Park, Galon Uchaf Park and East Merthyr Reclamation Area break up the view of the urban area and lessens the detractive. During hours of darkness there is light pollution from Merthyr Tydfil outskirts.	Medium
7 Cwm Ffrwd	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran including the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds. The view is partially interrupted by unmanaged field boundaries and semi-natural broadleaved woodland at the Nant Ffrwd valley sides. It is available to countryside workers and residents of scattered rural dwellings. Attractive views northward of the Afon Taf Fawr valley and Cwm Ffrwd are interrupted by that of the A465 road corridor. Views towards Ffos-y-Fran include a view of built-up areas of Gellideg and Pen-y-darren. During hours of darkness there is light pollution from the A465 and A470 road corridors, and the outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil.	Medium
8 Gellideg and Heolgerrig	A long-distance view of Ffos-y-Fran including the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds. The view is available from parts of the settlement with an open east facing aspect. At Gellideg, there is a view available from the residential area enclosed by Heol Tai Mawr, Heol Nant Gau and Heol Parc Maen and the disused tips at Pen-llwyn-deri. From Heolgerrig the overburden mounds can be seen from the retail park, Mount Pleasant and several suburban estates branching off Winchfawr Road and Heolgerrig. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf Fawr uplands and of Cyfarthfa Castle in its parkland setting. Visual detractors include the superstore off Swansea Road, built-up areas and the bare unvegetated slopes at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness there is light pollution from the A470 corridor and Cyfarthfa/Swansea Road retail areas.	High



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
9 Vaynor Upland	Long-distance views of Ffos-y-Fran available from summits, ridges and south facing slopes of this undulating upland terrain. Panoramic and attractive view available to visitors to the National Park and countryside workers view of the National Park, Afon Taf Fawr and Afon Taf Fechan valleys broadly to the north, and of the Afon Taf valley uplands broadly to the south. Visual detractors include the A465 road corridor, the built-up areas of Merthyr and the unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness there is very little light pollution, some influence from Merthyr Tydfil at the southernmost parts of the LCA.	Very high
10 Cefn Coed and Trefechan	Long-distance views of Ffos-y-Fran available from residential areas with an open south-facing aspect. The view is available to residential streets and open spaces such as those branching off from Crabtree Walk and Sweetwater Park at Trefechan and from streets branching off Cloth Hall Lane and Lon Maes Du in Cefn Coed. Rising ground to the north limit views in the direction of the National Park. Views southwards take in the attractive Afon Taf and tributary valley uplands and Cyfarthfa Park. Visual detractors include the residential estates at Merthyr Tydfil and outskirts, and the unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness light pollution influence from Vaynor Road and A465 road corridor.	High
11 Cefn Coed-y-cymmer	Long-distance views of Ffos-y-Fran theoretically available to parts of the settlement with an open south-eastward aspect. Views are limited by neighbouring buildings and rising ground at Cyfarthfa Park. Views along streets available of parts of the Afon Taf valley uplands. Visual detractors include developed areas at odds with the traditional street pattern and terraced buildings. During hours of darkness there is an even distribution of light pollution throughout the built-up area.	High
12 Cwm Glo	Long-distance views of part of the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds. The view is available to outdoor workers, residents of scattered rural dwellings, users of recreational facilities such as skeet shooting and motocross racing, and visitors to open access land. Panoramic and attractive views available of the Afon Taf and tributary valley uplands. Visual detractors include the built-up parts of Merthyr Tydfil and outskirt settlements, which are partially interrupted by semi-natural broadleaved woodland that has recolonised the former mineral working landscape. During hours of darkness there is a slight influence to the lower slopes from the A470 corridor and retail areas.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
13 A465 Road Corridor (under construction)	Long-distance views of Ffos-y-Fran from the Gellideg to Gurnos section, and intermediate-distance views from Gurnos to Dowlais Top section. From long-distance the gradually restored backfill slope, the eastern wall and OB1 are noticeable to eastbound traffic. The view is transient and is occasionally interrupted by roadside plantations, road cuttings the built-up areas of Cefn Coed-y-cymmer and Gurnos. From intermediate distance there is a transient view of the backfill, southern mine wall, eastern mine wall and OB1 available to eastbound traffic between Penydarren and Dowlais Top. For westbound traffic the view is indirect and available to passengers. Visual detractors include the Trecatti landfill site, the unvegetated surfaces of the backfill, mine walls and overburden mounds at Ffos-y-Fran and industrial/retail areas in Merthyr Tydfil. During hours of darkness the road lighting required at junctions is a significant source of light pollution.	Low
14 Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill, eastern wall and overburden mounds available from outer edges of plantations or open ground in recently felled plantations. The view is available to countryside workers and visitors to the open access forest. There are several bridle paths, footpaths and mountain bike trails throughout the wooded area. Panoramic views of the Afon Taf and tributary valleys available from points where gaps in plantations allow. Detractors to the view include built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil and unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness there is little light pollution but the lighting within Merthyr Tydfil and Taf valley settlements is visible.	Medium
15 Cyfarthfa Castle	Intermediate distance (between 0.5 and 2 km), and long-distance (more than 2 km) views of the gradually restored backfill slope, part of the eastern wall and the overburden mounds theoretically available to the eastern and south-eastern parts of this RHPG. There are open and uninterrupted views of Ffos-y-Fran available from the road and recreation ground at the eastern side of the park. These views are available to outdoor workers and visitors to the designed landscape of national importance. Elsewhere the view is interrupted by Castle Wood and built-up areas developed in the 20th Century at The Quar. During hours of darkness residential and town centre areas of Merthyr Tydfil contribute to light pollution.	High



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
16 Cyfarthfa Park Ward and Retail Park	Intermediate distance views of part of the eastern wall, the gradually restored backfill and some of the overburden mounds available from this LCA. Views are limited by buildings and few streets are aligned in the direction of Ffos-y-Fran. The gradually restored backfill and OB1 is noticeable in eastward and transient views from the A4102 Swansea Road near to Cyfarthfa Retail Park. Glimpses of Ffos-y-Fran are available to the dense residential areas, and transient views available from users of main roads. Attractive views of the Afon Taf valley upland and Cyfarthfa Castle available from some streets. During hours of darkness residential and town centre areas of Merthyr Tydfil contribute to light pollution.	High
17 Gurnos	Residential estate set at a higher level than Merthyr Tydfil town centre. The gradually restored backfill, mine's east wall and OB1 are prominent in intermediate to long-distance views from the northern part of the residential area. To the south and downhill of the roundabout where Gurnos Road meets Poplar Way and Ash Crescent, the prominence of Ffos-y-Fran diminishes and the view of it becomes interrupted by buildings. The view is available to dense residential areas and institutional buildings and their outdoor spaces. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf valley uplands available from Gurnos. The view towards the town centre is interrupted by the downward sloping built-up residential areas. During hours of darkness the dense residential areas and the Prince Charles hospital complex are a contributor to light pollution.	High
18 Ynys-fach and Rhyd-y-car	Theoretical intermediate distance to long-distance view of the gradually restored backfill, part of the eastern mine wall and some of the overburden mounds. This LCA is located near to the Afon Taf valley floor. There are transient glimpses of the backfill and OB1 available to main road users approaching Merthyr Tydfil town centre from the A470, and more static views along east-west aligned streets of Penlan View. Nearer to the Afon Taf the rising ground of the gradually restored backfill interrupts the view of the other main visual elements associated with Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness the dense residential and retail areas are a contributor to light pollution.	High



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
19 Vaynor Farmland	Morlais Hill interrupts the view of Ffos-y-Fran from much of this LCA. The remains of working face and benches at Morlais Castle Quarries are a prominent feature of the southward view. Where there is sufficient elevation the gradually restored backfill and OB1 become noticeable. The lower slopes of this agricultural area tend to feature more vegetation and hedgerow field boundaries which filter the southward views. There are attractive panoramic views of the Afon Taf Fechan valley sides including a view prominent limestone quarries and rock outcrops at Twynau Gwynion, Morlais Castle and Vaynor Quarry. The view is available to users of public rights of way within the National Park, outdoor workers and scattered/clustered less populated residential areas. During hours of darkness there is a slight influence from Trefechan and Vaynor Road.	High
20 Upper Abercanaid	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill and overburden mounds theoretically available to this wooded character area. There are few open areas where views across the Afon Taf valley are publicly accessible and available. One example is the parking area at BikePark Wales, or from mountain bike trails at higher elevations. The view of the backfill and overburden mounds is available to recreational users of sports facilities. Attractive elements are the open uplands. Visual detractors are the Merthyr Tydfil Trade Park and Triangle Business Park. During hours of darkness there is some influence on the lower slopes from the A470 corridor.	Low
21 Morlais Castle	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill, mine walls, OB1 and OB3 available to the Morlais Hill part of this LCA. A view from the more enclosed farmland part is interrupted by high ground at Penydarren. The view also includes that of the unrestored and unvegetated backfill. There are attractive panoramic views from the Morlais castle remains and Morlais Castle golf course of the Heads of the Valleys upland, Afon Taf Fechan and Afon Taf valleys. Detractors to the view are the Prince Charles Hospital complex, Pant Industrial Estate, Pengarnddu Business Park, Trecatti landfill site and the unvegetated walls and backfill slopes of Ffos-y-Fran. The view is available to outdoor workers, a landscape of regional importance and users of recreational sports facilities. During hours of darkness there is light pollution influence from the A465 road corridor and outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
22 A470 Road Corridor	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill and overburden mounds are available to this road corridor. At the north, near to the junction with the A465, the unvegetated surface of OB1 is noticeable to users travelling southward. Further south the view is indirect and often filtered or screened from view by roadside plantations. Woodland at Cyfarthfa Park also interrupts the view of the mine walls. There are transient glimpses available at the Gellideg and Rhyd-y-car Roundabouts. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf valleys sides and uplands available to users of main roads. Ffos-y-Fran is noticeable if looked for. During hours of darkness the A470 corridor and nearby retail parks are significant contributors to light pollution.	Low
23 Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre	Theoretical view of the gradually restored backfill, OB1 and OB3 from the Penyard part of this LCA. Mountain Hare is close to the site boundary and the view from here is limited to the rising ground of previously reclaimed land at East Merthyr and Ffos-y-Fran. There are glimpses of the ridge of the backfill from dense residential areas branching off Pantyffyn Road. The view is available to dense residential areas where gaps between buildings allow, and public open space with open eastward aspect. Internal views are of built-up areas with a valley side backdrop of grassland or woodland. During hours of darkness the town centre is a significant contributor to light pollution.	High
24 Penydarren	Intermediate distance views of the mine walls, gradually restored backfill, OB1 and OB2. Many streets have a south-eastward or near south-eastward alignment that provide direct views towards the surface mining operations. Elsewhere dwellings at the southern edge of Galon Uchaf have an uninterrupted view of Ffos-y-Fran. The view is available to dense residential areas, institutional buildings and public open spaces with a broadly southward aspect. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf valley uplands. Visual detractors include Goat Mill Road industrial areas and the unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness Merthyr Tydfil town centre and the A465 road corridor are significant contributors to light pollution.	High
25 Abercanaid	Long-distance views of the restored backfill slope, OB1 and OB3. The view is available to less densely populated residential estates and open spaces next to the A470 with a broadly eastward aspect. There are attractive views towards the Afon Taf valley uplands. Visual detractors include buildings in the Pentrebach Retail Park and Triangle Business Park, overhead National Grid power lines, and tips yet to be reprofiled at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness Pentrebach Retail Park is a significant contributor to light pollution.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
26 Mynydd Merthyr	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill, part of the eastern mine wall and the overburden mounds. The view is available to outdoor workers. Broad panoramic views available from the engineered landscape and site of colliery spoil material removed from the tips at Aberfan. Forms part of the <i>Aberfan</i> RHPG. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf valley sides and uplands. Visual detractors include built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil and outskirts. During hours of darkness a view of lights at Merthyr Tydfil and the Afon Taf valley settlements is available.	High
27 Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland	Long-distance views of gradually restored slope and overburden mounds. The view is available to outdoor workers from enclosed fields. Attractive views of Afon Taf valley sides and uplands. Visual detractors include National Grid pylons and power lines. During hours of darkness there is some light pollution influence from the A470 corridor.	Medium
28 Aberfan Valleys Side	Long distance view of the gradually restored backfill slope and the overburden mounds. The view is available to outdoor workers and visitors to open access areas. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf valley sides and uplands. Visual detractors include National Grid pylons and power lines, and Merthyr Tydfil Industrial ark buildings. Forms part of the <i>Aberfan</i> RHPG. During hours of darkness a view of lights at Merthyr Tydfil and the Afon Taf valley settlements is available	High
29 Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation	Near distance views of part of the eastern mine wall, the gradually restored backfill and the north-facing profile of OB1. The view is available to less densely populated residential areas and users of informal open space at Caeharris, indoor workers in industrial units based along Dowlais High Street and Goat Mill Road, and users of the dualled A4060 road. There are few attractive visual elements, but maturing plantations on the site of reclaimed tips and land associated with Dowlais Iron Works mitigate the view of the surface mining operations. During hours of darkness Merthyr Tydfil industrial areas are a significant source of light pollution.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
30 Pant Farmland	Intermediate to long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill, the mine walls, north facing profiles of OB1 and OB3. The view is available to outdoor workers, residents of scattered rural dwellings, and users of minor public roads. There are attractive internal views of stone wall/hedgerow bounded fields, vernacular buildings and heathland. Attractive views outward towards the Afon Taf Fechan uplands. Visual detractors include suburban housing estates and retail areas north of the A465, National Grid pylons and power lines, unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran and Trecatti landfill site. Landscape regionally recognised as SLA. During hours of darkness there is influence from A465 corridor, Pengarnddu Retail Park and Pant Industrial Estate.	Medium
31 Aberfan Farmland	Long-distance views of gradually restored slope and overburden mounds. The view is available to outdoor workers from enclosed fields. Attractive views of Afon Taf valley sides and uplands. Visual detractors include National Grid pylons and power lines. Forms part of the <i>Aberfan</i> RHPG. During hours of darkness there is some light pollution influence from the A470 corridor.	High
32 Cwmlacks Farmland	Near to intermediate distance views of the gradually restored backfill slope, west facing profiles of OB1 and OB3, tips and soil storage mounds yet to be used in reprofiling works. View is limited to the eastern parts of the LCA that are at higher elevation than the western parts. The view is available to outdoor workers, users of minor roads, residents of clustered rural dwellings at Incline Side and visitors to the open access common. There are attractive views across the Afon Taf valley of the wooded valley sides. Visual detractors include unvegetated tips and National Grid pylons and power lines. During hours of darkness there is little internal light source. Slight influence from Merthyr Tydfil.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
33 Dowlais	Near and intermediate distance views of the backfill, mine walls and OB1. Near to Ffos-y-Fran the rising ground and screen bund formed of subsoils partially interrupts a view of the mine walls. At intermediate distance and higher level, the view overlooks the mitigation screens and plantations providing a direct view of the southern mine wall and the backfill build up's inner unvegetated face. The view is available to dense residential areas, users of public open space and public roads. There are attractive views of the western and wooded Taf Cynon ridge. Visual detractors include unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran, Trecatti landfill site, built up areas at Heolgerrig and Gellideg, and industrial areas at Dowlais High Street/Goat Mill Road. During hours of darkness there is light pollution influence from the urban area.	High
34 Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach	Near view of the previously restored backfill from the A4060 section of this LCA only. The view is available to northbound travellers of the A4060 on approach to the roundabout at Mountain Hare. There are very few external views from this enclosed LCA. Internal views are of large industrial complexes, reclaimed land and plantations, road infrastructure and less densely populated housing estates. During hours of darkness there is light pollution influence from the urban area.	Low
35 Pant and Pengarnddu	Intermediate distance view of the gradually restored backfill and the north facing aspect of OB1. Glimpses of the mine walls and OB3 available to parts of the LCA, particularly from Bryniau Road. Parts of Dowlais and the A465 road corridor interrupt the southward view from this LCA. The view is available to dense residential areas, users of public open space and public roads, workers in industrial and retail complexes, outdoor workers and users of recreational facilities. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf and Taf Fechan valley uplands. Visual detractors in southward views include Trecatti landfill site, unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran, A465 road corridor and industrial/retail areas. During hours of darkness there is significant light pollution form the industrial/retail areas and the A465 corridor.	High



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
36 Merthyr Common and Cilfach-yr- Encil	Near, intermediate and long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill, unrestored tips and subsoil storage mounds, and the overburden mounds available to the Common plateau, the summits, ridges and north facing slopes. The northern boundary of the LCA is formed by the Afon Bargoed Taf that has been diverted to follow the outer edge of OB3. The view is available to outdoor workers, visitors to the open access Common, and users of minor roads. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf and Afon Bargoed Taf valleys and northward to the National Park. Visual detractors include National Grid pylons and powerlines, the built-up areas of Methyr Tydfil and outskirts, and unvegetated surfaces and workshop buildings at Ffos-y-Fran. During hours of darkness there are very few internal light sources, influence from Merthyr Tydfil and outlying settlements.	Medium
37 Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine	Directly impacted by reclamation and final restoration. View available to outdoor workers and indoor workers. A rapidly changing and large-scale industrial landscape of coal extraction has its own visual interest but in terms of visual impact is considered as a detractor to views. Attractive views outward of the Afon Taf and Afon Bargoed Taf valleys, and northward towards the National Park. Overburden mounds provide elevated platforms with commanding and uninterrupted views of surrounding area. Visual detractors include built elements such as pylons and powerlines, industrial buildings and structures, working excavation faces and backfill slopes. During hours of darkness there is a little source of light from office, workshop and working areas.	Medium
38 Trecatti Landfill Site	Immediately adjacent to the final working face and OB1. The view available is of the top of the eastern wall, restored backfill, OB1 and OB2. From the very western edge of the previously reclaimed landform there is a view into the mine pit and the backfill slope. The view is available to outdoor workers. There are attractive views northward toward the National Park and Mynydd Llangyndir, but southward views are interrupted by Ffos-y-Fran. Visual detractors include unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran, A465 road corridor, and the landfill site itself. During hours of darkness few internal light sources out of working hours, pollution from Pengarnddu Business Park and A465 road corridor.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
39 Mynydd y Capel	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill and the overburden mounds available from summits, ridges and slopes with an open northward aspect. The view is available to outdoor workers and visitors to the open access Common. There are attractive panoramic views of the Afon Taf and Afon Bargoed Taf valley sides and uplands. Visual detractors include valley settlements and industrial areas within. Landscape regionally recognised as SLA. Very few if any internal light sources, slight influence from valley settlements.	Medium
40 Cwm Bargoed	Near, intermediate and long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill and overburden mounds from the valley head and eastern side. The LCA is immediately adjacent to OB3 and the coal washing, vehicle maintenance, rail depot complex areas of Ffos-y-Fran surface mine. The view is available to countryside workers, residents of scattered rural dwellings and users of minor roads and public rights of way. There are attractive views of Cwm Bargoed. Visual detractors include a solar farm at the head of the valley, working elements within Ffos-y-Fran surface mine and National Grid pylons. The landscape is regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there is very little internal light source, and the area is influenced by Ffos-y-Fran at the northern edge and Bedlinog to the south.	Medium
41 Penddeugae and Nant-y-Fedw Enclosed Farmland	Theoretical long-distance views of the overburden mounds available from upland plateau, summits, ridges and slopes with an open northward aspect. The view is available to outdoor workers and residents of scattered rural dwellings. No public rights-of-way cross the ZTV. The landscape is regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there is very little internal light source, and the area is slightly influenced by Bedlinog.	Medium
42 Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland	Intermediate to long-distance views the gradually restored backfill, parts of the mine wall and the overburden mounds available from summits, ridges and slopes with an open southward aspect. The view is available to visitors to the National Park and open access upland areas and outdoor workers. There are attractive views of the National Parks and Heads of the Valleys uplands will limestone outcrops and valleys. Visual detractors include industrial areas at the Heads of the Valleys, Trecatti landfill site and unvegetated surfaces at Ffos-y-Fran. Section outside of National Park is regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there are no internal light sources. The southern part of the LCA is influenced by light pollution from the Heads of the Valleys road corridor and industry.	Very high



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
43 Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland	Long-distance view of the overburden mounds and part of the gradually restored backfill available to the north-western edge of this LCA where it rolls over into Cwm Bargoed. The view is available to outdoor workers and a short section of public footpath only. There are attractive views of the Afon Bargoed Taf and Nant Llwynog valleys. Regionally recognised as an SLA. Very few internal light sources and slightly influenced by Bedlinog to the south.	Medium
44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland	Near and intermediate distance view of the overburden mounds and a glimpse of the gradually restored backfill and unrestored tips and subsoil storage mounds. The LA is immediately adjacent to OB2 and the Cwm Bargoed rail depot. Views are available to outdoor workers, users of public roads and rights-of-way and visitors to the open upland Common up to where the plateau meets the Rhymney Valley ridgeway, and the promoted Ridgeway Walk long distance trail. There are attractive views of Cwm Bargoed, Mynydd Fochriw and the Common. Visual detractors include a solar farm at the head of the Cwm Bargoed valley, building elements within Ffos-y-Fran surface mine and National Grid pylons. The landscape is regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there is very little internal light source. Some influence from Ffos-y-Fran and Pengarnddu.	High
45 Cwm Carno	Intermediate distance view of OB1 available to the northern part of this LCA, which is next to the A465. The view is of the eastern flank and is seen amongst a reclaimed landscape with unrestored and naturally vegetated tips in the foreground. The view is available to outdoor workers, users of public-rights of way, residents of scattered rural dwellings and visitors to the open access Common. The main visual detractors are the National Grid pylons and power lines that cross the Common. The profile of OB1 when seen from the north-eastern side looks like a natural extension of the undulating landform. The landscape is regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there are very few internal light sources. Eastern slope of ridgeway significantly influenced by light-pollution from Rhymni.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
46 Blaen Rhymni	Long-distance view of the gradually restored backfill, OB1 and OB2 available from the slopes on the eastern side of the Afon Rhymni with an open westward aspect. The view is available to outdoor workers, residents of scattered rural dwellings and users of public roads and rights-of-way. The overburden mounds appear as natural extensions to the undulating landform when in the south-westward view. There are attractive views out of the Common and the head of the Afon Rhymni valley. Visual detractors include the A465 road corridor. During hours of darkness there are very few internal light sources. Influenced by the A465 road corridor.	Medium
47 Fochriw	Intermediate distance view of OB1 and OB2 with a glimpse of buildings at the Cwm Bargoed rail depot available from Pontlottyn Road and Hillside. The view is available to a school and outdoor areas, residents in less densely populated areas located on Pontlottyn Road and Hillside, and users of public roads. Mynydd Fochriw and Rhymni Hill are attractive elements in the view with the undulating post-industrial landscape of the Common in-between. The two overburden mounds form a high point in-between the natural hills and are gradually being naturally colonised by gorse scrub, which will in time disguise their engineered appearance. Visual detractors include the National Grid pylons and power lines, but at such distance these are not a significant element in the view. During hours of darkness there is an even distribution of light sources from the roads and suburban housing estate.	Medium
48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw	Intermediate-distance views of the gradually restored backfill and overburden mounds from the summits, ridge and saddle, and slopes with an open westward aspect of Mynydd Fochriw and Pen Garnbugail. These two hills interrupt the view of Ffos-y-Fran from the remainder of the upland to the south. The view is available to outdoor workers, users of public rights of way and visitors to the open access upland. There are attractive panoramic views of the Heads of the Valleys, the Taf, Bargoed Taf, Bargoed Rhymni and Rhymni river valleys and the National Park in the northward distance. Visual detractors in the northward view include the industrial buildings at Ffos-y-Fran and the solar farm at the head of Cwm Bargoed. OB3 is prominent in the view as its east facing slopes are sparsely vegetated and stand out against the improved grassland and woodland at the head of Afon Bargoed Taf tributary valleys. During hours of darkness there are no internal light sources. Some influence from Fochriw and Cwm Bargoed rail depot.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
49 Rhymni	Long-distance view of OB1 and OB2 from the Bute Town area and suburban estate north of Pen-y-Dre. The view is available to less densely populated residential areas and users of public roads. OB2 is difficult to distinguish in the view and the summit of OB1 appears as an addition of the post-industrial and partially reclaimed landform of the Rhymni valley ridge. There are attractive views of Pen March and the ridgeway. Visual detractors include the National Grid pylons and power lines that cross the Common. Significant light source from industrial areas next to the Afon Rhymni and A465 corridor junctions.	Medium
50 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate	Long-distance view of OB1 and OB2 available from this industrial estate and cluster of dwellings. The view is available to residents and indoor workers. There are attractive panoramic views of Pen March and Gelli-Gaer common from the west of the LCA. Visual detractors include industrial buildings and the A465 road. OB1 and OB2 are noticeable, as are the National Grid pylons and power lines that run between them. The overburden mounds stand out from the sweeping landform of Pen March and the broad ridge of the Common, as does Mynydd Fochriw and Pen Garnbugail. During hours of darkness there is significant light source from industrial areas and A465 corridor junctions.	Low
51 Cwm Darran	Long distance views of the overburden mounds theoretically available from the valley side between Fochriw and Rhiw Cantorion. The view is available to outdoor workers and visitors to the open access woodland and Country Park/Nature Reserve. During the hours of darkness there is very little light source within the valley. There is a little influence from Fochriw.	High
52 Rhymney Hill and Bryn Oer	Long-distance view of OB1 and OB2 available from the west facing slopes of this aspect area above Rhymni. The view is available to outdoor workers, residents of scattered rural dwellings, users of public rights-of-way and visitors to the open access upland. The view is similar to that when viewed from the residential areas of north Rhymni but at a higher elevation OB2 is more noticeable. The overburden mounds stand out slightly from the sweeping landform of Pen March and the broad ridge of the Common. Part of the area is regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there is some influence from light sources in Rhymni and the A465 corridor.	Medium



LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
53 Cefn Y Brithdir	Long-distance views of the overburden mounds available from the broad ridge and slopes with open north and westward aspect. The view is available to outdoor workers, users of public rights-of-way and visitors to the open access upland. There are attractive panoramic views of Mynydd Fochriw and the Gelligaer ridge, the Nant Bargoed Rhymni and Afon Rhymni valleys and the uplands of the Taf and Rhymni valleys. The overburden mounds are seen against the backdrop of the Taf valley and National Park uplands. Visual detractors include the settlement and industrial elements of Rhymni. During hours of darkness there is light pollution influence from Fochriw and Rhymni.	Medium
54 A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Corridor	Intermediate distance and transient view of OB1 for westbound travellers from the A469 junction to the Fochriw Road overbridge. Theoretical long-distance and transient views of OB1 and OB2 for westbound travellers from Merthyr Road underbridge to the A469 junction. The intermediate distance views are available to users of main roads and passengers. The long-distance view is interrupted by roadside plantations and earthworks to screen views of the A465 from Rhymni. There are attractive outward views towards Pen march and Gelligaer Common for road users west of Rhymni, where the road corridor has a more open aspect. A465 road junctions are a significant light source.	Low
55 Tredeggar Patch	Long-distance view of the overburden mounds from the northern flank of Rhymni Hill at the western edge of this reclaimed mining landscape. The view is available to outdoor workers and users of public-rights of way. The Bryn-Oer wind turbines are prominent in the westward view. OB1 and OB2 are noticeable features, OB3 is less easy to distinguish. Very little internal light source. Some influence from Tredeggar to the east.	Medium
56 Cwm Tyswg	Long-distance views of the overburden mounds from the eastern side and west facing slopes of the Nant Tyswg valley. The view is available to outdoor workers and users of public rights-of-way. Panoramic broadly westward views of Cwm Tyswg, Afon Rhymni valley, Cefn y Brithdir ridge and Gelligaer Common are available. OB1 and OB2 are noticeable and are similar in profile to Mynydd Fochriw when viewed from this direction and distance. Very few visual detractors in the westward view. National Gid Pylons and wind Bryn-Oer wind turbines are visible in the distance. During hours of darkness there is very little light source.	Medium



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LCA	Description of visual receptor and visual baseline	Sensitivity
57 Rhymney Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte	Long-distance views of the gradually restored backfill and overburden mounds from the summits, ridge and slopes with an open westward aspect. The view is available to residents in scattered rural dwellings, outdoor workers, users of public roads and rights-of-way, and visitors to the open access upland. Panoramic views of Afon Rhymni and Afon Sirhywi valleys. The westward views are of Cwm Tyswg, Afon Rhymni valley, Cefn y Brithdir ridge and Gelligaer Common are available. OB1 and OB2 are noticeable and are similar in profile to Mynydd Fochriw when viewed from this direction and distance. Very few visual detractors in the westward view. National Gid Pylons and wind Bryn-Oer wind turbines are visible in the distance. Regionally recognised as an SLA. During hours of darkness there is very little internal light source. Significant light pollution influence from Rhymni and Tredegar.	Medium
58 Cefn Rhychdir	Long-distance views of part of the gradually restored backfill and overburden mounds from the ridge and west facing slopes where woodland does not interrupt the view. The view is available to outdoor workers, users of public roads and rights-of-way and visitors to the open access areas. Ffos-y-Fran is visible in the direction of Pontlloftyn. Valley side villages are a feature of the area. Visual detractors include housing estates at the outskirts of more densely clustered villages. During hours of darkness there is some light pollution influence from the villages of Pontlloftyn and Abertysswg.	Medium

Representative viewpoints

Table 11 Location of representative viewpoints

View ref	LCA ref and name	Location	Receptor type	Sensitivity
A	08 Gellideg and Heolgerrig	Pen-llwyn-deri tips	Static view from dense residential	High
B	20 Upper Abercanaid	BikePark Wales car park	Transient view from users of sports facilities	Low
C	24 Penydarren	Galon Uchaf	Static view from dense residential	High
D	33 Dowlais	Wern Isaf	Static view from dense residential	High
E	33 Dowlais	Blaen Dowlais	Static view from users of sports facilities	Low
F	44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland	Fochriw Road	Static view from outdoor workers	Medium



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View ref	LCA ref and name	Location	Receptor type	Sensitivity
G	Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw	Mynydd Fochriw	Transient view from users of public-rights of way/open access	Medium
H	Fochriw	Pontlloctyn Road	Static view from residential	Medium



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4 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

4.1 Summary of Requirements

- 4.1.1 The works required to complete the restoration of the Ffos-y-Fran Land Reclamation Scheme (FLRS) are the final part of the East Merthyr Reclamation Scheme (EMRS). The first phase of restoration involved the gradual backfilling of the mine pit as the surface mine extraction moved from south to north, and the reprofiling and cultivation of the surface to reclaim the post-industrial landscape as upland pasture and urban common.
- 4.1.2 The second phase involves the continued reclamation of the backfilled material and restoration of the parcel of land between the dualled A4060 and the abandoned A4060. This was initiated after the completion of mineral extraction in November 2023 and carried out over the summer of 2024. Reprofiling of the tips and subsoil storage mounds near to and visible from Bogey Road will be carried out during the summer of 2025. The reclamation to date is part of the original consented reclamation scheme and the revised future restoration proposals are the subject of this LVIA.
- 4.1.3 Foremost in the consideration of the design of the revised landform is the requirement to leave the mine walls, overburden mounds and backfill in a safe and stable condition that can accommodate the proposed agricultural and recreational land uses. There is an opportunity provide a mosaic of land cover to enhance an austere and exposed landscape for the benefit of wildlife, plant-life and public amenity.

4.2 Landscape Design Proposals

- 4.2.1 The third and final phase will be carried out in a series of work packages, which continue on from the previously restored work areas as outlined below. Figure 7 shows the proposed land cover elements after final restoration.

OB2

- 4.2.2 Since its construction, which occurred between 2008 and 2010 during the initial excavation of the surface mine, the surface of the overburden mound exhibits a mosaic of habitat cover. The southern and eastern faces have established as acid grassland with scattered gorse scrub. The summit has established as a mixture of dry heath, acid grassland and bare compacted ground. The western face has a harsher climate, and the establishment of grasses and scrub is more sporadic and the predominant habitat type is of a scree slope.
- 4.2.3 Works proposed would involve the reclamation of the now redundant haul road that follows the southern toe of OB2 and incorporate it into the management of the habitat as a mosaic of unimproved grassland, heathland and scrub to provide a diversity of upland/moorland pasture and scrub woodland. The eastern face would be monitored



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and amelioration/seeding intervention prescribed if deemed necessary to accelerate the natural regeneration.

Mine wall south-east corner

- 4.2.4 The weathered rock and overhanging strata would be removed, and corner points regraded. The excavated material would be pushed into the pit where it would settle onto the mine benches and mine floor to create a scree slope with outcrops formed by the bench crests and exposed rock face. The weathered rock at the top of the wall would be graded back up at a stable gradient to meet the current ground levels.
- 4.2.5 At lower levels the scree would be submerged in the groundwater fed lake. Above the water level the scree slope would be stabilised with a series of rock gutters to trap any falling loose material. An access bench is proposed at a level above the high winter groundwater level, which would allow access to plant the lower scree slope with a mixture of native pioneer deciduous and conifer trees and shrubs. The upper scree slope and exposed rock would be left as bare ground and allowed to colonise naturally and potentially provide roosting and nesting sites for inland cliff nesting birds.
- 4.2.6 The crest of the south-east wall is prominent in views from dense residential areas at Gurnos, Penydarren and Dowlais. Reducing the mine wall crest level and grading back the upper section of slope would soften the appearance when seen from north-easterly and northerly views. The scree slope is unlikely to be visible or distinguishable from these intermediate distance views.
- 4.2.7 To avoid disturbance to any wildlife and to discourage public and livestock access to the former mine wall a bund would be constructed at the tie-in of graded slope and existing ground and densely planted with native shrub species, with a significant percentage of thorny plants. Stock proof fencing would be installed to protect newly planted shrubs from grazing and provide an additional deterrent to public access.
- 4.2.8 The scree slope would be monitored and intervention prescribed if woodland is struggling to establish or if successfully established and considered suitable for additional longer-term species. Longer-term species typically require the shelter of pioneer species to become established themselves and benefit from a build-up of organic matter and nutrients produced by pioneer species such as decayed leaves, dropped branches and nitrogen fixing.

Mine wall north-east edge

- 4.2.9 The north-eastern wall is divided into 2 working levels that accessed the different coal seams.
- 4.2.10 The weathered material at the upper wall crest would be removed and graded back to tie-in with existing ground. Rock material would be pushed onto the upper working level



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and then placed against the mine wall to cover up and stop future access to the coal seam and disused historic mine adits. Some of the excavated material would settle onto upper benches. Rock gutters would be created to trap any falling loose material.

- 4.2.11 The scree slope would be accessible from the upper working level and planted with a mixture of native pioneer trees and shrubs which would help stabilise the surface. The upper regraded rock would be left as bare ground and allowed to colonise naturally. Access to the cliff top would be discouraged by the addition of a bund, densely planted with thorny shrub species and fenced off to protect from grazing.
- 4.2.12 The lower wall is recently excavated, and rock has not been long exposed to weathering. Here the rock is affected by a natural fault and to prevent any free-standing blocks cleaving, the crest of the wall would be graded back to the upper platform level in order to stabilise the affected area.
- 4.2.13 The excavated rock would be pushed onto the lower working level and placed against the mine wall to stop future access to the coal seam. Soils would be placed onto the bare regraded rock and then planted with native shrubs and fenced off to discourage access to the exposed cliff top.
- 4.2.14 The scree slope would be stabilised with rock gutters to trap any falling material. It would be accessible from the lower platform and planted with a mixture of native pioneer trees and shrubs to help stabilise the surface and fenced off to protect from grazing.
- 4.2.15 Soils would be placed onto the remaining level platforms and the ground cultivated and seeded with a conservation grassland mixture.
- 4.2.16 The upper and lower platform scree slopes would be monitored and intervention prescribed if woodland is struggling to become established or if additional long-term species could be added.
- 4.2.17 The upper north-east wall is prominent in views from Gurnos, Penydarren and Dowlais, and noticeable from Gellideg/Heolgerrig and Cefn Coed/Tefechan. Reducing the crest level and regrading the slope would soften its angular appearance. The lower working platform is screened from these settlements by the rising landform of the gradually restored backfill and the A4060 road corridor.

Mine wall south-west corner

- 4.2.18 The weathered rock crest would be removed down to the first bench level and graded down to the restored south-eastern corner where overhanging strata would have been removed. The excavated material would be pushed into the pit where it would settle onto mine benches or add to the scree slope and backfill at the bottom of the pit. The weathered rock would be graded up at a stable gradient to tie-in with current ground levels.



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- 4.2.19 The upper benches, scree and exposed rock would be left as bare ground and allowed to colonise naturally. To discourage public and livestock access to the mine wall a bund would be constructed at the tie-in point, densely planted with predominantly thorny native species and fenced off. The lower scree would be planted only after the backfill is regraded.
- 4.2.20 The south-west corner of the mine wall is relatively well screened by the gradually restored backfill. A view of it is available to parts of Dowlais and Penydarren. The regraded landform would tie into the restored backfill when viewed from the north of Merthyr Tydfil. It would form a part of the horizon between OB1, and the upland grassland hill formed from the backfill.

OB1 and coal wash area

- 4.2.21 OB1 was constructed on previously reclaimed land during the initial excavations of the surface mine between 2008 and 2016. Since 2016 material has been removed from the western side of OB1 to accommodate the northward progression of the surface mine and to backfill the pit.
- 4.2.22 The south and east aspects have been left undisturbed since the mound was built and have gradually developed into an acid grassland and scattered scrub habitat. The north aspect experiences a harsher climate that is less favourable to the development of vegetation due to the lack of sunlight it receives. What vegetation has established is more sporadic and the predominant habitat is colliery spoil. The west aspect is more recently disturbed and is devoid of vegetation, which has not had a chance to become established.
- 4.2.23 The high point of OB1 at around 475 mAOD makes it one of the highest summits of the Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. Topped only by the summit of Pen Garbugail (477 mAOD) and the ridge at Pen March where the Common bounds the National Park (which is at around 530 mAOD). Due to the lack of vegetation on the north and west aspects of OB1 they are the most visually prominent features of Ffos-y-Fran. The black of the colliery spoil is a stark contrast to the yellowish green predominantly acid grassland habitat of the Common and gradually restored backfill.
- 4.2.24 Reprofilng works would create a more rounded profile to the north and west aspects. It would provide a gradual transition from a plateau and roll into a concave and stable slope. An 'S' shaped profile would appear less engineered and more natural when seen from the north and west in particular. Once reprofiled the ground would be cultivated and seeded to provide a mosaic of upland pasture and heath.
- 4.2.25 The coal wash area that is between the vehicle maintenance workshop buildings and OB1 would be reprofiled at the same time to create a broad ridge protecting southward from OB1. The ground would then be cultivated and seeded with a mixture of grasses and legumes to provide upland pasture.



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- 4.2.26 The slopes and plateau summit of OB1 would be monitored to ensure that vegetation has become established. Livestock access would need to be controlled during this period to prevent overgrazing but also to provide natural enrichment and grass cutting to promote basal growth. Once grassland is established it would provide a nurse to shelter and help establish perennial and shrubby heath species.

OB3

- 4.2.27 OB3 was constructed on the site of the Cwm Bargoed and Pen-y-darren Pits mineral workings and old quarries as the surface mine progressed northward between 2008 and 2013. The Nant Bargoed Taf was diverted around its western side. It is a broad plateau with a larger basal footprint than OB1 and OB2 but is set at a lower elevation, the summit is at around 410 mAOD. It is prominent in views from the Common to the south, and from the Taf Cynon ridge across the Afon Taf valley.
- 4.2.28 No further reprofiling work is deemed necessary, but the grassed side slopes are stark in appearance with signs of surface water erosion in places. The intention is to plant the lower slopes with native deciduous woodland so that they integrate better with wooded valleys of the Nant Bargoed Taf and Nant Gyrawd. The upper slopes would be allowed to regenerate naturally from woodland established on the lower slopes. The top would require cultivating as it has been compacted by heavy machinery, and then seeded with a grass and legume mixture to provide upland low nutrient pasture.
- 4.2.29 The area surrounding the base of OB3 would be retained as is, a mosaic of waterbodies wet heath, acid grassland, marshy grassland and settlement pond waterbodies.
- 4.2.30 The restoration works would be monitored to ensure successful establishment and waterbodies that were part of the mining operations retained and enhanced for the benefit of wildlife.

Backfill lower slope and mine pit

- 4.2.31 The backfill has been progressively restored to upland pasture to be used as urban common as the surface mine operation moved northward. Since mineral extraction ceased in 2023, the backfill material that hadn't already been restored, has been regraded into a rounded dome with a diversity of slope aspects and gradients to achieve the goal of a diverse mosaic landscape.
- 4.2.32 The lower slope is located between the line of the haul road when mining operations ceased and the pit floor. The material would be regraded to a rolling and stable slope suitable for planting and seeding. Also slope gradients to the pit side of the abandoned A4060 would be regraded in preparation for cultivation and seeding. After the completion of the earthworks, groundwater would be allowed to fill the bottom of the pit void and surface water flow from the backfill would be directed into the pit lake where it would enter the groundwater system.



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- 4.2.33 An access bench would be created above the level of the winter groundwater level, and the lower slope would be planted with a mixture of native trees and shrubs and the new woodland and pit lake fenced off to deter livestock access. The remainder of the slope and pit surrounds would be restored to an upland pasture.
- 4.2.34 The backfill slope, scree slopes, pit lake and woodland would be monitored to ensure that the reclamation goals are being achieved.

Vehicle maintenance workshop area

- 4.2.35 Once the major earthwork operations are complete and reclaimed landscape is beginning to become established with the desired plant life, the vehicle maintenance buildings, plant and hard standings can be removed. Some earthworks would be required to reprofile the ground so that it ties in with the surrounding reclaimed landscape. The surface water treatment system of drains, lagoons and ponds would be retained and enhanced for the benefit of wildlife. The vehicle access from Bogey Road would be retained, and the former plant area could be utilised as a penning area for livestock handling and loading subject to agreement with the graziers.



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5 Assessment of Effects

5.1 Landscape and Visual Effects

- 5.1.1 This assessment considers the effects of the final restoration during two stages of the works. During earthwork operations, which represents the worst-case scenario where the ground is bare, and the site is active. Then after a period when any proposed planting as shown in Figure 7 has matured, which represents the best-case scenario.
- 5.1.2 A description of the physical and perceptual characteristics and a judgment of the landscape sensitivity of the LCAs are presented in Appendix 2 and summarized in Table 9.
- 5.1.3 After final restoration there would be no light source from buildings or structures on the surface mine site. Any future light source would be that produced from occupational farm vehicles or from night-time recreation.

Effects on LCA1 Penmoelallt Plantation

Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the remoteness and tranquillity of the upland. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This would be equivalent to other remote areas of the valley uplands. The presence of Ffos-y-Fran would diminish. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight Benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.



*Effects on LCA2 Nant Ffrwd Upland***Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not be noticeable over that of the main road corridors. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil and road corridors. No change.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight Benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA3 Winch Fawr Upland***Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not cause an alteration to tranquillity due to nearby settlements. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable. No change.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA4 Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland***Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not be noticeable over that of the main road corridors. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil and road corridors. No change.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight Benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA5 Cefn Coed Cemetery***Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the A465 viaducts are a prominent influence on the cemetery. Machinery may be distinguishable if looked for between the viaduct support columns.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby road corridor.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations the A465 viaducts are a dominant feature of the view. Activities at Ffos-y-Fran would barely be perceptible. No change.

After planting maturity, the A465 viaducts area a dominant feature of the view. Ffos-y-Fran would be barely perceptible. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA6 Winch Fawr Tramway***Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the tranquillity due to nearby settlements. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable. No change.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.



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*Effects on LCA7 Cwm Ffrwd***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the tranquillity due to enclosed aspect of this LCA and nearby settlements. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view of Ffos-y-Fran is partially interrupted by substantial vegetation. No change.

After planting maturity, the view of Ffos-y-Fran is partially interrupted by substantial vegetation. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA8 Gellideg and Heolgerrig***Magnitude of direct effect on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effect on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the tranquillity due to nearby settlements. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable. No change.

Magnitude of effect on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA9 Vaynor Upland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. The restoration activity would be less intensive than the excavation and haulage that occurred during the extraction phase. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the restoration as it progresses around the mine wall, and the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock face and a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA10 Cefn Coed and Trefechan***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the settlements. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the restoration as it progresses around the eastern mine wall, and the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock face and a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. Planting of the screen bund next to the dualled A4060 would have established and contribute to a barrier to the view of the eastern wall. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA11 Cefn Coed-y-cymmer***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery noise and movement would not affect the tranquillity of the settlement. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the settlement. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view would be interrupted by buildings. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the view of the landform would be interrupted by buildings. The duration is permanent. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.



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Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA12 Cwm Glo***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity due to activities within the LCA, nearby settlements and A470. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view of Ffos-y-Fran is partially interrupted by substantial vegetation. No change.

After planting maturity, the view of Ffos-y-Fran is partially interrupted by substantial vegetation. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA13 A465 Road Corridor (under construction)***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations activities at Ffos-y-Fran would have no effect on road infrastructure with fast moving traffic. No change.

After planting maturity Ffos-y-Fran would have no influence on road infrastructure with fast moving traffic. No change.



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Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations a transient view of activities would be available to eastbound fast-moving traffic. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, a transient view of the reclaimed landform would be available to fast moving traffic. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA14 Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the active recreational upland. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be noticeable to the active recreational upland. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.



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*Effects on LCA15 Cyfarthfa Castle***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery noise and movement would not affect the tranquillity of the designed landscape and visitor attraction. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the park and garden. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view would from the majority of the park would be interrupted by woodland. From the park's eastern edge there would be gradual replacement of black colliery spoil with lighter brown soils, and the profile of OB1 would change from angular to rounded. Earth moving machinery would be visible, but they would be very small in the view. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the view of the restored landform would form part of the skyline when viewed from the park's eastern edge. It would be perceived as a continuation of the undulating Merthyr Common ridge between the Afon Taf and Afon Bargoed Taf valleys. The duration is permanent. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA16 Cyfarthfa Park Ward and Retail Park***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the urban area. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the urban area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA17 Gurnos***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the settlement. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the settlement. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view from the majority of settlement would be interrupted by buildings. Where views are available there would be gradual replacement of black colliery spoil with lighter brown soils, and the profile of OB1 would change from angular to rounded. Earth moving machinery would be visible, but they would be very small in the view. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the view of the restored landform would form part of the skyline when viewed from the park's eastern edge. It would be perceived as a continuation of the undulating Merthyr Common ridge between the Afon Taf and Afon Bargoed Taf valleys. The duration is permanent. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA18 Ynys-fach and Rhyd-y-car***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable when working on OB1. Their noise and movement would not affect the urban area. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the urban area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA19 Vaynor Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. The restoration activity would be less intensive than the excavation and haulage that occurred during the extraction phase. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual change to the overburden mound profile from angular to rounded and a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.



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Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA20 Upper Abercanaid***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the active recreational area. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be noticeable to the predominantly wooded active recreational area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA21 Morlais Castle***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. The restoration activity would be less intensive than the excavation and haulage that occurred during the extraction phase. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil. No change.



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Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the reprofiling of the mine walls, OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual change to the mine wall and overburden mound profile from angular to rounded and a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding East Merthyr Reclamation Scheme, with a mosaic of grassland, woodland, rock outcrop and scree slope. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA22 A470 Road Corridor***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations activities at Ffos-y-Fran would have no effect on road infrastructure with fast moving traffic. No change.

After planting maturity Ffos-y-Fran would have no influence on road infrastructure with fast moving traffic. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations a transient view of activities would be available to southbound fast-moving traffic. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, a transient view of the reclaimed landform would be available to fast moving traffic. The view of OB1 would be less prominent and lighter in colour as plant life becomes established. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.



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*Effects on LCA23 Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery would not be visible or audible due to the rising previously restored landform. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the urban area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be no view of the changes. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the view of the landform would not change. The duration is permanent. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA24 Penydarren***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery would be noticeable. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the settlement. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a change to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.



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Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view from the majority of the settlement would be interrupted by neighbouring buildings, but there are many streets where views of Ffos-y-Fran are available. There would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration as it progresses around the mine wall, and the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock faces and the profile of OB1 would change from angular to rounded, although the different coloured layers of east wall's exposed rock would be visible. There would be a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil before cultivation and seeding. The buildings and structures would be removed from the view. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). Minor adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be prominent in the view and form part of the skyline in combination with Trecatti, the previously restored backfill and Merthyr Common. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate adverse.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA25 Abercanaid***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable when working on OB1. Their noise and movement would not affect the urban area. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable to the urban area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.



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Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA26 Mynydd Merthyr***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the remote tranquil upland. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be noticeable to this upland. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1 that contrasts with the yellowish coloured acid grassland of the restored backfill. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland and blend into the Merthyr Common and Cefn Merthyr ridge. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA27 Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not be noticeable over that of the main road corridor. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil and road corridor. No change.



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Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1. The view would be partially interrupted by an accumulation of vegetation. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA28 Aberfan Valley Side***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the infrequently accessed valley side. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be detrimental to the valley side due to the proximity of the A470 corridor. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland and blend into the Merthyr Common and Cefn Merthyr ridge. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.



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*Effects on LCA29 Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery would be noticeable during works to the eastern wall, reprofiling of OB1 and the inner backfill slopes. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the settlement. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a change to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view from the majority of the reclaimed landscape would be interrupted by plantations on the town facing slopes. From the residential estate at Caeharris there is a view of the north face and profile of OB1, part of the eastern wall and the crest of the backfill where the outer town facing slope rolls into the inner pit facing slopes. There would be a view of the earth moving machinery as reprofiling works progress at the northern end of the eastern mine wall, and the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock faces and the profile of OB1 would change from angular to rounded. The view of the east wall's exposed rock is screened by vegetation planted between the estate and the dualled A4060. There would be a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil before cultivation and seeding. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). Minor adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be prominent in the view from a part of the LCA, and form part of the skyline in combination with Trecatti and the previously restored backfill. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, and heath. The view of scree slopes would be interrupted by the landform. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA30 Pant Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery would be noticeable. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the agricultural area due to nearby settlements, roads and industry. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a change to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration as it progresses around the mine wall, and the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock faces and the profile of OB1 would change from angular to rounded. The north wall's exposed rock face would be visible and the graded profile of the eastern wall. There would be a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the inner backfill slope. The buildings and structures that form a small part of the view would be removed. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). Minor adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be prominent in the view and form part of the skyline in combination with Trecatti, the previously restored backfill and Merthyr Common to the east of the Afon Taf valley. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA31 Aberfan Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not be noticeable over that of the main road corridor. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil and road corridor. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1. The view would be partially interrupted by an accumulation of vegetation. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland forming a part of the Merthyr Common and Cefn Merthyr ridge. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA32 Cwmblocks Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the noise and movement of the machinery reprofiling OB1 would only be noticeable to a very small part of this LCA. The progressively reclaimed backfill forms a hill that separates this LCA from the surface mine pit and proposed restoration areas. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when experienced from this neighbouring LCA. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations the view from the majority of receptors would be interrupted by the hill formed during the backfilling of the surface mine as it progressed northward. The hill would continue to be managed as upland pasture. The view of the reprofiling of the summit of OB1 would be discernible from a small part of the LCA. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the hill predominant in the view would continue to be managed as upland pasture. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA33 Dowlais***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations machinery would be noticeable, as are vehicle movements at Trecatti landfill site. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the settlement. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the view from the majority of the settlement would be interrupted by neighbouring buildings, but there are many streets and open areas where views of Ffos-y-Fran are available. There would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration as it progresses around the mine wall, and during the reprofiling of OB1 and the inner backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock faces by grading back weathered rock at the tops of the mine walls. The profile of OB1 would change from angular to rounded. There would be a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil before cultivation and seeding. The buildings and structures would be removed from the view. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). Minor adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be the predominant feature in the view and form part of the skyline in combination with Trecatti landfill site and the previously restored backfill. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. Moderate benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate adverse.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Moderate benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Large benefit.

*Effects on LCA34 Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the noise and movement of the machinery reprofiling OB1 would only barely be noticeable to a very small part of this LCA. The progressively reclaimed backfill forms a hill that separates this LCA from the surface mine pit and proposed restoration areas. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable this built-up LCA. No change.



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Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations the view from the northern would be interrupted by the hill formed during the backfilling of the surface mine as it progressed northward. The hill would continue to be managed as upland pasture. The view of the reprofiling of the summit of OB1 would not be discernible due to intervening landform and substantial vegetation. No change.

After planting maturity, the hill predominant in the view would continue to be managed as upland pasture. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA35 Pant and Pengarnddu***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery would be noticeable. Their noise and movement would not adversely affect the tranquillity of the built-up area. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration as reprofiling of OB1 and the backfill slopes are carried out. There would be a gradual softening of the engineered profile of OB1. The north wall's exposed rock face would be visible and the graded profile of the eastern wall. There would be a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the inner backfill slope. The buildings and structures that form a small part of the view would be removed. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). Minor adverse. After planting maturity, the restored landform would be prominent in the view and form part of the skyline in combination with Trecatti, and the previously restored backfill. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.



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Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate detriment.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA36 Merthyr Common and Cilfach yr Encil***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery would be noticeable. Their noise and movement would not be noticeable in this remote and exposed upland area and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during the reprofiling of OB1, the coal washing area, and the plant maintenance area. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. At OB3 planting works on the lower slopes would be apparent and a glimpse of cultivation works at the edge of the plateau may be possible. The buildings and structures in the plant maintenance area would be removed. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be the predominant feature in the view. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. The overhead powerlines would remain a significant detractor in the view. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight detriment.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.



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*Effects on LCA37 Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be a further gradual change to this rapidly changing landform. Refer to Section 4 for a detailed description of the proposed changes. There would be an overall reduction in the exposed colliery spoil slopes and haul roads as they are reclaimed as predominantly grassland and woodland. There would be a slight reduction in exposed rock face visible and an increase in scree slopes formed from the treatment of weathered rock. Buildings and plant would be removed. Surface water treatment features would be retained and enhanced for the benefit of biodiversity, and the surface mine pit would be allowed to be infiltrated by groundwater. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features that had not previously been recorded during the operation of the mine. Negligible adverse during earthwork operations and minor benefit after planting maturity.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the area will be active as reclamation and restoration works progress. Key elements associated with mining would be removed, and gradually the LCA would take on the character of an exposed agricultural upland with a mining heritage. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity there would be a reduction in detractive elements associated with coal mining and an increase in the diversity of habitat. Minor benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during all work stages. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. The buildings and structures in the plant maintenance area would be removed. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be the predominant feature in views. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. The overhead powerlines would remain a detractor in the view. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight detriment.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA38 Trecatti Landfill Site***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery noise and movement would be noticeable from this active landfill site and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during the reprofiling of the backfill and of the northern face of OB1. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. Much of the activities within the processing area are screened from view by OB1. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be a prominent feature in the view. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. The overhead powerlines and the landfill site would remain significant detractors in the view. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight detriment.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA39 Mynydd y Capel***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the remote tranquil upland. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be noticeable to this upland. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a gradual lessening of the black coloured surface of OB1. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland and blend into the Merthyr Common and Gelligaer Common. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA40 Cwm Bargoed***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

The northern part of the LCA is immediately adjacent to the works area. There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery noise and movement would be noticeable to the northern part of this LCA and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran but with less movement between the surface mine site and the rail head crossing Bogey Road. Negligible benefit. After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during the reprofiling of the backfill, OB1 including the coal washing area and the plant maintenance area and reclamation of the haul road next to OB2. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. At OB3 planting works on the lower slopes would be apparent and a glimpse of cultivation works at the edge of the plateau may be possible. The buildings and structures in the plant maintenance area would be removed. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be the predominant feature in the view from the northern part of this LCA. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. The overhead powerlines and rail head buildings would remain a significant detractor in the view. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.



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*Effects on LCA41 Penddeugae and nant-y-Fedw Enclosed Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the infrequently accessed farmland. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be noticeable to this area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the reduction in the black coloured surface of OB1 may be noticeable if looked for. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland and blend be less noticeable. The duration is permanent. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA42 Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. The restoration activity would be less intensive than the excavation and haulage that occurred during the extraction phase. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. The effect would not be noticeable over the nearby built-up areas of Merthyr Tydfil. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the restoration as it progresses around the mine wall, and the reprofiling of OB1 and backfill slopes. There would be a gradual softening of the angular rock faces and a lessening of the black coloured surfaces as soil materials are used to cover the colliery spoil. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland. The duration is permanent. Negligible benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Very high' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight Benefit.

*Effects on LCA43 Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery may be distinguishable if looked for. Their noise and movement would not affect the infrequently accessed farmland. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access for occupation and recreation. This change would not be noticeable to this area. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, the reduction in the black coloured surface of OB1 may be noticeable if looked for. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, the landform would resemble that of the surrounding upland and blend be less noticeable. The duration is permanent. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. The LCA is immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of Ffos-y-Fran. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery noise and movement may be noticeable to the western part of this LCA and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran but with less movement between the surface mine site and the rail head crossing Bogey Road. Negligible benefit.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities occurring at the summits of OB1 and OB3, with a glimpse of works to the backfill and eventual removal of plant and buildings available along the line of Bogey Road. Much of the proposed restoration activity would be screened from view by the landform. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be the predominant feature in the westward view. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover visible, including woodland, grassland and heath. The overhead powerlines and rail head buildings would remain a significant detractor in the view. Minor benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA45 Cwm Carno***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summit of OB1 but would not adversely affect this reclaimed LCA that is next to the A465. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summit of OB1 only. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA46 Blaen Rhymni***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when reprofiling the backfill and sides of OB1 but would not adversely affect this LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working on the backfill, summit and sides of OB1. No change.

After planting maturity, the north facing side of OB1 and east facing side of the backfill would appear more natural. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA47 Fochriw***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summit of OB1 but would not adversely affect this LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summit of OB1 only. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery noise and movement would be noticeable to the north to west facing slopes and summits of Mynydd Fochriw and Pen Garnbugail, and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect may be noticeable as a reduction in activity when compared to the existing situation. Negligible benefit.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during the reprofiling of the backfill and OB1. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. At OB3 planting works on the lower slopes and cultivation works on the plateau would be apparent. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be the predominant feature in the view from the northern part of this LCA. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover, including woodland, grassland, exposed rock, scree and heath. The solar farm and rail head buildings would remain a significant detractor in the view. Minor benefit.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Slight benefit.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight adverse.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Minor benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Moderate benefit.

*Effects on LCA49 Rhymni***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summit of OB1 from the northern part of this built-up LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summit of OB1 only. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA50 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.



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Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summit of OB1 from parts of this built-up LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summit and north facing side of OB1 only. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged, the north facing slope of OB1 would gradually lighten in colour. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA51 Cwm Darran***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summit of OB1 from a small part in the north of this LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summit of OB1 only. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.



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Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'High' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA52 Rhymni Hill and Bryn Oer***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summit of OB1 from west facing slopes of this LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summit of OB1 only. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA53 Cefn Y Brithdir***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery movement may be noticeable to the north to west facing slopes and the broad ridge and Rhiw Cantorion and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The reduction of activity is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.



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Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during the reprofiling of the backfill and OB1. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. At OB3 planting works on the lower slopes and cultivation works on the plateau would be apparent. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities. Negligible adverse.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be visible from parts of this LCA. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover visible, including woodland, grassland and heath. The solar farm and rail head buildings would remain a significant detractor in the view. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible adverse' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight detriment.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.

*Effects on LCA54 A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Corridor***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations activities at Ffos-y-Fran would have no effect on road infrastructure with fast moving traffic. No change.

After planting maturity Ffos-y-Fran would have no influence on road infrastructure with fast moving traffic. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations a transient view of activities would be available to westbound fast-moving traffic. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). No change.

After planting maturity, a transient view of the reclaimed landform would be available to fast moving traffic. The duration is permanent. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Low' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.



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*Effects on LCA55 Tredegar Patch***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable when working at the summits of OB1 and OB3 from a very small part of this LCA. It would not adversely affect this reclaimed LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summits of OB1 and OB3. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA56 Cwm Tyswg***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable if looked for when working at the summits of OB1 and OB3 from the west facing slopes on the eastern side of this LCA. It would not adversely affect this agricultural LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summits of OB1 and OB3 if looked for. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of the overburden mounds would remain unchanged. No change.



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Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

*Effects on LCA57 Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the machinery movement may be noticeable to west facing slopes, summits and ridge, and seen as a continuation of activity at Ffos-y-Fran. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The reduction of activity is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations, there would be a view of the earth moving machinery and restoration activities during the reprofiling of the backfill and OB1. There would be a gradual reduction in the black coloured colliery spoil as it is covered with lighter coloured soils in preparation for cultivation. At OB3 cultivation works on the plateau may be apparent. The duration is short term (less than 5 years). It could be seen as a continuation of Ffos-y-Fran mining activities in long-distance views. No change.

After planting maturity, the restored landform would be visible from parts of this LCA. The duration is permanent. There would be a mosaic of landcover visible, including woodland, grassland and heath. Negligible benefit.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'Negligible benefit' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Slight benefit.



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*Effects on LCA58 Cefn Rhychdir***Magnitude of direct effects on physical characteristics**

There would be no change to the landform or landcover. There would be no effect on historic or cultural features. No change.

Magnitude of indirect effects on perceptual characteristics

During earthwork operations the movement of machinery may be noticeable if looked for when working at the summits of OB1 and OB3 from the west facing slopes on the eastern side of this LCA. It would not adversely affect this reclaimed and forested LCA. No change.

After planting maturity there would be infrequent access to the Ffos-y-Fran site for occupation and recreation. The effect is unlikely to be noticeable when compared to the existing situation. No change.

Magnitude of effects on views

During earthwork operations there may be a view of machinery working at the summits of OB1 and OB3 if looked for. No change.

After planting maturity, the east facing sides of OB1 and OB2 mounds would remain unchanged. No change. The east facing lower slopes of OB3 are unlikely to be visible. No change.

Significance of landscape effects

During earthwork operations. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Negligible' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on the landscape is judged as Neutral.

Significance of visual effects

During earthwork operations. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

After planting maturity. 'Medium' sensitivity and 'No change' magnitude, the significance of effect on visual amenity is judged as Neutral.

5.2 Summary of Landscape and Visual Effects*Landscape effects*

- 5.2.1 No LCAs are predicted to experience a significant detriment to the landscape during earthwork operations. LCA37 *Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine* is the only character area that would be directly affected by the works. This area has been a rapidly changing landscape during the surface mine operation. During the earthworks there would be a reduction in rock faces and angular slopes. There would be an increase in scree and more naturally profiled slopes.
- 5.2.2 Neighbouring LCAs 32 *Cwmlacks Farmland*, 36 *Merthyr Common and Cilfach yr Encil*, and 38 *Trecatti Landfill Site* are predicted to experience a slight detrimental landscape impact during restoration earthworks. This is due to the noise and movement of machinery and continuation of activities at the surface mine site after the stopping of mineral extraction.



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- 5.2.3 Neighbouring LCAs 40 *Cwm Bargoed* and 44 *Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland* are predicted to experience a slight beneficial impact during the restoration. This is due to a reduction in the movement and haulage activities between the rail head depot and maintenance workshops and coal washing plant areas.
- 5.2.4 No LCAs are predicted to experience a significant detrimental or beneficial lasting landscape impact after planting has reached maturity and the area returned to urban common use. Land cover would predominantly be upland pasture with a mosaic of woodland, heath, waterbodies and scrub, with bare rock and scree slopes.
- 5.2.5 17 LCAs are predicted to experience a slight beneficial landscape impact after planting has matured, including the reversal of the temporary detrimental impacts predicted to be experienced by LCAs 32, 36 and 38.
- 5.2.6 Table 12 summarizes the assessed landscape effects.

Table 12 Assessed landscape effects (EW – earthwork operations, PM – planting maturity).

LCA and landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of landscape impact	Significance of landscape effect
1 Penmoelallt Plantation Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
2 Nant Ffrwd Upland Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
3 Winch Fawr Upland Negligible	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Neutral
4 Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
5 Cefn Coed Cemetery Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
6 Winch Fawr Tramway Negligible	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Neutral
7 Cwm Ffrwd Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
8 Gellideg and Heolgerrig Negligible	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
9 Vaynor Upland Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
10 Cefn Coed and Trefechan Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
11 Cefn Coed-y-cymmer Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
12 Cwm Glo Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
13 A465 Road Corridor (under construction) - Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral



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LCA and landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of landscape impact	Significance of landscape effect
14 Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
15 Cyfarthfa Castle Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
16 Cyfarthfa Park, Ward and Retail Park – Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
17 Gurnos Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
18 Ynys fach and Rhyd-y-car Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
19 Vaynor Farmland Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
20 Upper Abercanaid Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
21 Morlais Castle Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
22 A470 road corridor Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
23 Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
24 Penydarren Medium	EW No change PM Negligible Benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
25 Abercanaid Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
26 Mynydd Merthyr Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
27 Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland - Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
28 Aberfan Valley Side Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
29 Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation – Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
30 Pant Farmland Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
31 Aberfan Farmland Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
32 Cwmblacks Farmland Low	EW Negligible adverse PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
33 Dowlais Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
34 Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
35 Pant and Pengarnddu Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit



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LCA and landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of landscape impact	Significance of landscape effect
36 Merthyr Common and Cilfach-yr-Encil – Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
37 Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine Low	EW Negligible adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
38 Trecatti Landfill Site Low	EW Negligible adverse PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
39 Mynydd y Capel Negligible	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
40 Cwm Bargoed Medium	EW Negligible benefit PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight benefit PM Slight benefit
41 Penddeugae and Nant-y-Fedw – Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
42 Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu – Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
43 Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland – Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland Low	EW Negligible benefit PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight benefit PM Slight benefit
45 Cwm Carno Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
46 Blaen Rhymni Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
47 Fochriw Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw – Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
49 Rhymni Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
50 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
51 Cwm Darran Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
52 Rhymni Hill and Bryn Oer Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
53 Cefn Y Brithdir Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
54 A465 Heads of the Valleys Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
55 Tredegar Patch Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
56 Cwm Tyswg Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
57 Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte - Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral



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LCA and landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of landscape impact	Significance of landscape effect
58 Cefn Rhychdir Negligible	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral

Visual effects

- 5.2.7 LCAs 24 *Penydarren*, 29 *Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation*, 30 *Pant Farmland*, 33 *Dowlais* and 35 *Pant and Pengarnddu* are predicted to experience a temporary significant adverse visual impact during earthwork operations. The LCAs are located to the north of the surface mine and experience direct views of a sizeable part of the reclamation work areas.
- 5.2.8 LCAs 15 *Cyfarthfa Castle*, 17 *Gurnos*, 24 *Penydarren*, 29 *Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation*, 30 *Pant Farmland*, 33 *Dowlais*, 35 *Pant and Pengarnddu*, 38 *Trecatti Landfill Site*, 40 *Cwm Bargoed* and 48 *Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw* are predicted to experience a significant positive lasting visual impact after planting has reached maturity and the land use restored to that of urban common. The temporary adverse impact experienced by LCAs 24, 29, 30, 33 and 35 would be reversed.
- 5.2.9 29 LCAs are predicted to experience a slight beneficial visual impact after planting has matured. No LCAs are predicted to experience a detrimental visual impact after planting maturity.
- 5.2.10 Table 13 summarizes the assessed visual effects.

Table 13 Assessed visual effects (EW – earthwork operations, PM – planting maturity).

LCA and visual sensitivity	Magnitude of visual impact	Significance of visual effect
1 Penmoelallt Plantation Very high	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
2 Nant Ffrwd Upland Very high	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
3 Winch Fawr Upland Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
4 Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
5 Cefn Coed Cemetery Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
6 Winch Fawr Tramway Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
7 Cwm Ffrwd Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
8 Gellideg and Heolgerrig High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit



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LCA and visual sensitivity	Magnitude of visual impact	Significance of visual effect
9 Vaynor Upland Very high	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
10 Cefn Coed and Trefechan High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
11 Cefn Coed-y-cymmer Hgh	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
12 Cwm Glo Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
13 A465 Road Corridor (under construction) - Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
14 Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
15 Cyfarthfa Castle High	EW No change PM Minor benefit	EW Neutral PM Moderate benefit
16 Cyfarthfa Park, Ward and Retail Park – High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
17 Gurnos High	EW No change PM Minor benefit	EW Neutral PM Moderate benefit
18 Ynys fach and Rhyd-y-car High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
19 Vaynor Farmland High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
20 Upper Abercanaid Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
21 Morlais Castle Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
22 A470 road corridor Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
23 Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre High	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
24 Penydarren High	EW Minor adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Moderate adverse PM Moderate benefit
25 Abercanaid Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
26 Mynydd Merthyr High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
27 Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland - Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
28 Aberfan Valley Side High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
29 Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation – Medium	EW Minor adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Moderate adverse PM Moderate benefit
30 Pant Farmland Medium	EW Minor adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Moderate adverse PM Moderate benefit



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LCA and visual sensitivity	Magnitude of visual impact	Significance of visual effect
31 Aberfan Farmland High	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
32 Cwmblocks Farmland Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM No change	EW Slight adverse PM Neutral
33 Dowlais High	EW Minor adverse PM Moderate benefit	EW Moderate adverse PM Large benefit
34 Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
35 Pant and Pengarnddu High	EW Minor adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Moderate adverse PM Moderate benefit
36 Merthyr Common and Cilfach-yr-Encil – Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
37 Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
38 Trecatti Landfill Site Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Moderate benefit
39 Mynydd y Capel Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
40 Cwm Bargoed Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Moderate benefit
41 Penddeugae and Nant-y-Fedw – Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
42 Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu – Very high	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
43 Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland – Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland High	EW Negligible adverse PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
45 Cwm Carno Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
46 Blaen Rhymni Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
47 Fochriw Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw – Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Minor benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Moderate benefit
49 Rhymni Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
50 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – Low	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
51 Cwm Darran High	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
52 Rhymni Hill and Bryn Oer Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral



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LCA and visual sensitivity	Magnitude of visual impact	Significance of visual effect
53 Cefn Y Brithdir Medium	EW Negligible adverse PM Negligible benefit	EW Slight adverse PM Slight benefit
54 A465 Heads of the Valleys Low	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
55 Tredegar Patch Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
56 Cwm Tyswg Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral
57 Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte - Medium	EW No change PM Negligible benefit	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit
58 Cefn Rhychdir Medium	EW No change PM No change	EW Neutral PM Neutral



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6 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

6.1 Cumulative effects

6.1.1 Cumulative effects arise from multiple impacts on receptors and resources, typically manifesting as either additive or interactive in character. Two types of cumulative effects are considered:

- a. Inter-project relationships arise from multiple current or reasonably anticipated future developments that while individually may not be significant, but when considered together could collectively lead to significant increasing impacts on a common receptor. This may include developments that are unrelated to the Ffos-y-Fran restoration proposals as well as those that are connected.
- b. Intra-project relationships arise when a single receptor experiences multiple impacts from various components of the restoration scheme. For instance, an intra-project effect could occur if a receptor is significantly impacted by dust and noise during the proposed works, leading to a combined effect that is greater than the impact of each factor independently.

6.2 Inter-project relationships

*Pen March Wind Farm (DNS/3253147)*²²

6.2.1 Proposed construction of a wind farm development of 6 turbines with a maximum height of 180 m located at Pen March, north of the A465 Heads of The Valleys road between Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymni.

6.2.2 The methodology used to guide the determination of effect significance uses different terminology to the Ffos-y-Fran LVIA. Refer to Table 14. Effects with a significance level of Major and Moderate-Major levels are deemed significant (equivalent to *Very large* and *Large*). Moderate levels have potential to be significant, subject to the assessor's professional judgment (equivalent to *Moderate*). Moderate-Minor, Minor and Negligible are deemed as not significant (equivalent to *Slight* and *Neutral*).

Table 14 RSK Significance of effects matrix

Magnitude → Sensitivity ↓	High	Medium-High	Medium	Medium-Low	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major	Moderate-Major	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor
Medium-High	Major	Moderate-Major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor
Medium	Moderate-Major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor	Minor

²² <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case>



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Magnitude → Sensitivity ↓	High	Medium-High	Medium	Medium-Low	Low	Negligible
Medium-Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

Landscape effects

6.2.3 Landscape character areas with a potential for significant landscape effect identified in the RSK LVIA report²³ that overlap this Ffos-y-Fran LVIA include:

- Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen LCA4 – *Trefil and Carno*.
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park LCA8 – *Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys*.
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park LCA9 – *Mynyddoedd Llangatwg and Llangyndir*.
- Heads of the Valleys LCA12 – *Merthyr Tydfil east valley side*.
- Heads of the Valleys LCA13 – *Upland moorland between Taff and Rhymney Valleys*.
- Heads of the Valleys LCA16 – *Rhymney Valley from Rhymney to Bargoed*.
- Heads of the Valleys LCA17 – *Upland north of Heads of the Valleys corridor*.
- Heads of the Valleys LCA18 – *Mynydd Bedwellte and associated upland*.

6.2.4 Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen (BGT) LCA4 overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA42 *Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland*. The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on BGT LCA4 ranges from Moderate-Major and Significant (adverse) up to about 3 km east of the proposed wind farm and Moderate and Not Significant (adverse) at distances beyond 3 km. The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on the western part of BGT LCA4 is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the Pen March wind Farm is judged as Large Adverse, the wind farm being the predominant influence.

6.2.5 Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) LCA8 overlaps the following LCAs within the Ffos-y-Fran LVIA:

- LCA1 – *Penmoelallt Plantation*.
- LCA2 – *Nant Ffrwd Upland*.
- LCA4 – *Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland*.
- LCA9 – *Vaynor Upland*.
- LCA19 – *Vaynor Farmland*.

6.2.6 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on BBNP LCA8 is considered to be Minor and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on BBNP LCA8 ranges from Neutral to Slight Benefit. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the Pen March Wind

²³ Pen March Wind Farm: Environmental Statement (Volume 2) Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual, July 2023

Farm is judged as Slight Adverse, with the wind farm drawing attention away from the reclaimed mine.

- 6.2.7 BBNP LCA9 overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCA42 *Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland*. The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen march Wind Farm on BBNP LCA9 ranges from Moderate-Major and Significant (adverse) within the localised area and Moderate and Not Significant (adverse) in other areas. The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on the localised area of BBNP LCA9 is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the Pen March Wind Farm is judged as Large Adverse, the wind farm being the predominant influence.
- 6.2.8 Heads of the Valleys (HOV) LCA12 overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA32 – *Cwmblacks Farmland*.
 - LCA37 – *Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine*.
 - LCA38 – *Trecatti Landfill Site*.
- 6.2.9 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on HOV LCA12 is considered to be Moderate-Minor and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on HOV LCA12 is judged as Slight Benefit. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the wind farm is judged as Slight Adverse, the restoration having a direct beneficial effect upon HOV LCA12.
- 6.2.10 HOV LCA13 overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA36 – *Merthyr Common and Cilfach yr Encil*.
 - LCA37 – *Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine*.
 - LCA40 – *Cwm Bargoed*.
 - LCA44 – *Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland*.
 - LCA48 – *Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw*.
 - LCA53 – *Cefn Y Brithdir*.
- 6.2.11 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on HOV LCA13 is considered to be Moderate-Minor and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on HOV LCA13 ranges from Neutral to Slight Benefit. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the wind farm is judged as Slight Adverse, the restoration having a direct and indirect beneficial effect upon HOV LCA13.
- 6.2.12 HOV LCA16 overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA45 – *Cwm Carno*.
 - LCA49 – *Rhymni*.
 - LCA52 – *Rhymney Hill and Bryn Oer*.



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- 6.2.13 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on HOV LCA16 is considered to be Moderate-Minor and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on HOV LCA16 is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the wind farm is judged as Slight Adverse, with the wind farm drawing attention from Ffos-y-Fran.
- 6.2.14 HOV LCA17 overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA42 – *Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland.*
 - LCA46 – *Blaen Rhymni.*
- 6.2.15 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on HOV LCA17 is considered to be Moderate-Major and Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on HOV LCA17 is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the wind farm is judged as Large Adverse, the wind farm drawing attention away from Ffos-y-Fran.
- 6.2.16 HOV LCA18 overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA57 *Rhymney Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte*. The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Pen March Wind Farm on HOV LCA18 is considered to be Moderate and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration on HOV LCA18 is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the Pen March wind Farm is judged as Slight Adverse, the wind farm being the predominant influence.
- 6.2.17 Designated landscapes identified in the RSK LVIA to have a potential significant landscape effect include:
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.*
 - RHPG 37 – Cyfarthfa Castle.*
 - SLA 23 – Upper Rhymney Valley.*
 - SLA 33 – Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan.*
 - Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL) C – North Rhymney Valley.*
- 6.2.18 The National Park overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA1 – *Penmoelallt Plantation.*
 - LCA2 – *Nant Ffrwd Upland.*
 - LCA4 – *Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland.*
 - LCA5 – *Cefn Coed Cemetery.*
 - LCA7 – *Cwm Ffrwd.*
 - LCA9 – *Vaynor Upland.*
 - LCA19 – *Vaynor Farmland.*
 - LCA42 – *Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland.*
- 6.2.19 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the wind farm on the National Park echoes the assessment of the BBNP LCAs which ranges from Moderate-Major and Significant (adverse) within the localised area and Moderate and Not Significant (adverse) in other generalised areas. The predicted significance of landscape effects of the Ffos-y-



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Fran restoration on the localised area of the National Park is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the Pen March Wind Farm ranges from Large Adverse for localised effects to Slight Adverse for generalised effects. The wind farm being the predominant influence.

- 6.2.20 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the wind farm on Cyfarthfa Castle RHPG is considered to be Moderate-Minor and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of effect of Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral. The cumulative effect is judged as Slight Adverse.
- 6.2.21 Upper Rhymney Valley SLA overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA42 - *Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland.*
 - LCA46 - *Blaen Rhymni.*
 - LCA49 - *Rhymni.*
 - LCA52 - *Rhymney Hill and Bryn Oer.*
 - LCA57 - *Rhymney Hilland Mynydd Bedwellte.*
- 6.2.22 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the wind farm on the SLA is considered to be Moderate-Major and Significant (adverse) on the part to the north of the A465, and Moderate and Not Significant (adverse) on the part to the south of the A465. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral on both parts that are separated by the A465. The cumulative effect would range from Large Adverse to Slight Adverse.
- 6.2.23 Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan SLA overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA5 – *Cefn Coed Cemetery.*
 - LCA9 – *Vaynor Upland.*
 - LCA16 – *Cyfarthfa Park Ward and Retail Park.*
 - LCA17 – *Gurnos.*
 - LCA19 – *Vaynor Farmland.*
 - LCA21 – *Morlais Castle.*
 - LCA30 – *Pant Farmland.*
 - LCA42 – *Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland.*
- 6.2.24 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the wind farm on the SLA is considered to be Moderate-Major and Significant (adverse) on the eastern part of the SLA nearest to the wind farm and reducing to Moderate-Minor and Not Significant (adverse) on the western part of the SLA furthest from the wind farm. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration ranges from Neutral to Slight Benefit. The cumulative effect would range from Large Adverse to Slight Adverse.
- 6.2.25 The North Rhymney Valley VILL overlaps the following Ffos-y-Fran LCAs:
- LCA44 – *Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland.*
 - LCA51 – *Cwm Darran.*
 - LCA52 – *Rhymney Hill and Cwm Oer.*



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- d. LCA53 – Cefn Y Brithdir.
- e. LCA56 – Cwm Tyswg.
- f. LCA57 – Rhymney Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte.
- g. LCA58 – Cefn Rhychdir.

6.2.26 The predicted significance of landscape effects of the wind farm on the VILL is considered to be Moderate-Minor and Not Significant (adverse). The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration ranges from Neutral to Slight Benefit. The cumulative effect is judged as Slight Adverse.

Visual effects

6.2.27 The predicted significant visual effects are within about 3 km of the nearest wind turbine. The turbines are set back from the settled areas of the Heads of the Valleys to minimise significant effects on residential areas. The assessment of the effect on views was based on 26 viewpoints selected to represent visibility from a range of receptors. Significant visual effects are predicted for 10 viewpoint locations. Table 15 summarises these viewpoints and the cumulative effect when seen in combination with Ffos-y-Fran surface mine.

Table 15 Pen March Wind Farm Viewpoints

View ref	Viewpoint description (and location)	Pen March Significance of Visual Effect	Ffos-y-Fran Significance of Visual Effect	Cumulative Effect
1	Gelligaer FP101 (SO 09828 10056)	Major adverse	LCA 46 Blaen Rhymni Neutral to Slight benefit	Major adverse No view of Ffos-y-Fran predicted from Public Footpath.
2	A465 Heads of the Valleys Road (SO 09109 09001)	Moderate adverse	LCA 54 HotV Neutral	Moderate adverse Transient view to west bound traffic.
3	Pant, Merthyr Tydfil (SO 07030 09140)	Moderate-major adverse	LCA 35 Pant and Pengarnddu Moderate adverse to Moderate benefit.	Moderate-major adverse No view of Ffos-y-Fran predicted from Tai'r Twynau residential area.
4	A469 Bute Town (SO 10359 09123)	Moderate-major adverse	LCA49 Rhymni Neutral	Moderate-major adverse View of east face of OB1 to west and view of wind farm to north-west.
7	Heol Uchaf, Rhymni (SO 11129 09007)	Moderate-major adverse	LCA49 Rhymni Neutral	Moderate-major adverse View of east face of OB1 to west and view of Pen March to north-west.



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View ref	Viewpoint description (and location)	Pen March Significance of Visual Effect	Ffos-y-Fran Significance of Visual Effect	Cumulative Effect
8	Cefn yr Ystrad (SO 08788 13618)	Moderate-major adverse	LCA42 Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Neutral to Slight benefit	Moderate-major adverse Southward view of wind farm and north face of OB1 and crest of restored backfill slope.
11	Cyfarthfa Park (SO 04568 07411)	Moderate-major adverse	LCA15 Cyfarthfa Castle Neutral to Moderate benefit	Moderate-major adverse North-eastward view of wind farm and south-eastward view of OB1 at Ffos-y-Fran.
15	Garn Ddu (SO 02758 12400)	Moderate adverse	LCA09 Vaynor Upland Neutral to Slight Benefit	Moderate adverse Eastward view of wind farm and southward view of OB1 at Ffos-y-Fran.
16	Pen Garnbugail (SO 10048 03560)	Moderate adverse	LCA48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw Slight adverse to Moderate benefit	Moderate adverse Direct view of wind farm and Ffos-y-Fran overburden mounds and plant maintenance buildings.
18	Craig y Fan Ddu (SO 05430 18342)	Moderate adverse	Not assessed	Moderate adverse More than 10 km from Ffos-y-Fran.

- 6.2.28 Viewpoints 8 and 16 are located at hill summits where there would be a combined view of the wind farm and Ffos-y-Fran surface mine available to outdoor workers and visitors to the National Park or open access Common Land. The visual detracting caused by bare ground and colliery overburden at Ffos-y-Fran would diminish as seeding and planting becomes established.
- 6.2.29 Viewpoints 11 and 15 would experience a view of the wind farm and Ffos-y-Fran in different directions, increasing the field of view affected by change available to outdoor workers and visitors to the National Park or RHPG. The lessening in the view of bare ground as it is replaced by the establishment of grassland and planting would lessen the influence that the bare slopes of OB1 at Ffos-y-Fran have in the view.
- 6.2.30 Viewpoints 4 and 7 would experience a view of the wind farm and Ffos-y-Fran in different directions, increasing the field of view available to people at home. When seen from the east, there would be no noticeable change to the view of OB1.



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6.2.31 Viewpoint 2 is available to road users, a transient view of the wind farm to the north, and Ffos-y-Fran to the south would be available. Ffos-y-Fran is not predicted to influence the view available from Viewpoints 1, 3 or 18.

A465 Heads of the Valleys (Section 5 and 6 Dowlais Top to Hirwaun)²⁴

6.2.32 Upgrade to approximately 18 km of the A465 trunk road to dual carriageway, between Hirwaun and Dowlais Top. The last section of a 40 km improvement to the A465 from Hirwaun to Abergavenny.

6.2.33 The road corridor passes through a dramatic hilly landscape featuring ancient woodlands and exposed geological formations, including the Taf Fechan and Taf Fawr gorges, with part of it situated within the Brecon Beacons National Park. The existing A465 runs through several local communities that have views of the road. Key visual receptors include residents, recreational users, community members, and travellers. Night sky observers are primarily concerned with exterior lighting in the national park.

6.2.34 Mitigation efforts aim to reduce landscape and visual impacts and protect night skies, significant residual adverse effects will remain, particularly affecting the Brecon Beacons National Park and Rhondda Cynon Taf Special Landscape Areas. Elevated elements of grade-separated junctions, their lighting, and earthworks at Baverstock and with the A470 will also cause considerable adverse effects.

6.2.35 The methodology used to determine the significance of effect was the Welsh Government's Interim Advice Note 135/10 W, which at the time was applicable to the assessment of trunk road and motorway projects. Refer to Table 16 for significance terminology used. *Moderate* through to *Very large* levels are deemed significant. *Neutral* to *Slight* levels are deemed as not significant. *Slight / Moderate* levels have potential to be significant, subject to assessor's professional judgment.

Table 16 IAN 135/10 W Significance of effect matrix

Magnitude → Sensitivity ↓	No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
High	Neutral	Slight	Slight / Moderate	Moderate / Large	Large / Very large
Medium	Neutral	Neutral / Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate / Large
Low	Neutral	Neutral / Slight	Neutral / Slight	Slight	Slight / Moderate

²⁴ <https://www.gov.wales/a465-section-5-and-6-dowlais-top-hirwaun-environmental-statement>



Landscape effects

- 6.2.36 Landscape character areas with a potential for significant residual landscape effect identified in the A465 Heads of the Valleys Environmental Statement that overlap the Ffos-y-Fran study area include:
- Penmoelallt Forest (forestry).
 - Baverstock (open plateau).
 - Cefn Coed (hills / valleys and fields).
 - Taf Fawr (gorge).
 - Taf fechan (gorge).
 - Merthyr Tydfil (built land).
 - Morlais (hills / valleys and fields).
 - Gelli-Gaer Common (hills / valleys and fields).
- 6.2.37 Penmoelallt Forest (PF) overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA1 *Penmoelallt Plantation*. The predicted significance of landscape effect of the A465 upgrade ranges from Large adverse at year of opening to Moderate adverse at year 15 when mitigation planting is established. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral during earthwork operations to Slight benefit after planting maturity. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the A465 upgrade is judged as Moderate adverse, the road scheme being the predominant influence.
- 6.2.38 Baverstock (B) overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA2 *Nant Ffrwd Upland*, LCA3 *Winch Fawr Upland* and LCA6 *Winch Fawr Tramway*. The predicted significance of landscape effect of the A465 upgrade is Large adverse at both year of opening and at year 15. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral during earthwork operations and Neutral to Slight benefit after planting maturity. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the A465 upgrade is judged as Large adverse, the road scheme being the predominant influence.
- 6.2.39 Cefn Coed (C) overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA2 *Nant Ffrwd Upland*, LCA4 *Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland* and LCA7 *Cwm Ffrwd*. The predicted significance of landscape effect of the A465 upgrade is Large adverse at both year of opening and at year 15. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral during earthwork operations and Neutral to Slight benefit after planting maturity. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the A465 upgrade is judged as Large adverse, the road scheme being the predominant influence.
- 6.2.40 Taf Fawr (Tfa) overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA5 *Cefn Coed Cemetery*, LCA9 *Vaynor Upland*, LCA11 *Cefn Coed-y-cymmer* and LCA16 *Cyfarthfa Park Ward*. The predicted significance of landscape effect of the A465 upgrade is Large adverse at both year of opening and at year 15. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral during earthwork operations and after planting maturity. The cumulative effect of Ffos-



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y-Fran combined with the A465 upgrade is judged as Large adverse, the road scheme being the predominant influence.

- 6.2.41 Taf Fechan (TFe) is a steep sided wooded gorge that is unlikely to be influenced by the Ffos-y-Fran restoration. To the south of the A465 it overlaps LCA11 *Cefn Coed-y-cymmer* and LCA17 *Gurnos* but here there is no intervisibility with Ffos-y-Fran.
- 6.2.42 Merthyr Tydfil (MT) includes the built-up area of the town and surrounding areas. It overlaps several Ffos-y-Fran LCAs. The predicted significance of landscape effect of the A465 upgrade is Large adverse at year of opening and Moderate adverse at year 15. Table 17 summarises the cumulative landscape effects with the road scheme being the predominant influence on the Merthyr Tydfil built-up area. As LCAs 15 *Cyfarthfa Castle*, 16 *Cyfarthfa Park Ward*, 23 *Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre* and 29 *Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation* are not immediately adjacent to the A465 road corridor, the landscape effect would be perceptual (indirect) rather than physical (direct). Where this is the case the significance of effect would be decreased accordingly.

Table 17 Merthyr Tydfil (MT) cumulative landscape effects

LCA Ref	LCA Name (A465 influence)	Significance of Landscape Effect	Cumulative Effect
8	Gellideg and Heolgerrig (direct)	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit	Year 1 Large adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse
15	Cyfarthfa Castle (indirect)	EW Neutral PM Neutral	Year 1 Moderate adverse Year 15 Slight adverse
16	Cyfarthfa Park Ward (indirect)	EW Neutral PM Neutral	Year 1 Moderate adverse Year 15 Slight adverse
17	Gurnos (direct)	EW Neutral PM Neutral	Year 1 Large adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse
23	Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre (indirect)	EW Neutral PM Neutral	Year 1 Slight adverse Year 15 Neutral
24	Penydarren (direct)	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit	Year 1 Large adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse
29	Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation (indirect)	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit	Year 1 Moderate adverse Year 15 Slight adverse
33	Dowlais (direct)	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit	Year 1 Large adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse
35	Pant and Pengarnddu (direct)	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit	Year 1 Large adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse

- 6.2.43 Morlais (M) overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA21 *Morlais Castle*, LCA30 *Pant Farmland* and LCA35 *Pant and Pengarnddu*. The predicted landscape effect of the A465 upgrade is Moderate adverse at year of opening and at year 15. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration is judged as Neutral during earthwork operations and then ranging from Neutral to Slight benefit after planting maturity. The cumulative effect of



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Ffos-y-Fran combined with the A465 upgrade is judged as Moderate adverse, the road scheme being the predominant influence.

- 6.2.44 Gelli-Gaer Common (GC) overlaps Ffos-y-Fran LCA38 *Trecatti Landfill Site*, LCA44 *Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland* and LCA45 *Cwm Carno*. The predicted landscape effect of the A465 upgrade is Slight adverse at year of opening and at year 15. The predicted significance of effect of the Ffos-y-Fran restoration ranges from Slight adverse to Slight benefit during earthwork operations and then ranging from Neutral to Slight benefit after planting maturity. The cumulative effect of Ffos-y-Fran combined with the A465 upgrade is judged as Slight adverse for LCAs 38 and 45, and Neutral for LCA44.

Visual effects

- 6.2.45 A detailed assessment of the likely changes to views for receptors was carried out in areas within 1 km from the A465 upgrade's centre-line alignment. During construction, the sight of activities like major earthworks and the erection of new structures would result in substantial negative visual impacts. The removal of vegetation and the enlargement of junctions would increase the visibility of traffic and highway features along the A465 and its junctions. The planned mitigation planting would help to soften and/or obscure much of the proposed project, thereby diminishing visual effects for most viewers by the summer of year 15.
- 6.2.46 The most significant adverse long term visual effects would be experienced by residents with properties next to the A465 at Cefn Coed, Gurnos, Penydarren and Dowlais. Table 18 lists the likely cumulative visual effects of the A465 upgrade with Ffos-y-Fran restoration.

Table 18 A465 Heads of the Valleys cumulative visual effects

LCA Ref	LCA Name and (receptor type)	Significance of Visual Effect	Cumulative Effect
5	Cefn Coed Cemetery (visitors to cemetery and outdoor workers)	EW Neutral PM Neutral	Year 1 Very large adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse No influence from Ffos-y-Fran. Afon Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan viaducts prominent in south-eastward view.
10	Cefn Coed and Trefechan (residents and users of public open space)	EW Neutral PM Slight benefit	Year 1 Large adverse Year 15 Large adverse Receptors with a view of Ffos-y-Fran are set back from the A465 at a higher elevation. With the exception of Vaynor Road residents a cumulative view is unlikely.



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LCA Ref	LCA Name and (receptor type)	Significance of Visual Effect	Cumulative Effect
11	Cefn Coed-y-cymmer (residents and users of public open space)	EW Neutral PM Neutral	Year 1 Moderate adverse Year 15 Slight adverse Very limited views of Ffos-y-Fran. Cumulative view unlikely.
17	Gurnos (residents and users of public open space)	EW Neutral PM Moderate benefit	Year 1 Very large adverse to Moderate adverse Year 15 Large adverse to slight adverse The views of A465 and Ffos-y-Fran would in in different directions and a cumulative view only available to places with an open north-eastward to south-eastward aspect.
24	Penydarren (residents and users of public open space)	EW Moderate adverse PM Moderate benefit	Year 1 Large adverse to slight adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse to Neutral The views of A465 and Ffos-y-Fran would in in different directions and a cumulative view only available to places with an open north-eastward to south-eastward aspect.
33	Dowlais (residents and users of public open space)	EW Moderate adverse PM Large benefit	Year 1 Large adverse to slight adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse to Neutral The views of A465 and Ffos-y-Fran would in in different directions and a cumulative view only available to places with an open north-eastward to south-eastward aspect.
35	Pant and Pengarnddu (residents, users of public open space, workers)	EW Moderate adverse PM Moderate benefit	Year 1 Large adverse to slight adverse Year 15 Moderate adverse to Neutral Cumulative views from locations with an open southward aspect. A465 mitigation planting would also interrupt the view of Ffos-y-Fran.

Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm (DNS/CAS-02504)²⁵

- 6.2.47 Proposed development of a wind farm of 9 turbines with a maximum height of 180 m located at Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte ridge that separates the Afon Rhymni and Afon Sirhowy valleys and the settlements of Rhymni and Tredegar.
- 6.2.48 The development is at assessment stage. The proposed wind farm has the potential to result in significant effects on landscape and visual resources. A landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) will be undertaken. The LVIA will examine the baseline of the

²⁵ <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case>



Proposed Development site and surrounding area and assess the significance of effects on landscape fabric, landscape character (including landscape designations), views and visual amenity.

- 6.2.49 The development would have a direct impact on Ffos-y-Fran LCA57 *Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte*, and a likely significant adverse impact on the landscape and visual amenity within 3 km if the conclusion reached in the LVIA is similar to that of the Pen March Wind Farm.
- 6.2.50 No significant adverse effects are predicted for the landscape as a resource or visual amenity to receptors east of Ffos-y-Fran as a consequence of the surface mine restoration.

6.3 Intra-project relationships

Ecology

- 6.3.1 The Ecological Impact Assessment predicts that residual effects would lead to a positive outcome in comparison with the existing baseline conditions. The most potentially disruptive activities such as earthworks are primarily confined to where recent mining operations have occurred and where habitat degradation is most severe. The areas expected to be most affected are also of the lowest ecological quality and not likely to significantly harm any valuable ecological receptors.
- 6.3.2 The proposed mitigation measures are focussed on the avoidance of disturbance to habitats and enhancement of previously disturbed areas. It is unlikely that any negative impacts would occur. The anticipated residual effects on the site's conservation values from the proposed restoration are expected to result in net benefits to biodiversity. The proposed restoration offers greater opportunities for biodiversity by establishing a broader variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats when compared to the previously approved proposal.

Cultural Heritage

- 6.3.3 No significant negative impacts are expected as a consequence of the proposed restoration. The direct effects of the restoration are positive, restoring the landscape to an urban common.



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7 Summary

- 7.1.1 This report evaluates the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd (MSW) regarding the restoration of the Ffos-y-Fran surface coal mine.
- 7.1.2 It assesses several key impacts:
- Direct Physical Changes: Alterations to landscape features and the cessation of mining activities.
 - Indirect Effects: Changes in landscape perception due to new elements.
 - Visual Receptor Impacts: Effects on views both during the day and at night.
 - Changes in public attitude and behaviour towards areas as a result of these impacts.
- 7.1.3 The report outlines the legislative and policy context, evaluates baseline landscape resources, and establishes a study area in collaboration with stakeholders to understand expected changes during project phases.
- 7.1.4 Fieldwork was conducted in Autumn 2023 and Summer 2024. This included site visits and specific receptor impact assessments.
- 7.1.5 The report discusses mitigation strategies as part of the design process, referring to subsequent sections for detailed design.
- 7.1.6 The LVIA follows the methodology outlined in the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition* (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment in 2013. GLVIA3 offers guidance on categorizing landscape and visual sensitivity, as well as assessing the magnitude and nature of impacts, ultimately helping to determine the significance of effects.
- 7.1.7 Additional relevant documents include the *Landscape Character Map for Wales*, the LANDMAP dataset, and various Technical Guidance Notes providing clarifications and representation guidelines.
- 7.1.8 The assessment distinguishes between landscape effects, which focus on impacts to the landscape resource itself, and visual effects, which pertain to impacts on specific views and overall visual amenity experienced by people.
- 7.1.9 The Landscape Designations section details the visual impact and landscape relevance of the Ffos-y-Fran project site in relation to its surrounding areas.
- 7.1.10 The ZTV indicates potential visibility of the project from high ground. The site is situated on a prominent hill, rising up to 475 m AOD, providing significant visual presence within the valleys of Afon Taf and Afon Rhymni.



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- 7.1.11 The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, located 2.8 km from the site, provides views of the project's visible elements, particularly the overburden mounds. Several SLAs overlap the study area:
- 7.1.12 The baseline visual amenity report begins with an overview of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Ffos-y-Fran restoration, assessing both the visual extent of the restored landform and the types of visual receptors present in the area. This analysis has informed the restoration design and the potential visual impact evaluation.
- 7.1.13 The ZTV illustrated in Figure 1 indicates the visibility of the restored landform, derived from a terrain model that eliminates any features that could obstruct views (like buildings or vegetation), representing a 'worst-case scenario.' Key observation points on the reclaimed site include the tops of overburden mounds and various ridge lines, with observer height standardized at 1.6 meters, reflecting average eye level in the UK.
- 7.1.14 The ZTV extends beyond a 5 km radius from the Ffos-y-Fran site, showing visibility from various upland areas, including the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and surrounding valleys. Additionally, built-up areas in Merthyr Tydfil and nearby settlements can see the site, along with views from the Urban Common pastoral lands.
- 7.1.15 The landscape design proposals for the Ffos-y-Fran project outline a comprehensive restoration plan divided into work packages, aimed at transforming previously disturbed areas into diverse habitats.
- 7.1.16 The landscape effects assessment indicates that earthwork operations will not significantly impact any LCA. The only area directly impacted is LCA37 (Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine), which will see changes such as reduced rock faces, increased scree, and more natural slopes.
- 7.1.17 Neighbouring LCAs (32, 36, and 38) are expected to experience slight detrimental effects due to noise and machinery movement during restoration activities. Conversely, LCAs 40 (Cwm Bargoed) and 44 (Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland) may benefit slightly from reduced haulage activities.
- 7.1.18 Once planting matures and the area transitions to urban common use, no LCAs are projected to have significant lasting impacts, with the landscape expected to feature upland pastures, woodlands, heath, waterbodies, and bare rock. A total of 17 LCAs are likely to benefit slightly post-maturation, reversing temporary detrimental impacts experienced by LCAs 32, 36, and 38.
- 7.1.19 Several Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) will face temporary significant adverse visual impacts during earthwork operations, particularly LCAs 24 (Penydarren), 29 (Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation), 30 (Pant Farmland), 33 (Dowlais), and 35 (Pant and



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Pengarnddu), which are located north of the surface mine and have direct views of the reclamation work.

- 7.1.20 However, after planting matures and the land is restored to urban common use, a total of 10 LCAs, including LCAs 15 (Cyfarthfa Castle), 17 (Gurnos), 38 (Trecatti Landfill Site), 40 (Cwm Bargoed), and 48 (Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw), are predicted to experience significant positive lasting visual impacts. The temporary adverse effects on LCAs 24, 29, 30, 33, and 35 are expected to be reversed. Additionally, 29 LCAs will benefit from slight visual improvements post-maturation, with no LCAs anticipated to experience detrimental impacts after planting maturity.



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APPENDIX 1 - LANDMAP Character Area Summaries



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Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q4)	Special Link (Q2)	Rarity / Uniqueness (Q31)	Overall Evaluation (Q33)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q34)
MRTHRGL001	AvonTaf	Active upland river or stream channel system	Straight U-shaped Afon Taf river valley floor below Merthyr. Valley partly fault controlled by Merthyr/Church fault. Floor covered by alluvium, river terrace material and glacial sand/gravel.	MRTHRGL003, 005, 006	Low	Low	Alluvial valley floor in glacial U-shaped valley.
MRTHRGL008	Dowlais Top	Glacial mountain valley	N-facing scarp slope to east of Afon Taf, in S-dipping Productive Coal Formation, between Upper Cwmgorse Marine Band and Farewell Rock Formation. Minor tributary valleys draining down scarp. Cut by NW-SE Penydarren and Dowlais faults. Extensive boulder clay cover, and made ground, with numerous disused shafts and adits, waste tips and reclaimed opencast coal mines. Iron works and waste tip.	MRTHRGL001	Low	Moderate	Productive Coal Formation, many old coal and iron workings, large areas of made and reclaimed land.
MRTHRGL015	Cwm Cothi	Glacial mountain valley	NW-SE tributary valley to Cwm Bargoed, cut into high-level sandstone plateau of S-dipping South Wales Pennant Formation. S side of valley controlled by NW-SE Llanfabon Fault, cwm at head of valley. Boulder clay in valley floor. Disused quarries and colliery waste tips, mine shafts.	MRTHRGL017, 018	Moderate	Moderate	Tributary valley dissecting Pennant sandstone high level plateau.
MRTHRGL017	Cwm Bargoed	Glacial mountain valley	Flat floor of fault controlled, U-shaped Bargoed-Taf valley, covered with glacial sand and gravel, and by alluvium N of Coed Bargoed. Closed colliery shaft and workings in floor north of Taff Merthyr colliery.	MRTHRGL015, 016, 018, 019	Moderate	Moderate	Fluvial and fluvioglacial sediments of glacial U-shaped valley floor.
MRTHRGL018	Craig Penddeugae	Glacial mountain valley	Steep western slopes of U-shaped Cwm Bargoed, with large landslip area, dissected into S-dipping high-level sandstone plateau of South Wales Pennant Formation, and cut by several major NW-SE faults. Line of cliffs at Craig Penddergae above large landslip between Penddergae Fawr and Bryn Caerau. Lower slopes in Productive Coal Formation with closed coal mine shafts and adits, disused quarries and waste tips. Boulder clay cover in Nant y Fedw, and in northern parts of Bargoed Taf valleys.	MRTHRGL015, 016, 017, 019	Moderate	Moderate	Upland plateau and W slopes of U-shaped valley, Pennant stratigraphy, landslip, coal workings and quarries.
MRTHRGL019	Gelligaer Common	Glacial mountain valley	Steep eastern slopes of U-shaped Bargoed Taf valley, dissected by three prominent tributary valleys, cut through high-level sandstone plateau of gently S-dipping South Wales Pennant Formation and Productive Coal Formation. NW-SE faults cut the slopes, and regional E-W syncline and anticline affects the general S-dip. Boulder clay cover on lower slopes and in tributary valleys. Closed coal mine shafts and adits, disused coal waste tips.	MRTHRGL016, 017, 018	Moderate	Moderate	E slopes of U-shaped valley; Productive Coal - S Wales Pennant fms stratigraphy, coal workings.
CYNONGL008	Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney valley	Glacial mountain valley	Steep-sided valleys trending NW-SE cut into South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones (Upper Carboniferous), separated by ridge representing remnant of high-level plateau. Valley floor contains alluvium & glacial sand/gravel; boulder clay in the form of hummocky moraine, and head on higher ground. Numerous derelict mine workings, shafts & adits.	none	Low	Moderate	Upper valleys dissected in widespread outcrop of Pennant sandstones - some quarries present.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q24)	Connectivity / Cohesion (Q42)	Overall Evaluation (Q45)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q45a)
MRTHRLH007		Acid Grassland	Large area based on Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons	Low	High	.
CYNONLH109		Mosaic	Uniform improved grassland resulting from reclamation of former mine workings.	Moderate	Moderate	The main habitat is farmed improved grassland which is of limited ecological value and is also a very common habitat that is under little threat. There are no features to add to ecological value.
CYNONLH112		Mosaic	Unenclosed uplands comprised of unimproved acid grassland, wet dwarf shrub heath, wet heath/ acid grassland mosaic flushes, open water, bracken, ephemeral/short perennials on spoil.	Moderate	High	A number of Priority habitats, heath land is a habitat of international significance.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q3)	Scenic Quality (Q46)	Character (Q48)	Overall Evaluation (Q50)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q51)
BRCKNV5372	Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangattock	Upland Moorland	Exposed upland moorland on undulating plateau top dominated by unimproved poor grassland. Some wet flushes occur and there are patches of heath vegetation which create subtle patterns and welcome relief from the otherwise consistent vegetation cover. Rock exposures [limestone] including scree and cliffs occur in places, particularly on the northern slopes facing the Usk valley. There is evidence of small quarries and borrow pits with there associated waste tips which have been colonised with vegetation. These create further interest. The large disused quarry at Cwar y Hendre is informally used for recreation and earthmoving operations are occasionally carried out. There is an isolated reservoir at Cairn Mound. There are superb panoramic views of the Black Mountains to the north and of the South Wales Valleys to the south and away from the road the area is tranquil. One road crosses the area from north to south and is often used by people wishing to enjoy the views. The laybys are well used. Evidence of the deprived nature of the valleys settlements to the south is provided by occasional burnt out cars or rubbish.	High	High	High	The area has affords panoramic views particularly on its northern fringes. The consistent expansive open character of the landscape maintains its integrity and is relatively unspoilt. The area provides an important refuge from the urban character of the valleys to the south. It has a strong sense of place with its simple horzons and vegetation cover which are highly influenced by weather and sky.
BRCKNV5443	Pontsticill and Pentwyn Reservoirs	Lake	A tranquil, enclosed and linear stretch of water fringed by conifer and and deciduous woodland which runs close to its edge in places. This provides a frame for long views up the valley to the Beacons. Two low key car parks are located by the lake (one in Merthyr Tydfil to the south) which form popular tourist/visitor destinations to the Beacons, including easy walking, cycling along the valley (including the Taf Trail). The mountain railway terminates adjacent which is another popular destination. The dam is stone clad with Victorian/Edwardian robust detailing. Boating is allowed on the southern lake (sailing) with low key facilities provided. Fishing is also carried out. These activities do not detract from the areas tranquillity. Tree clearance is apparent in places (Pentwyn Reservoir).	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	The reservoir facilitates superb views of Beacons emphasising the drama of the topography through reflection and contrast. The area provides outstanding scenic quality which is reinforced by the Brecon Mountain Railway Station and car parks adjacent, which are popular tourist destinations for those seeking to enjoy the Beacons - there is therefore consensus on the value of the area. The reservoir is well managed and has consistent character/management of its edges and structures including the dam. The accessibility of the reservoir and views provided are rare in Wales although available in the study area in other locations.
BRCKNV5838	Upper Taf Fechan Valley	Wooded Upland Valleys	The steeply sloping valley sides range from 550mAOD to 335mAOD are dramatic and are heighthened by the coniferous plantations and other woodland. The mix of larch (hitherto), spruce and other species are generally pleasing and attractive. Felling is apparent at higher levels and on reservoir valley sides, possibly of larch due to Phyttopthera. The valley frames views of the Beacons to the north and to the reservoirs which it encloses. Low key recreational facilities such as picnic sites and car parks and the mountain railway are well integrated into the valley landscape. The upper edge of the forestry appears linear in parts and is more pleasing where this is broken up. The watercourses are overhung with conifers in places. Small pastures in the valley bottom and settlement contribute to the diversity of the landscape.	High	High	High	The drama of the topography highlighted by the coniferous forestry and deciduous woodland give the area a high scenic quality. Small areas of enclosed pasture and the adjacent reservoirs add contrast and variety to the character of the landscape. The area is well managed for amenity (recreational and visual) as well as forestry and so the area has a strong integrity and consistency. The area is a visitor destination so consensus reinforces areas value. Attractive views of reservoirs and Beacons are formed by this area.
MRTHRVS101	Lower Taff Bargoed Valley	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	This area contributes to a dramatic narrow steep sided valley in which a diversity of landcover creates a pleasing whole. Its essential attractive characteristics are a substantial proportion of tree and scrub cover within a mosaic of enclosed farmland and bracken. There are considerable areas of deciduous woodland on the valley sides including Coed Cwm Cothi in the south and Cwm Bargoed immediately to the north of Bedlinog. The blocks of small scale hedged field pattern are generally on the lower and less steep slopes with woodland or open grassland/bracken cover on the steeper sides. The valley has a backwater quality but does not feel forgotten as there is evidence of much recent activity particularly aligned to the valley floor. The main road follows the east side of the valley as does a mineral railway line. There are a few individual dwellings/farms in the valley and the village of Bedlinog towards the north end of the area. This is a distinctive valleys village with its rows of stone-built terraced houses built on improbable gradients up the valley sides. The main street involves a series of hairpin bends as it climbs up towards the Common. There are more settlements immediately south of the Character Area and its tranquillity increases to the north. There are some revegetated tip sites within the area, some of which form stark features in the landscape e.g. the skyline tip northwest of Coed Cwm Cothi. Much of the valley floor has been recently reclaimed with distinctive reed beds and lakes as part of the Millennium Park. This gives a positive ambience within the backwater of the now relatively quiet post industrial valley.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	The area is an attractive landscape with some detractors and developing landscapes in the valley floor. Pleasant views are possible across the valley. The valley side is fairly typical of the the south Wales valleys.
MRTHRVS119	Gelligaer Farmlands	Upland Grazing	The area essentially consists of an upland enclosed field pattern on the shoulder of land above the Taf Bargoed valley but below the ridgeline of Gelligaer Common to the east. The area has stone wall field boundaries with a particularly distinctive coping. The area is exposed with very few trees. These tend to be limited to adjacent to the isolated and scattered farmsteads or to field boundaries. A small stone quarry to the north, which makes a minor scar on the landscape. The stone walls give this area a uniformity and well kept quality which is often lacking in adjacent areas which are enclosed with hedges. The hedges are often deteriorating and form less strong boundary features.	Moderate	High	Moderate	The area has a consistent character with distinctive stone wallls enclosing fields. The area has been unaffected by industrial activity and attractive views across the coalfield plateau are possible. The area is in decline due to the marginal nature of pastoral agriculture which is exhibited in deteriorating walls in places.
MRTHRVS122	Merthyr Tydfil	Urban	This urban area includes Merthyr Tydfil itself and a series of linked village communities and housing estates, which surround the town centre. All sit within a broad basin around the confluence of the Taf Fawr and the Taf Fechan and also the Nant Morlais (now largely culverted although the valley is still evident). The basin narrows as the Taf flows southwards. The main road pattern defines the funnel shape of this basin - the A465 across the northern edge, the A470 and A4102 along the western edge and the A4060 along the eastern edge. The settlements of Abercanaid, Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach are included, as recent industrial development has linked them physically with Merthyr. This is an extremely complex area. The pattern of development has historically been controlled by the exploitation of local minerals and related industrial development. With this in mind the area can be divided into older settlement cores and the matrix of areas in between which comprise newer housing developments, industrial and commercial sites, open spaces and apparently unused and reclaimed land. Recent peripheral housing developments have expanded the boundaries. The town centre has been substantially redeveloped and lacks coherence although individual parts of it have been recently improved e.g. the High Street and adjacent buildings. The relocated railway station and undeveloped site (car park) adjacent to it reduce the quality of the centre. The town centre is a busy retail area which contrast with the very small scale retail areas serving the outlying settlements. There are strong visual contrasts between the areas surrounding the town centre - the serried ranks of stone built terraced housing in Dowlais, Pen-y-darren and The Quar contrast with more random development of similar houses in Cefn Coed. The outlying housing estates such as Gurnos and Gellideg are often in elevated positions on the edge of the town with few facilities and little to integrate them visually with the surrounding landscape. They can appear soulless and remote. However there is a strong sense of community throughout these different areas of housing. The open spaces between built up areas are in varying condition. Some have revegetated naturally. Other areas have been reclaimed to form "green tips" with engineered sides and flat terraces for industry or recreation. Substantial time and investment in recent years has meant that others still have been reclaimed with sensitive landform, water bodies, substantial planting and access routes. Planting and vegetation is, over time, integrating and softening these formerly visually harsh but distinctive landscapes. All, however, currently still bear the hallmark of reclaimed or disturbed landscapes. As such they often suffer from abuse such as dumping and litter because of their perceived low value - problems prevalent in urban fringe areas. The A470 along the west side of the town runs parallel but set back form the river corridor. Much of the town turns its back on this corridor which has been canalised through the town centre. North and south of this stretch it is still an attractive but underused element of the townscape. The surrounding landscape is always a presence in Merthyr - its location in a basin together with the wedges of open space through the settlement mean that there is never a sense of wall to wall urbanisation. However the quality of this landscape is very variable and many areas appear to be undervalued at present.	Low	Low	Low	The town has a very complex form with no discernible pattern and coherence. Some areas are in poor condition and there are numerous detractors. New development and reclamation have obscured the important heritage of the area in parts. Though there is a significant story to tell about Merthyr this is not apparent.
MRTHRVS179	Vaynor Quarry	Excavation	Active limestone quarry cutting onto Vaynor uplands with moorland to the north and west and farmland to the south and east. The entrance to the quarry and related plant are screened to an extent by trees and mounding. Views of the upper faces are possible from the south and east. The quarry is more completely visible from further distsances, particularly from the other side of the Taf Fechan valley to the south.	Low	Low	Low	The quarry, despite some screening and mitigation remains a detractor in the landscape.
MRTHRVS198	Vaynor Farmlands	Upland Grazing	This sloping farmed landscape lies between open uplands and town. It has a distinctive and attractive small-scale field pattern around Vaynor and Pontsticill - a mix of stone walls and hedgebanks. The stone walls appear to have been built of the local irregular blocks of limestone or millstone grit providing a distinctive style which contrasts with the more regular appearance of walls built of Pennant sandstone in other parts of the county borough. This is an intimate undulating landscape which contrasts in scale with the adjacent reservoir, moorland, forestry and quarries. The area south of Taf Fechan (between Morlais Hill and Gyrnos Farm) has larger fields, a mosaic of woodlands and rough ground - it is less remote than the area to the north. Access is possible from Merthyr to the south and the area is visible from, and visually affected by, the adjacent the A465. It still fulfils a vital role providing a connection between the upland landscapes to the north with industrialised Merthyr.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	The area is a pleasant pastoral human scale landscape with views to adjacent uplands and valley. It has a consitent character with distinctive stone walls and small scale field pattern.
MRTHRVS288	Taff Fechan	Wooded Upland Valleys	The valley is an enclosed wooded gorge around 50m high with its upper edge at 250 to 350mAOD. It links the remote upland of Vaynor to the north with Merthyr Tydfil to the south and provides an important green corridor between the two. At the southern end, the river flows under the A465 and the presence of the trunk road high above the gorge is a clear reminder of the proximity of development. The mature woodland is deciduous and there are many attractive intimate spaces within the gorge. The water course is small scale with many large boulders and rock platforms which add to the sights and sounds of the river. There are a number of routes through the gorge including lanes, a dismantled railway now used for the Taff cycle trail and the Brecon Mountain Railway. Focal points include the Pontsarn Viaduct and other smaller scale bridges. The woodland is interspersed with more open slopes clothed in grassland and/or scrub. Disused quarries above the gorge add to the strong sense of place. Settlement is scattered and sparse but a cluster lies at Pontsticill to the north of the area. There is considerable recreational use of the area including walking, cycling and climbing on quarry slopes but all these are absorbed within strong landscape framework.	Outstanding	High	High	The valley is a superb wooded gorge with interesting fetrures such as a viaduct and stone bridges and adjacent derelict quarries, all of which give a particular and distinctive scenic quality. The area has a clear sense of place and unity.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q3)	Scenic Quality (Q46)	Character (Q48)	Overall Evaluation (Q50)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q51)
MRTHRVS313	Merthyr North Flank	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux	The area is of exposed upland character with moorland rising to 530m. The visual and sensory character is generally bleak and open with long views. It is a complex area in which the variety of land uses over time have fragmented the appearance and changed the otherwise large scale upland. The resulting mix is sometimes jarring but elsewhere the diversity adds interest. The unifying influence is the fact that these land uses have clearly altered the landscape. The north eastern corner of this area feels remote from development but much of the remaining area is clearly influenced by the proximity to the town. Settlement is present on the north side of the A465 and abuts the area - terraced housing, large scale industry and retail parks. The retail park in particular is very exposed and sits uncomfortably on the edge of the upland moorland. There are many signs of past and current extractive activity including the active Vaynor Quarry cutting northwards east of Cefn Cil-Sanws, and disused quarries at Morlais, Bryniau and at Twynau Gwynion. Other past industrial activity is indicated by Pitwellt Pond. Morlais Hill and Castle form an important landmark which can be seen from the south side of Merthyr. The adjacent golf course is not particularly visually distinct in long views. The range of active and no longer used industrial sites influence the character of the landscape and the adjacent residential and retail areas. The power lines are detractors in this landscape.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	The mosaic of post industrial and prehistoric features combined with moorland create a landscape of distinctive character with dramatic characteristics in places.
MRTHRVS317	Mid Taff Valley	Open Upland Valleys	This area is primarily defined by its valley form with distinct valley floor and steep sides. It is distinct from the lower Taf Valley because of its openness and rugged character. It lies just below the ridgelines on both sides of the valley and has dramatic crags in places such as at Craig-y-Pwll above Troedryhiw. The disused quarries further expose the underlying rock. The valley sides are largely unenclosed although remnant field patterns can be distinguished in places and the vegetation cover is mainly upland sheep pasture including grassland and extensive areas of bracken. These areas are frequently torched in dry weather and the whole area is clearly close to settlement and is somewhat under pressure. The settlement is confined to the valley floor due to the steepness of the slopes. While distinct from the east and west flanks around Merthyr in having less extensive post industrial sites, there are still substantial areas including the conical tip east of Pentrebach and the reclaimed Aberfan tip. These vary in character from interesting remnants of the coal mining age(the conical tip) to stable but characterless reclaimed sites which interrupt the natural flow of the valley (Aberfan tip). Many small disused quarries, tramroads and levels are also in evidence on the valley sides and it is clearly a disturbed landscape. The area is cut through by the A470 on the eastern slopes, which allows good views. The area is therefore very important in defining a positive character in the mid Taf valley below Merthyr. The valley floor is open reclaimed pasture with the canalised River Taf , roads and Taff trail running along this major communication corridor. This area forms a very important semi-rural break between the valley floor settlements which would other wise coalesce and the distinctiveness of individual communities would be reduced.	Moderate	Low	Low	The area has some dramatic features such as crags and steep valley sides and attractive areas such as oak woodland. However, the area is in decline and invasion of bracken indicates under use over time. There are tips which still look raw in the landscape.
MRTHRVS355	Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flank	Excavation	This area is a rapidly changing industrial landscape of black coal, with movement, noise, dust. Highly visible from Merthyr and main roads. Not without its own interest as it is now unusual to see/experience such a large area of extraction in south Wales. Provides potential for major 'new' landscape to be created.	Low	Moderate	Low	50% low. The extreme disturbance and unattractive qualities counteract the 'medium' character and 'high' rarity values.
MRTHRVS359	Ponsticill Reservoir	Lake	The reservoir forms an extensive and calm element in the landscape - a horizontal plane in an otherwise hilly terrain. It reflects the surrounding hillsides and the beauty of the Brecon Beacons. The adjacent slopes are clothed in coniferous plantations and these add to the sheltered quality without being oppressive as the open hilltops are visible above and there are clearing s within the woodland. The early 20th century structure has fine stone and metal work associated with it including a 'fairy-tale' turret in the reservoir close to the dam. This dam cuts across the valley in views from the south and is obviously artificial. The south face is grassed which reduces its prominence although it is still very visible against surrounding woodland. The built forms associated with the reservoir have a confident and substantial quality. Access is gained via a single track B road along the western edge of the reservoir with a number of laybys/picnic areas and views across to the railway.	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	The reservoir is a highly attractive landscape of outstanding scenic quality and enhancing views of the surrounding Brecon Beacons. It is well managed generally with a consistent character and has a strong sense of place. It is a popular visitor attraction which is indicative of consensus as to its value.
MRTHRVS377	Craig Fargoed	Open Upland Valleys	The area is very open and is dominated by bracken because of its particularly steep slopes, which are unsuitable for farming. The slopes are west facing. This simple land cover makes this area distinct from surrounding mosaics. The slopes are broken up to an extent by the tributary valleys of Nant y Garth and Nant Ddu.	Moderate	Low	Moderate	The area has a consistent character with good views in and out along the valley with little inharmonious development. The groundcover of bracken dominates the steep valley side leading to limited diversity and visual interest.
MRTHRVS387	Vaynor Uplands	Upland Moorland	This big open unenclosed landscape rises to over 490m AOD in the north east and to 300m AOD along its southern edge. It forms a large block of upland between the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan and looms high above the basin in which Merthyr Tydfil is located. The vast scale contrasts with the more fragmented and/or linear character areas elsewhere. The area is exposed, bleak and empty of settlement with almost no access - there is one right of way crossing the southern quarter and a few footpaths skirting the edge. It includes V-shaped stream valleys draining to east/west/south. The vegetation cover is predominantly upland grassland with large areas of poorly drained moorland. Most of the area is typical of large parts of the upland moorland in the Brecon Beacons. However, the distinctive craggy outcrops on Cefn Cilsanws at 480mAOD along the southern edge are a focal point with scrub vegetation and grey scree slopes below. This hillside forms a focal point on the main road north into the Brecon Beacons.	High	High	High	The area has high scenic quality with panoramic views. It has consistent and unspoilt character throughoutand a strong sense of place through rock outcrops and moorland character. The area froms part of the Brecon Beacons upland area.
MRTHRVS393	Taff Fawr	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	The Taf Fawr has a distinct and impressive character defined by the juxtaposition of the open scree slopes below Cefn Cil-Sanws and the rural field pattern on the valley floor. The open scree slopes contrast with the predominantly deciduous woodland on the western valley side (outside the County Borough). The area is particularly scenic and the A470 benefits from sweeping views along the valley. The road does not particularly disturb the sheltered tranquillity of the valley. To the south east the Taf Fawr enters an enclosed wooded gorge section between Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer and Cefn Coed Cemetery. To the south west, upland farmland lies on the shoulder between Cwm Ffrwd and Taf Fawr. Enclosure is limited to hedgerows which are discontinuous and riparian vegetation on the Nant Ffrwd and extensive views are possible from the A465 across this landscape which acts as the edge and setting to the Brecon Beacons. This area bounds the north west fringes of Merthyr and acts as a buffer and as its rural setting. Settlement is scattered farmsteads and Llwyn-On village, built to service the reservoir to the north.Minor boundary alteration at change detection to exclude Trefechan housing expansion. The area abuts a series of the village communities which constitute the edge of Merthyr Tydfil. In places this boundary is abrupt e.g. adjacent to Gellideg , while elsewhere the edge is more gradual due to the nature of the built development e.g Cefn Coed. Elsewhere new development is very visible due to its elevated nature e.g. the northern edge of Trefechan. These boundaries because of their location on high ground on the edge of high quality National Park landscapes.	High	High	High	The area is an attractive upland valley with good views and distinctive features such as scree slopes and rocky outcrops. It is generally unspoilt and acts as a setting to the uplands of the Beacons to the north.
MRTHRVS429	Bedlinog	Urban	The town of Bedlinog lies on the steep valley sides of the Taf Bargod valley. It is a typical valleys settlement associated with coal extraction in the past. It has long linear terraces of render and stone with mainly slate roofs.It is split into two parts- one linear part lies on the valley floor and includes a square in front of a public house. The larger part of the town lies up the slope built around the main street with its hairpin bends. A mineral railway line runs along the contours through the settlement. There are many remnants of previous industrial activity around what is now a quiet settlement which shows signs of decline.Recent housing to south east has extended the boundary at change detection.	Low	Moderate	Low	The town has a distinctive character although with many similarities to other valleys towns. It sprawls untidily up the slopes of the valley and while some areas are well kept the settlement shows signs of decline. Poorly built 20th century houses intersperse the traditional terraces.The settlement has harsh egdes in places which do not complement the valley landscape.
MRTHRVS452	Merthyr Common	Upland Moorland	The area is one of rounded summits above broad sweeps of grassland across the ridgelines which separate the U-shaped valleys below. The vegetation is sparse - very well grazed areas of grass with soft rush in wetter patches. There are many groups of ponies and sheep some of which appear to be in poor condition. There is no settlement on the Common as farms are situated on the enclosed land below the ridges. The enclosures along the edge of the Common are generally dry stone walls with some post and wire fences. A few narrow roads and tracks cross the area and all have undefined and ragged edges. Fly tipping is apparent in parts as is the clutter of old fences and signs which have not been cleared away. Adjacent Ffos-y-fran workings have recently extended, altering northern boundary and creating more detractive views from northern part of the area.	Low	Moderate	Low	The area allows panoramic views of the coalfield plateau. However, it suffers from tipping, derelict structures and the presence of urban areas nearby. Management of the area is therefore difficult.
MRTHRVS460	A470 Corridor	Road Corridor	Busy dual carriageway with an attractive sinuous alignment on the western side of the Taf valley. The road has been built in two stages. The southern stretch was implemented first and vegetation cover is beginning to be established and is integrating the road into the landscape. Structures are crisp and well detailed especially retaining walls although concrete is used extensively and little concession is made to local materials. The northern section is more recent, with immature planting and more use of pennant stone and lighting with frequent junctions. This stretch cuts off outlying settlements such as Heolgerrig and Gellideg from the rest of Merthyr Tydfil.Recent detractive views to Ffos-y-fran to east.	Low	Moderate	Low	The road is intrinsically noisy and a detractor in the valley landscape with night time noise pollution. However, the vegetation cover and hard materials are well maintained and are in good condition and will, in time, help to integrate the road into the landscape.
MRTHRVS487	Gethin Woodlands	Wooded Upland Valleys	The character of this upland landscape is dominated by the blanket cover and large expanse of coniferous woodland on the upper slopes of the valley. This continues over the ridgeline into the Cynon valley. This character area does not include all of the area known as Gethin Woodland Park but only those areas which are blanketed by conifers as such areas contrast with the more open and inviting mosaic on the lower slopes of the Woodland Park. There is limited access to much of the area because of the impenetrable nature of the trees. However, parts are open to recreation through rides and walks. The woodland absorbs this recreation giving the area a feeling of remoteness. The forestry has a major positive visual presence on the side of the valley.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	The area is well managed and has consistent character throughout but lacks diversity of vegetation cover and visual interest. Pleasant views are possible and the woodland is an important setting for Merthyr and the valley.
MRTHRVS506	Upper Taff Bargoed Valley	Open Upland Valleys	Several small mountain streams join the Bargod Taf at Cwm-Bargoed to flow in a steep-sided valley southwards . The slopes are generally more steep and open on the east side. The area is defined by its remnant field pattern, which contrasts with the adjacent open commons and also with the more wooded and enclosed valley to the south. It is a very remote area at the head of the valley with very limited road access - a minor road/track from the upland to the north. There are a few isolated farmsteads There is also an awareness of past industrial activity on a small-scale through disrupted ground levels and rusting machinery/containers. The agriculture of the area is marginal and this is reflected in the land cover. There is a distinctive mosaic of unmanaged hedges to fields fading up slope to wire fences and then to open moorland. The mineral railway runs through the area to the massive and bleak coal washery (recently expanded Ffos-y-fran) at the head of the valley. This is an unexpected feature and forms an abrupt end to the remote and undisturbed quality of the landscape.Views to Ffos-y-fran have become more prominent recently, and use of railway more frequent.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	the area is remote and of consistent character and sense of place with pleasant views down the valley and to some of the surrounding uplands. However, the area shows signs of decline in field pattern and presence of rusting machinery.Plus detractive views to Ffos-y-fran.

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MRTHRVS557	Aberfan and Merthyr Vale	Urban	Aberfan and Merthyr Vale are located at the point where the Taf valley begins to widen out to the north. They are aligned to a series of route corridors including the A470, the A4054, the railway and the canal, all of which follow the north-south alignment of the valley. Aberfan is less well defined as a linear settlement than Merthyr Vale, which lines the eastern valley road (A4054). Some development in Aberfan creeps up the slope between the river and the A470 above the terraces. The settlements consist primarily of stone or brick built terraces and slate roofs without significant architectural merit. However, the long terrace form, aligned either along the contour or at right angles to the river and punctuated by occasional larger buildings such as chapels and pubs, is distinctive of the character of the South Wales valleys. Merthyr Vale is visible from the A470. As with Treharris and Trelewis the settlements once clustered around the colliery which is now developing as a reclaimed amenity site on the river side. The school is located on the other side of the river on a plateau while the cemetery and Garden of Remembrance on the slopes above Aberfan and below a reclaimed tip are visible reminders of the 1966 disaster. Both settlements are undistinguished in visual terms and their character relies heavily on the quality of the fine valley setting. The river corridor appears to be little used.	Low	Moderate	Low	The settlements are distinctive south Wales ex-mining villages with distinctive long terraces and a reclaimed area on the valley floor.They have common characteristics and a sense of place. However, they have a number of detractors, the housing is poor condiiton in places and the settlements are poorly integrated into the valley.
MRTHRVS588	Cyfarthfa Park	Amenity Land	Cyfarthfa Park is the largest open space in the Merthyr Tydfil conurbation, representing a mature designed landscape, graded as II*. The house was commissioned by William Crawshay in 1825, and was designed by Robert Lugar as a mock castle. The impressive house (a Grade I Listed Building) overlooks grounds dropping to the southwest and the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, on the far side of the River Taf. It is therefore prominent in the landscape. Initially, the surrounding parkland was Romantic and informal, but by the late 19th century a more formal layout as a landscape park had developed. There were two entrances, the southwest entrance originally had lodges but these had gone by 1873. The areas behind the house, to the east and north, have developed as mixed woodland. The large attractive lake in the west of the park supplied water to the Cyfarthfa Ironworks via a trough on the Pont y Cafnau Bridge. Following the sale of the park to Merthyr Tydfil council in 1910, changes were made, including the creation of two terraces south of the main drive for a bowling green and tennis courts, and the construction of flower beds and a fountain. More recently, the east part of the park has been converted to school playing fields.Major restoration/improvements currently underway.	High	High	High	Cyfarthfa Park acts as an important setting to the castle and is prominent in views form the A470 and other parts of Merthyr. It has a strong visual relationship with the related furnaces across the valley which is a rare feature. The park is very attractive with mature trees and well maintained grounds.
MRTHRVS706	Lower Taff Valley	Wooded Upland Valleys	The narrow valley has a dramatic enclosed character which is emphasised by the substantial areas of woodland, mainly conifers, on upper valley sides and deciduous trees along the river side. Some of the edges to the conifers are abrupt, particularly on the north eastern edge. The enclosed nature of the valley contrasts with the more open U-shaped valley to the north. There are disused mines, quarries, tips and reclaimed areas on the valley sides. These do not dominate the area but rather provide an additional sense of place. The main roads run on each side of valley at around 150m i.e. 20 to 40m above river. The dominant route now is the western alignment of the A470 [T] with the old road to the east but both have excellent views along the valley. The railway lies lower in valley with more intimate and enclosed views, as does the Taff Trail recreation route which follows an old tramroad below the railway. The water course with such features as the Pont y Gwaith bridge feels further from the trunk road than it is - a peaceful wooded character. Settlement is limited to a few isolated farmsteads and dwellings although there are views of the larger settlements to both north and south. The river corridor between Aberfan and Merthyr Vale is included as are the valley sides above these settlements. Although these areas are more influenced by the urban development they are still part of the narrow wooded lower Taf valley and are valuable as a setting for the settlements. The woodland cover dies away on the west side of valley towards the south and above the trunk road with a deteriorating field pattern and areas of reclaimed ground. Clear signs of past activity and development include quarried rock faces, masts and small reservoirs. This more open hillside is a welcome contrast to the otherwise wooded valley and the strong landform generally absorbs the past development.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	There are attractive views of the area from both sides of the valley with its wooded character and pleasant river corridor. Though there are post industrial remnants, these add to the richness of the area visually. The area has a sense of place although there are similarities to other south Wales valleys.
MRTHRVS729	Taff/Cynon Ridge	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux	This exposed and dominant ridge forms part of the coalfield plateau with long views. It has many prominent high points, which punctuate the skyline including Mynydd Gethin, Twyn Brynbychan, Cefn y Fan, Craig-yr-Efail and Mynydd Goetre-Coed. It has variable land cover which cuts across the line of the landform. Blocks of forestry contrast with open upland grassland and the forestry appears to pay little heed to the underlying land form This results in a disjointed edge to this side of the Taf valley in contrast to the relatively clean lines of the ridge occupied by Merthyr Common . Reclaimed sites and small-scale former quarries form additional elements in the overall landscape pattern. There is no settlement and very limited access - a few minor tracks cross the ridge. It is a physical barrier between valleys which was reduced when two railway tunnels cut through it during the industrial period but is now again very strong since the tunnels have been closed. Radio masts are located on the high points and are minor detractors in the landscape. The quarry on the ridge above the A470 to the north of Abercynon has now become a well-recognised landmark.	Moderate	Low	Low	The area is an important skyline between Taff and Cynon valleys and enjoys wide panoramic views of the coalfield plateau. The vegetation cover is diverse bordering on the incoherent with no discernible pattern. There are detractors including a wireless mast.
MRTHRVS762	A465 Corridor	Road Corridor	The eastern part of this road has undergone major upgrading in last few years. Now has separated junction and major landform modifications, with expanded landtake. Roadside planting has yet to mature. There are some views to the Brecon Beacons but often views are of industrial areas, derelict land or housing in Merthyr.AIso to recent Ffos-y-fran coal workings.	Low	Low	Low	The road is intrinsically of little scenic merit and is a detractor. It is also busy and therefore noisy which also detracts from its environs.
MRTHRVS852	Upper Taff Fechan	Wooded Upland Valleys	The dramatic east facing and steep sloping upland valley side is dissected by a tributary valley, the Nant Car Fach, but this is masked by the almost complete cover of the conifers of the Taf Fechan Forest. The minor road runs close to the base of the slopes with land adjacent to the Pontsticill Reservoir to the west and the Taff Trail follows track through the forestry. Glimpsed views are possible across the water body from the road and the area is used for recreation with picnic areas and other low key facilities in clearings along the water's edge. The views over the reservoir are of a forested edge to the water body, the Brecon Mountain Railway and the open hilltops beyond. The area is sheltered and peaceful and feels rather remote with only a couple of dwellings. Views out to the reservoir and more open landscape reduce the strong sense of enclosure created by the conifers. The simple blocks of water, woodland and upland moorland in adjacent aspect areas create a calming scene.	High	Moderate	Moderate	The area acts as a pleasant setting for the reservoir to the east, framing views. The coniferous woodland has consistent character and is well managed.
MRTHRVS858	Gelligaer Common	Upland Moorland	As the western edge of Gelligaer Common the area has a bleak and open character very similar to Merthyr Common to the west. The area is one of rounded summits above broad sweeps of grassland across the ridgelines which separate the U-shaped valleys below. The vegetation is sparse - very well grazed areas of grass with soft rush in wetter patches. There are many groups of ponies and sheep some of which appear to be in poor condition. There is no settlement on the Common as farms are situated on the enclosed land below the ridges. The enclosures along the edge of the Common are generally dry stone walls with some post and wire fences. A few narrow roads and tracks cross the area and all have undefined and ragged edges. Fly tipping is apparent in parts as is the clutter of old fences and signs which have not been cleared away. There is a quarry at the south end but this is not generally visible in long views into the area. Unattractive views to Ffos-y-fran are recent change. Long views out across the Coalfield plateau contrast with the enclosed nature of the adjacent valleys. There is some recreational use including walking, riding, paragliding and picnics. The common is remote and exposed with a simple ground cover which contrasts with the more diverse vegetation in the valleys themselves.	High	High	High	2 highs, 1 moderate and 1 low merits a high evaluation as the area has a distinct character and good views, linking into the Brecon Beacons to the north.
MRTHRVS876	Merthyr East Flank	Derelict/Waste Ground	The area is primarily defined by the degree of disturbance of the landform and the lack of diversity in vegetation cover. Almost all the area has clearly been disturbed and is apparently currently unused or reclaimed. The slopes form a stark and unattractive backdrop to this side of the town. Large areas of reclaimed land are open covered in pasture for sheep grazing with some fencing against the road edge e.g. the slopes to the west of former Trecatti landfill site and the plateau on each side of the realigned A4060. These form a bleak and apparently sterile landscape. Planting may help to integrate some areas in time. Trecatti landfill now reclaimed to reduction in noise, blowing litter and gulls. Recent development has reduced area around Incline Top. There are also examples of reclamation which much more successfully create new landscapes which add to the visual quality of the area e.g. the western edge of Incline Top where small blocks of woodland and stone wall detailing create a semi-rural character. Some open cast is being carried out and also landfill which is just visible on the exposed ridge. To the south, upland pastures mix with the disturbed landscape to form a more intimate mosaic which is more akin to areas on the western flank (Character Area 11).	Low	Low	Low	The area is still a raw landscape, prominent on the valley sides above Merthyr. While some areas are establishing a landscape infrastructure there are extensive areas which are open and lacking diversity of texture and cover. There remain a few detractors.
BLNGWVS143	A465	Road Corridor	Major dual-carriageway passing through northern part of Blaenau Gwent. The western half of road was upgraded a few years ago, with major earthworks and replanting which still appears raw. Eastern half of route is generally well-integrated without wide-scale views to it, but providing varied and interesting views from road. The integration of the road is a major consideration, including its juxtaposition with housing and open country.	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Not too ugly except where reconstruction.
BLNGWVS242	Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estates	Urban	Grids of modern industrial buildings located uncomfortably in vast bleak open landscape. Buildings consist mainly of large pale-coloured sheds, few with taller chimneys, etc.often seen against skyline. Geometric shapes contrast harshly with flowing natural lines of Brecon Beacons. Belts of woodland planting within and around the estates are not mature enough effectively soften or integrate the buildings yet from wider landscape. Viewed widely from towns and main road, mainly unscreened or softened by planting although future trees will improve the mitigation. They bring intrusive noise, movement and night-time light into the adjacent countryside.Recently erected wind turbine has added to intrusion.	Low	Low	Low	Generally unsightly
BLNGWVS399	Mynydd Llangynidr	Upland Moorland	This area forms all of the northern edge of Blaenau Gwent and consists of generally of expansive south-facing gently undulating slopes of Brecon Beacons. Mainly open grassy moorland with patches of heather, outcrops of rocks, pools and one or two larger areas of water, but few trees or prominent features. It appears vast, uninviting, bleak, exposed and un-peopled contrasting abruptly with 'busy' Heads of Valleys areas. Wide views to empty horizons especially northward giving expansive sense of place. The few signs of man's past activity relating to extractive industry include tramways, small quarries, and the 'patches' adds poignancy. Away from the immediate vicinity of the A465 and edges of towns it is very quiet, with little access and no settlements. The few areas of abuse, including tipping, burnt-out cars, etc. adjacent to roads detracts generally.Recent adjacent developments relating to A465 and within industrial estates have added intrusion.	High	High	High	Contrast with adjacent development.

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BLNGWVS436	Brynbach Park	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux	Gentle north-facing slopes of Heads of the Valleys in western part of county on edge of Tredegar. Wooded and grassy country park centred around lake which forms focal feature, plus visitor centre. Generally tame and unspectacular around popular centre. The country park is on reclaimed land so still not mature and will improve with age as trees grow giving more variety of enclosure. Busy with visitors in limited area but quiet beyond with no other settlement or development. Open views to nearby ridge and to nearby upgraded A465 and large industry. Gentle north facing slopes now local nature reserve for lapwings.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Undramatic.
BLNGWVS673	Cwm Tyswg	Upland Grazing	Shallow south-west facing valley sides defined by field pattern, forming eastern half of small side valley connecting to Rhymney Valley. Only part of Blaenau Gwent where visual links to Rhymney Valley. Hidden from areas to east. Peaceful undisturbed character with continuity of farming - fields, scattered trees, contrasting with busy Rhymney Valley and open exposed ridges. Mix of hedges, fences, stone walls. One or two scattered small farms and other buildings.	Moderate	High	Moderate	Unspoilt but undistinguished.
BLNGWVS688	Mynydd Bedwellte	Upland Moorland	Series of north-south high open rounded ridges forming 'backbones' of Blaenau Gwent. Consisting of Mynydd Bedwellte, Cefn Manmoel, Mynydd Carn-y-cefn, and Mynydd Coety. They are open, with mainly grass/heather moorland, with sheep, and no settlement. There are a few remnants of quarrying and tipping and associated disturbance in past. They provide sweeping skylines to both sides of most settled valleys, giving great contrast. Uncluttered, wild, unpeopled character contrast with/is antithesis of valleys giving strong sense of place. 360 degree long-distance views from tops, with valleys totally hidden, gives very important remote quality, appears to be just miles and miles of open country from the tops. None of the ridges have any road access apart from sections of minor, little-used roads along edges of the areas, well away from the highest points. There are a few places where fly-tipping, etc. near roads detract from close-up views.Also continuing bike activity. Recent washery above Cwm Big is local detractor.	High	High	High	Clear 'backbones' to valley character.
MRTHRVS17	Merthyr West Flank	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	This area lies between the town and the ridgeline and reaches right down to the River Taf at various points along its lower edge. It is somewhat akin to a massive area of urban fringe in that the influence of the town is evident throughout yet it is still distinctly rural in overall character. It is a complex mosaic of tips, transport features and mine sites intermingled with an upland pasture field pattern. There are areas of woodland and substantial natural regeneration, which look like natural habitats from a distance. There is a large total area of disused sites yet the majority of them are becoming well integrated within the mosaic. This is less so at the northern end of the area where there are more tips and less woodland or evidence of field pattern. The landscape here is exposed and raw but still has a curious mix of scales as around Winch Fawr where small fields are adjacent to massive tipped areas. Recent housing and other developments between Heolgerrig and Gellideg has reduced the overall area size. Further south the balance is in favour of the remnant field pattern and small blocks of woodland e.g Cwm Glo and Blaencanaid. Settlement rises to 350m on this side of the basin, which is higher than that on the eastern side of town. The A470 cuts through this landscape and reveals at close hand the mix of industrial heritage, field pattern and woodland on this edge of Merthyr. It is also seen as the backdrop to the town in long views from the east and the A4060. At both viewing distances the diversity and pattern of this landscape are distinctive and of high value. The naturally regenerated habitat mosaics are a particular feature of the Merthyr landscape and compare favourably visually with some of the sterile reclamation projects designed purely for industrial development or grazing.	Moderate	High	Moderate	The area has a distinctive sense of place, especially around Cwm Glo with a mix of vegetation and industrial heritage features and patterns with a particular richness. The area provides a positive backcloth to the town of Merthyr and dominates its views west. However, there are detractors such as unvegetated tips.
CYNONVS140	Cefnpennar	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	Upper valley sides with broadleaved woodland and coniferous woodland further north in valley. Strong upland feel from the visual link to hillsides on valley side and across valley. Views into built up valley to the west with opposite valley sides to west having coniferous plantations. Occasional slight urban feel on lower slopes with scattered detached housing amongst trees and a small settlement but dominant character is that of an upland area. Visual detractors are from noise and movement from the road in valley base below.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria moderate.
CYNONVS144	Pentrapeod	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	A rolling, hilly landform that lies between 200m and 400m AOD, the upland feel increasing with elevation as views out increase in quality and the influence of the urban edge and associated visual clutter decreases. upland area characterised by rough grassland with scattered woodland , hedgerows and narrow lanes.Recent large developments at Oakdale have expanded into area.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria are moderate.
CYNONVS193	Rhymney	Village	Urban area in valley setting. mix of poor quality (modern) housing and older/traditional buildings. views out to valley sides and tops have distinctly upland feel.Recently upgraded A465 Heads of the Valleys road cut through northern part, given new aspect area at change detection monitoring, forming separated part of this aspect area to north.	Low	Moderate	Low	75% criterias low.
CYNONVS207	Penmoelallt	Wooded Upland & Plateaux	Upland landscape dominated by coniferous forest with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed. strongly defined undulating topography with ridges and valleys. Views out to uplands tot he ewst from the edge of the plantation.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria moderate.
CYNONVS209	West of Rhymney	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	Upper valley sides with strong upland feel-both from the strong visual link that exists and the rough grazed grassland with some small coniferous elements. Dominant character is that of an upland area but borders on settlement of Rhymney. Visual detractors include pylons on skyline to south and Capital Valley and the Heads of the Valleys industrial estates. Some noise and movement from the A465 to the north.Recent upgraded A465 increases detracton.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria are moderate.
CYNONVS308	N. of Bargoed	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	Upper valley sides and tops. Mainly rough grazing with bracken and scattered clumps of woodland. rock outcrops impart a strong upland character tempered by urban presence to south of area. Views similarly polarised into upland and urban. scattered farmsteads with steep drives/access tracks up sloping landform	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria are moderate.
CYNONVS352	Bryn-oe'r Patch	Upland Grazing	Upland landscape of rough grazed grassland with rock outcrops lying between approximately 300m and 400mAOD. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. Attractive upland views within and across Rhymney valley.	Moderate	High	Moderate	75% of criteria are moderate.
CYNONVS361	Rhoslas	Upland Grazing	2 separate areas, divided by A465, upland areas lying at approximately400mAOD of rough grassland, but strong underlying feel of industrial past. industrial remnants include old railway sidings/earthworks. views dominated by adjacent upland areas. overhead pylons are visual detractors, and A465 noise/movement impact. Overall a discordant area with slightly unsettling air. Recent Ffos-y-fran development intrudes to west.	High	Moderate	Moderate	50% moderate, 25% low and high therefore overall of moderate value
CYNONVS404	Gelligaer Common	Upland Grazing	Landscape of rough grazed grassland. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. An exposed open landscape of rough grazing & bracken. Dramatic views all around. Noise & movement - more noticeable within generally quiet landscape. Sheep & horses grazing. Traffic was quite frequent on main road through area despite it only being an apparently minor road.	High	Moderate	High	Both high and moderate criteria, area is quite open and wild with some atractive views.
CYNONVS605	Cefn Y Brithdir	Upland Grazing	Landscape of rough grazed grassland and Bracken and heath along the eastern edge of the Rhymney Valley. Wind noisecan be a dominant aesthetic factor. Views down Rhymney valley, directly down on to the settlement of New Tredegar dand further south down the valley, some views to uplands from the top of Cefn Brithdir. Some pylons on valley sides but not to intrusive.	High	High	High	Criteria mostly high.
CYNONVS716	East of Rhymney	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	Valley slopes ranging generally at about 300m rising to 470m north of A465 at edge of study area. mixture of rough grazing, bracken with scattered clumps of woodland. A strong upland character is created by views across valley and the areas within the aspect area particularly to the north. This is tempered by urban edge presence at base of valley side and the A465. Views similarly polarised into upland and urban.New AA created for A465 through northern part of area, making 2 separate polygons, at change detection.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria moderate.
CYNONVS785	Parc Cwm Darran	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Upland valleys ranging from approximately 200m to 350mAOD, with a complex mix of broadleaf/conifer/mixed woodland, with open areas of bracken and rough grassland with isolated settlement and some relicts of industrial /mining past and disused railway. the relatively narrow landform and mosaic pattern contribute to sense of enclosure.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria moderate.
CYNONVS861	Abernant and Surrounds	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	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 (Abernant) but dominant character is that of an upland area. visual detractors include pylons and the sharply defined urban edge with Aberdare in Valley bottom. Noise and movement from the A4059.Change detection: Landfill site at Bryn-pica, some increase in noise, decrease in tranquility.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria moderate.
CYNONVS950	St. Tydfil Forest	Wooded Upland & Plateaux	Coniferous plantation on higher valley slopes to the peak. Glimpsed views from within plantation both up a nd down the Dare Valley and westerly across to the other side. More substantial views from gaps between plantation blocks. Visual detractors of settlements within the valley.Large areas of forestry felled in west, at change detection.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	All criteria moderate.
CYNONVS003	A465	Village	New aspect area at change detection monitoring. Recently upgraded major dual carriageway, sweeping through Heads of the Valleys. Fine views from road and not too conspicuous. Embankments and vegetation still rather raw.	Low	Low	Low	75% low.
CYNONVS005	Ffos-y-Fran Railhead	Excavation	New aspect area created at change detection monitoring. Formerly part of CYNONVS361. This area is a corner of a rapidly changing industrial landscape of black coal, with movement, noise, dust, where the coal is loaded onto trains. Seen from adjacent Merthyr Common but not as conspicuous as main part of the Ffos-y-fran development Not without its own interest as it is now unusual to see/experience such a large area of extraction in south Wales. Provides potential for major 'new' landscape to be created.	Low	Moderate	Low	The area is now a highly distinctive industrial landscape, but unsightly.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q4)	Overall Evaluation (Q40)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q41)
MRTHRHL019	HL019 Twynau Gwynion	Extractive	The area is characterised as part of a discontinuous industrial extractive landscape (along with HL020 and HL021) ranged along the Taff Fechan Valley and comprises large imposing limestone quarries associated with the Cyfarthfa, Penydaren, Dowlais, Ivor and Plymouth Ironworks The cavernous working faces of the quarries provide a striking visual impression of 19th century extraction. Other dominant characteristics include limekilns and associated tramroads. The Twynau Gwynion Quarries is an extensive area of limestone quarries developed from the early 19th century by the Dowlais Iron Company on land leased from the Bute Estate. The quarries were connected to Dowlais by tramroad, a tramroad bridge of 1805/15 survived just to the south until 1984 (HLCA 035). The quarry later became associated with the Guest's Ironworks at Rhymney, and was connected to the ironworks by the Rhymney Mineral (Limestone) Railway in c 1864.	High	This area has been assessed as high, reflecting the fact that it constitutes a well-defined, defined area of 19th -early 20th century limestone quarrying (now disused), with important historic links to the Dowlais and Rhymney Ironworks with reasonably well-preserved remains of associated railways and tramroads. The decision to rate Twynau Gwynion as high rather than outstanding is based on two counts: 1/ it represents one of three well-preserved quarry sites linked with major ironworking complexes within the Merthyr historic landscape (consequently reducing its rarity value) and 2/ the quarry complex at Cwm-Glo and Bryn y Badell contains a much greater density of surviving features (hence the evaluation of HL006 as outstanding).
BLNGWHL001	HAA 1 Trefil Ddu	Marginal Land	A large open area with some quarrying remains as well as sheepfolds etc.	High	The overall evaluation score for this area has been assessed as high because Trefil Ddu represents an extensive, largely well-preserved area of open moorland, displaying evidence of occupation ranging from the Bronze Age period up to the 20th century. 18th-19th century industrial remains form a significant component within this landscape, including the important Trefil Railroad, established in 1793.
BLNGWHL013	HAA 13 Waundeg Industrial Estate	Processing / Manufacturing	A small industrial to the northern side of the A465 Heads of the Valley road and south west of Waun Deg. The industrial estate, more correctly known as the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, has expanded to the southwest across the country boundary, into Blaen Rhymney.	Moderate	The area largely comprises a small modern industrial estate of typical late 20th century design and construction, which appears to have been built on reclaimed land consisting of former quarry workings. The 19th century quarry workers" settlement at Tafarnaubach survives in the southern part of the aspect area and offers moderate potential for further study; consequently, the overall value of the aspect area has been assessed as moderate.
BLNGWHL014	HAA 14 Tredegar Patch	Reclaimed land	Reclaimed land at the foot of Rhymney Hill, the northern part of which is now a country part. The southern area has been extensively reclaimed, but strong traces of the earlier fieldscape persist.	Low	Tredegar Patch has been given an overall assessment of low, reflecting the impact of modern land reclamation and landscaping activity associated with the creation of Parc Bryn Bach, which has detracted from the value of the area in archaeological and historical terms, obscuring evidence of what was formerly a busy industrial extractive landscape, as shown on earlier OS maps.
BLNGWHL026	HAA 26 Rhymney Hill	Marginal Land	An upland area with a great number of mining remains and some earlier sites.	High	The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects the largely intact survival of this bleak, open landscape of unenclosed upland moorland and the presence of the scheduled site of the early 19th century cholera cemetery at Cefn Golau, an extremely rare survival of considerable historic importance.
BLNGWHL027	HAA 27 Bedwellte Fieldscape	Irregular Fieldscales	A poorly maintained fieldscape containing a number of abandoned buildings and other structures.	High	The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects the well-preserved character of this upland fieldscape and the reasonably diverse scope of the archaeological resource, with evidence of pre-industrial settlement, extensive industrial extractive activity and a post-medieval cemetery site.
BLNGWHL036	HAA 36 Mynydd Bedwellte	Marginal Land	An unenclosed upland area with remnants of activity from many periods	High	The high value assigned to this area reflects the well-preserved character of this extensive tract of open moorland and the multi-period range of the archaeological resource, with possible traces of prehistoric funerary activity and considerable evidence of 19th-20th century industrial exploitation (represented by the Bedwellty Pits and associated features).
CYNONHL633	H10 Ogmore Forest	Woodland	Area of forestry created in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the 20th century by the afforestation of what was previously mainly open moorland, though it did include some areas of ancient woodland on Craig Rhiwglyn and Daren y Dimbath.	Low	The extensive modern forestry plantation established in this area (formerly open moorland) has significantly reduced the value of the archaeological resource in this area.
CYNONHL117	Cynon Valley Corridor	Nucleated Settlement	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 Penrhiwceiber Woods were felled as a further colliery and terraces set on the steeply sloping hillside took their place. By the turn of the century the present continuous 3.22-km long development was complete. Only the collieries have subsequently disappeared, their spoil-tips gradually giving way to light industry and to grass (Newman 1995, 451/2). Hirwaun was an early centre of iron working, with a furnace possibly dating to the 17th century. From the 1830s coal mining began on the Moor to the south. There remains four blast furnaces standing against a high retaining wall on the north bank of the River Cynon at Hirwaun. To the northwest stood the manager's house, Tv-mawr, and to the northeast two limekilns, with the tram-road causeway to the southeast and the infilled water-storage reservoirs to the northwest. There is evidence that the present works were started by the ironmaster John Maybery in 1757, but a charcoal-fired furnace may have been in existence already by the 1660s. By 1813 there were two furnaces 12.2m high. William Crawshay, who acquired the works in 1819, made improvements, including the erection of a series of steam-powered blast (or "blowing") engines for the furnaces (four by 1824), made at the Neath Abbey Ironworks, and the addition of large new ranges of forges and cast-houses, with typical Crawshay style cast iron arcades and roofs. After 1880 the furnaces were heightened to 16.5m and had a 4.9m diameter, but the site soon declined to the status of a general foundry. The four furnaces survive as large, grass-covered mounds with the rings of their internal lining of refractory brick protruding from their summits. George Overton, 1806-8, built, at the time, the longest tramroad causeway in South Wales to the Hirwaun ironworks. The stone rubble-built cause way is 13 ft 9 in. (4.2 metres) wide with a high arch over the Afon Cynon. Its deck carried a curved single line of tramroad, of which many stone sleeper blocks survive. At the north end their multiplication marks the divergence of tracks to the ironworks charging bank and to the Penderyn limestone quarries farther north (Newman 1995, 364/5). The six-mile Aberdare Canal was authorised in 1793 to join with the Glamorganshire Canal and included powers for the construction of tramroads, the canal opened in 1812. The Aberdare Railway Company opened up the Cynon Valley from 1845 to minerals and passengers; by the late 20th century with the countrywide closure of many collieries, much of the Cynon Valley line was closed to goods (Barrie 1994, 290).	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.
CYNONHL409	Fothergill's Patches & Bryn Mawr	Extractive	A unenclosed, upland aspect area situated to the west of the upper Tâf valley. The aspect area is bounded by Penderyn (CynonHL176) and Hirwaun Common South (CynonHL002) to the west and the south, with Penmoelallt (CynonHL006) to the east. The Unitary Authority boundary defines the boundary to north of the aspect area. The numerous Bronze Age cairns and hut circles distributed across the elevated ground of the aspect area represent significant evidence of prehistoric activity in the area. There is also some evidence of medieval settlement. The eastern edge of the aspect area includes a Penmoelallt Community Woodland, a deciduous managed by Merthyr Tydfil and District Naturalists' Society ('The Nats') in partnership with Natural Resources Wales.	High	The high value assigned to this area is based on the fact that it represents a remarkably diverse, multi period landscape exhibiting evidence of Bronze Age funerary practices, medieval settlement and extensive post-medieval industrial extractive activity, represented by the broadly distributed remains of industrial workings, coal levels, tips, shafts and quarries. Modern forestry plantation in the northern part of the aspect area has detracted from its overall coherence, consequently the assessment is high rather than outstanding.
CYNONHL483	Rhymney Hill	Marginal Land	Rhymni Hill is an area of unenclosed upland, a part of the north-south oriented ridges of the South Wales Coal Measures. To the north of the aspect the area is dominated by opencast mineral extraction, whilst the central and southern areas of the aspect are an expanse of unenclosed moorland. To the south of the B4256 on summit of Twyn Abertyswg, the Tredegar and Rhymni golf course has since converted this area of formerly grazed upland into a large recreational centre. Prehistoric activity in the area is strangely absent, the moorland of Cefn Golau to the east and Mynydd Bedwellte to the south offer excellent examples of Bronze Age funerary monuments, indicating a strong possibility that such monuments once existed here also. Industrial activities in the area may have gone some way in the removing any trace of the pre-Post-medieval settlement and occupation evidence. Mineral extraction to the north of the aspect at Bryn-oe'r Patch is quite extensive with a great deal of land reclamation and drainage toward Llechryd. Numerous early coal Levels and tips are distributed along the western slopes of Rhymni Hill, underlying these coal tips are the remnants of an early drystone walled landscape which probably pre-dates the industrial phase of this area. Later walling has been built on top of the coal tips; both sets of walling are constructed differently indicating pre-industrial and post-industrial phases of agricultural use. Either side of the A465, to the north of the aspect, is a series of coal tips and earlier quarrying levels. These features are associated with the industrial landscape of Bryn-oe'r Patch and possibly date from the mid-19th century. Helid Colliery, owned by the Rhumney Iron Company, was opened in 1842 but not mined for twenty-five years after this date. It was sunk to a depth of 156 feet and during its working life an upcast shaft was formed. The colliery was dormant by the 20th century. The Suzannah Houses, built as industrial housing at the beginning of C19th by the local ironworks, probably sometime between 1803 and 1810, are situated opposite the site of the Bryn-oe'r coal level and were almost certainly constructed to house the skilled labourers. A connection of the Bryn-oe'r Tramroad ran from Ras Bryn-oe'r to the Susannah's Cottages.	Moderate	This aspect area comprises two distinct landscape elements: the large expanse of unenclosed open moor occupying the central and southern parts of Rhymney Hill and the extensive, long-established industrial extractive landscape (including large tracts of recently reclaimed opencast mining) within the northern and western parts. The moderate value assigned to this area reflects the impact of opencast mining and subsequent land reclamation on the coherence of the landscape and the survival of the archaeological resource.
CYNONHL515	Cynon Enclosed Valley Side	Irregular Fieldscales	A predominantly enclosed fieldscape characterised by irregular shaped fields and large tracts of modern forestry. The boundary to the east is defined by the extent of enclosure encroachment into the unenclosed moorland of Mynyddau Merthyr ac Aberdar (CynonHL856). The western boundary follows the interface between the urban expansion of the Cynon Valley communication corridor (CynonHL117) into this aspect's enclosed fieldscape. The southern extent of the aspect terminates where the Unitary Authority boundary intersects with the Afon Taf transport corridor (CynonHL977). The northern boundary is identified as the interface between the extent of modern planted forestry, planted over a relic fieldscape, at Twyn y Werfa, and the partially enclosed landscape of Fothergill's Patches (CynonHL409). Settlement occupation from the prehistoric period through into the present is extensive. Surviving Bronze Age funerary monuments reside on the elevated western slopes of Tarren y Gafr, now under modern forestry. A rare bronze axe from the same period was recovered from farmland around Fforest-uchaf. The Medieval period is represented by a continuity of settlement within the individual and isolated farmsteads found in the surviving fieldscapes and beneath much of the modern forestry. Examples of this continuity can be found in the abandoned farm complex of Nant-Gelli-ddu, the farmstead contains a longhouse and ancillary buildings occupying a partly artificial terrace on the southwestern facing slope of Twyn Sych. Monuments and remains from the Industrial period now characterise the nature of the landscape; numerous quarries, coal Levels, tips, airshafts and collieries litter the aspect area. There appears to be a higher concentration of Collieries, Levels and quarries along the southwestern boundary, with coal tips dominating the elevated slopes to the northeast of the aspect boundary. A previously unrecorded former tramroad can be traced from the tips and quarries at the head of Nant Sych to the settlement of Cwmpennar.	High	The coherence of this irregular fieldscape has been significantly affected by extensive modern forestry plantation, nevertheless the area contains archaeological remains of significance dating back to the Bronze Age period. The high value assigned to this landscape is based on the surviving multi-period nature of the archaeological resource, although the overall coherence of the landscape has been significantly reduced by modern afforestation,
CYNONHL602	Nant Bargoed Rhymni	Irregular Fieldscales	This large rural aspect area is characterised by an extensive irregular fieldscape, ancient and semi-natural woodland, modern forestry, a small lake and three settlement areas; Deri, Pentwyn and the larger Fochriw. The post-medieval fieldscape is the defining feature covering the larger part of the aspect; this agricultural landscape is bounded by Gelligaer Common to the south and west, from Fforest Gwladys to Fochriw, with Cefn Brithdir, the Rhymni Valley and Bargoed defining the aspects northern and eastern limits respectively. The Cwm Ysgwydd-gwyn, north from bargoed to Fochriw, divides the main areas of fieldscape neatly in two. It is along this valley that the ancient and semi-natural woodland of Coed Groes-faen, Cefn Bach and Deri-newydd still survives; however the forestry to the north of the valley is modern. Prehistoric activity in the area is unusually absent considering the aspects proximity to the dense distribution of prehistoric remains found on Cefn Brithdir and Gelligaer Common. This absence, one assumes, is due to intense and prolonged agricultural activity, from the medieval period to the present, found in this area. Roman activity is represented by practice works located to the extreme south of the aspect area on the border with Gelligaer Common; these earthworks are associated with the Roman occupation of the auxiliary fort at Gelligaer. A 7th century inscribed memorial stone of Tegernacus was recovered from a fields c150m northeast of the now demolished Capel y Brithdir, the monument was removed to the National Museum in 1920. This monument stood in an arable field a few meters west of the Cefn Brithdir Ridgeway. Until its demolition in 1960, the medieval chapel of Capel-y-Brithdir stood alongside the Cefn Brithdir Ridgeway, during the demolition a cross-incised slab of probable 10th century date was recovered. The overriding feature of this aspect is the extensive post-medieval fieldscape, and farmstead distribution. Many are ruined, such as Ty Mawr Farmstead situated immediately south of Pentwyn, and represents settlement continuity from the medieval period through into the post-medieval occupation of the area. This continuity is accentuated by the survival of Ridge and Furrow earthworks in the fields south of Bryn-coch Farmstead, demonstrating a respect in the post-medieval period of the earlier enclosed landscape. Extraction on a fairly intensive level occurred within this aspect, large quarry's and Levels are distributed along the entire length of the Cwm Ysgwydd-gwyn. The largest colliery in the area was Ogilvie Colliery and was established at the beginning of WWI, when the South Wales coal industry was at its height. It was owned by the Powell Duffryn Company, subsequently nationalized and continued in production until 1975. An exceptionally rare timber footbridge, which crossed the former Brecon and Merthyr Railway Bargoed Line, the bridge opened in 1868 and still survives. The bridge consists of two timber spans with bullnozed sandstone abutments. The Brecon and Merthyr Bargoed Line, later became the Cilhaul Branch Railway, and followed the Cwm Ysgwydd-gwyn from Bargoed to Fochriw through this aspect area.	High	This area has been assessed overall as 'high' based on the fact that it represents an extensive, well-preserved irregular enclosed upland landscape, dominated by significant remains of medieval/post-medieval agricultural settlement and later 19th-20th century industrial extractive activity.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q4)	Overall Evaluation (Q40)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q41)
CYNONHL635	Upper Cwm Taf	Irregular Fieldscapes	The Afon Taf Fawr descends from the upland massif of Fforest Fawr and the Brecon Beacons into Cwm Taf through a series of reservoirs (the Beacons, Cantref and Llwyn-on reservoirs) before reaching Merthyr Tydfil. This valley defines the Unitary Boundary and also the eastern limit of this aspect. The western limit of this aspect is defined by the extent of Coed Taf Fawr, modern forestry, from Cantref reservoir south to Pant Sychbant. From here the aspect boundary follows the interface between the enclosed irregular fieldscape of Cwm Taf to the east and the unenclosed upland of CynonHL580 to the west. The aspect boundary then dissects the modern forestry along the edge of what was once enclosed fieldscape before terminating at the Unitary Authority boundary with Merthyr Tydfil. The current landscape can be described as a predominantly forested landscape with intermittent areas of surviving enclosed irregular fieldscapes. The aspect boundary described generally follows the extent of the pre-afforestation enclosed landscape. Evidence for the earliest occupation in the area comes in the form of a small finds; a partially polished Neolithic flint axe head fragment was discovered at Cefn-y-maes Farm and farther to the south a rare partially polished Neolithic Graig Llwyd stone axe "butt" fragment was recovered in the lower Pant Sychbant. Little settlement evidence exists during the Neolithic in this aspect except for a possible earthwork enclosure located to the south of Pant y Gadair on the edge of what is now modern forestry. The Bronze Age in contrast is represented by a vast and dense distribution of monument types. Simple stone cairns occupy the higher elevations along the Cwm Taf, Cefn Sychbant and Pant y Gadair with at least one known example of surviving Bronze Age domestic settlement remains. Settlement activity and prestige is represented by the discovery of a Bronze Age flint processing floor, later disturbed by afforestation, near the mouth of the Sychbant and the recovery of a looped palstave with a tripartite pattern on the blade, found in the gravel during construction of the Llwyn-on Reservoir at Cwm Taff. Medieval settlement along the Cwm Taf almost certainly existed as a predominantly pastoral environment, but must now be traced through the distribution of relict and derelict post-medieval farmsteads, of which many are now submerged beneath forestry. Little evidence remains of this period however the survival of the medieval settlement pattern, in the form of house platforms and field systems, to the west within the unenclosed (and less populated) aspect CynonHL580 is testament to their existence. The current distribution of post-medieval farmsteads, many in medieval "long-house" form, almost certainly represents the continuity of settlement through the more densely and recently settled Cwm Taf. The post-medieval settlement within this aspect rivals only the Bronze Age pattern in the density and distribution of its monuments. Large irregular fieldscapes dominate the aspect area and now almost all lie submerged beneath a blanket of modern indiscriminate forestry. Surviving discrete areas of exposed fieldscape can be found to the extreme south of the aspect and in ribbon along the floor of Cwm Taf. Numerous post-medieval sheepfolds and pens attest to the importance of grazing and a pastoral agricultural existence in the area, before wide spread afforestation. There are many limekilns and quarries distributed throughout the aspect representing a wealth of industrial monuments. Few are of any scale to compete with the industrial activities farther to the south toward Hirwaun and Merthyr Tydfil; however they do attest to the organic industry of local farmsteads and are no less important to the historic environment.	High	Extensive modern forestry plantations have concealed the irregular fieldscape and settlement pattern shown on the OS 1st-4th edition maps and have significantly detracted from the integrity of the archaeological resource; However, widespread evidence remains of prehistoric occupation and ritual/funerary activity across this aspect area, which has contributed significantly to the overall assessment of this area as 'high'.
CYNONHL701	Rhymney Valley	Other Settlement	The longest transport and communication corridor within the region. The aspect area is characterised by heavy industrial activity and urban growth along the length of the valley, from Rhymney in the extreme north to Machen on the Gwent border to the south. The Rhymney Valley exhibits occupation evidence from the Neolithic through into the present and represents an important and historically significant aspect area. The prehistoric period is well represented; a neolithic polished flint axehead was found in 1966 at Machen and a rare Neolithic adze of Graig Lwyd origin was found in the fields on the east side of Pengam Station. Four flat Bronze Age axes were found during the making of the Rhymney Railway. During the medieval period Gwern-y-Domen Motte was constructed to the north of the relict post-medieval Gwern-y-Domen Farmstead. Several medieval fulling mills are known to have existed at Machen and Bedwas, attesting to the early industrial activity along the valley. Bedwas fulling mill was leased in 1401-2, and again in 1417, but was ruinous by 1434 and Machen was the site of two medieval fulling mills, situated to the north-west of the village, powered by water from the River Rhymney. One is accounted for between 1314-1456/7. The second is mentioned only in 1387. St Barwg's, Bedwas, is a 13th/14th century medieval church with 19th century alterations. Many houses dating to the 17th to 19th centuries survive into the present; the agricultural landscape of the valley was predominantly enclosed to the south toward Bedwas and Machen, whilst to the north at Rhymney the landscape remained open moorland until the urbanisation of the 18th to 20th centuries. The Rhymny Valley was opened up by the "Old Rhymney" tramroad, engineered by George Overton in 1826, it ran for twenty two miles from the ironworks at Rhymney to Machen, a considerable achievement. Thirty years later the Rhymney Railway Company built a railway proper from the Rhymney Ironworks to the Hengoed junction of the Newport, Abergavenny and Hereford Railway (Barrie 1994, 87/8 and 117/8). Some smaller ironworks grew up along the valley, such as the Rudry Ironworks, as did mines such as Elliott Colliery. Numerous quarries litter the valley sides. The Rhymney Valley is now characterised by modern manufacturing instillations, relict and derelict railways; modern roads now replace the railways as the main communication medium.	High	Although the coherence of the aspect area has been significantly impacted by modern housing and industrial development, the Rhymney Valley remains a diverse, historically important communications corridor with evidence of human activity dating back to the Neolithic period.
CYNONHL831	Gelligaer Common	Marginal Land	The landscape area of Gelligaer Common (HLW [MGI] 4) represents an increasingly rare survival in Southeast Wales of an area of high upland moor rich in a diverse archaeological resource. The Common and the area lying immediately to the southeast, which is included in the registered landscape, is about 8km long and 1km wide and extends from the pivotal ancient settlement of Gelligaer in the southeast to the summits of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw in the northwest. The ridgetop occupied by the Common rises gently from about 250m above OD at Gelligaer to over 470m above OD at the rounded summits of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw. However, on either side of the Common, and outside the area described here, the hillsides drop steeply into Cwm Bargoed on the west and into the valley of the Bargoed Rhymni on the east, tributaries to the major South Wales valleys of the Taf and Rhymni respectively (Cadw et al 2001, 50). The aspect area consists of predominantly unenclosed upland moorland. The landscape is diverse both in its form and in its archaeological and historical content, which displays a remarkable continuity of occupation. The landscape of the wider Common contains a rich diversity of archaeological sites, demonstrating a long continuity of human occupation and activity. In the millennia before the Roman period, prehistoric activity is well-represented by Bronze Age burial and ritual sites, of which a notable concentration occurs on Pen Garnbugail, just outside the aspect area, and by hut sites and settlements of the succeeding Iron Age. The significant Roman dimension in this landscape area is further enhanced by the preserved remains of at least four Roman earthworks about 2kms to the north of the Roman fort at Gelligaer, which were probably small military practice-camps (Cadw et al 2001, 50). Occupation in the post-Roman period is attested by the church of Capel Gwladys and its associated earthworks. The site, referred to in the 12th-century Life of St Gwynllyw, in a context which implies that it was of some antiquity at that date, consists of the drystone foundations of the rectangular church, about 6m by 12m, comprising a western tower, nave and chancel, set within an enclosure. A rough cross slab with an incised ring-cross was found at the site in 1906 and probably dates to the 8th or 9th centuries. It is preserved in the porch of the later parish church at Gelligaer. An outer enclosure may have been the settlement associated with Capel Gwladys. The association of St Cattwg with Maen Cattwg, a Bronze Age cup-marked stone standing a short distance to the north west of Gelligaer, would on archaeological grounds almost certainly be a later tradition that developed in the area (Cadw et al 2001, 50/1). Deserted rural medieval settlement is well represented in the area by two significant groups of platform houses, one situated on the east side of the Common and remarkable for being the largest group of such sites in South East Wales and the other at Dinas Noddfa, on the western flanks of Pen Garnbugail, just outside the aspect area. Excavations at the latter group in 1936 revealed that the rectangular houses had stone and turf walls and had been characteristically built on platforms cut into the slope at one end and built up above the natural slope at the other end. Subsequent excavations at the former group in 1938 found pottery dating to the 13th or 14th centuries, but little else was found, suggesting that the inhabitants led a lowly and impoverished existence. The archaeological work was important because it recognised the platform house as a distinctive site type, and this term has since been extensively applied, and indeed continues to be applied, to similar structures found in Wales (Cadw et al 2001, 51/2). Extensive field systems associated with medieval and early post-medieval exploitation of the Common have been identified from fieldwork and aerial photography, and represent key elements in the understanding of the historic evolution of Gelligaer Common. In addition, it is possible to recognize and interpret the physical chronology of the processes of enclosure, particularly on the western side of the Common (Cadw et al 2001, 52). Today, the Common is visually under threat on all sides from a variety of modern sources; nevertheless, this important relict and diverse historic landscape remains largely intact. It is an increasingly rare survival on the ridges between the South Wales valleys. The wide range of settlements, diverse in both date and character and representing military, civilian and religious themes, constitutes an archaeological and historic resource of considerable importance and potential in Wales (Cadw et al 2001, 52).	Outstanding	Gelligaer Common is a landscape of national importance, representing an extensive area of high upland moor with an exceptionally rich and diverse archaeological heritage, with significant evidence of prehistoric and medieval occupation.
CYNONHL856	Mynyddau Merthyr ac Aberdar	Marginal Land	This aspect area is characterised by unenclosed mountain moorland, much of which is now beneath modern forestry. The aspect area is bounded to the east by the Unitary Authority boundary and to the north by Fothergill's Patches (CynonHL409). The western and southern boundaries are defined by the extent of the enclosed fieldscape of the Cynon enclosed valley (CynonHL515). The north of the aspect at Waun y Gwair is characterised by open moorland, the central section at Twyn y Werfa is under modern forestry as is the southern most area, Twyn Brynbychan. Twyn Sych, like Waun y Gair, remains open moorland. Prehistoric activity in the area is quite considerable. During the Neolithic, hunters utilised the area, leaving behind many discarded but beautifully worked "leaf-shaped" flint arrowheads. The aspect area is dominated by a preserved Bronze Age funerary landscape, consisting primarily of cairns, and also isolated small finds such as bronze axes. Occupation of this landscape continued into the Iron Age with the settlement at Buarth Maen, representing the remains of three, generally undisturbed enclosures, short subsidiary lengths of wall, round huts and several stone mounds. Gwersyll Enclosure, in the forestry of Twyn y Werfa, is a roughly semi-circular rampart; it is considered to be unfinished, as it is clearly not defensible. The post-medieval period represents another quite busy episode in the history of this aspect area. Many quarries, Levels, tips and shafts litter both the open and forested landscape. Mountain Pit Colliery is an extensive early industrial feature, now much destroyed. The tramroad, which led from here through Blaen-nant Balance Pit Colliery, ran all the way into Aberdare. Numerous sheepfolds distributed along the length of the aspect area attest to the importance of sheep farming during this period. Unfortunately the many stone boundary markers, depicted on the 1st Edition OS map (1885), have been removed by forestry workers during 20th century planting.	High	An area of former open moorland, now largely submerged beneath modern forestry plantation but nevertheless retaining significant evidence of prehistoric settlement and ritual/funerary activity. Based on the archaeological resource alone, the assessment of this area would be outstanding, but taking into account the negative impact of modern afforestation, the overall value of the area has been assessed as high.
CYNONHL866	Blaen Rhymni	Other fieldscapes	A predominantly enclosed agricultural landscape, now heavily industrialised, with a number of large reservoirs at Blaen Rhymni and Blaencarno. The aspect boundary is defined by the Unitary Authority boundary to the east, Cynon HL973 to the west and north, and CynonHL483, 701 & 633 to the south. The landscape seen today is heavily drained, feeding the combined reservoirs found within this aspect. Heavy industrial activity has potentially removed any trace of pre-post-medieval archaeology; however the remnants of a small a doughnut shaped cairn, situated on Blaencarno Common, measuring c.3-4m in diameter and about 1m high and built of medium sized stone rubble, does indicate the existence of occupation in the Bronze Age. The aspect was heavily industrialised during the post-medieval period with the creation of a complex drainage system, feeding three reservoirs, numerous coal Levels and tips that now overlie earlier agricultural field systems. The Merthyr, Tredegar and Abergavenny Railway is represented by a line of concrete posts delineating the northern extent of the railway; much of this route has since been infilled by later coal tips. A large and impressive tunnel and embankment to carry the line of the Merthyr, Tredegar & Abergavenny Railway was constructed over the Afon Rhymni, as were several smaller bridges along its length. The 20th century saw the construction of a series of four allotment gardens dating from the Second World War's "Dig for Victory" campaign and originally belonging to the occupants of seven cottages, shown on tith of 1842 and O.S. of 1880, which stood adjacent to Blaencarno Farm, now destroyed.	Moderate	This enclosed agricultural landscape has been heavily impacted by 19th-20th century industrial activity, which has resulted in a moderate loss of coherence.
CYNONHL885	Bedwellte	Irregular Fieldscapes	A large aspect area characterised by an extensive irregular fieldscape with isolated and dispersed farmsteads. The aspect is bounded to the north by Cefn Manmoel (CynonHL696), with Cwm Rhymni (CynonHL701) to the west and Cwm Sirhowy to the south and east. A landscape dominated by post-medieval dry stonewalled fields, trial shafts and small collieries. Modern forestry has been planted over existing post-medieval field systems in a small area to the north of the aspect. The aspect area has a strong medieval history in the church at Bedwellte. The church is dedicated to St Sannan, an Irish saint who died in the year 544, architectural details in the present building date it from the 13th to 16th century. However earlier foundations are present indicating the possibility of a pre-medieval building on the site. Within the graveyard is a well-preserved medieval cross partially restored, it comprises of three rubble-built steps surmounted by square socket stone, with grooved and broached stops at the corners. A marshy area to the east of the church is the location for Fynnon Sant Sannan (Newman 2000, 117/8). The present landscape is a predominantly irregular fieldscape with remnants of the aspect's industrial past distributed intermittently throughout its area. Modern recreational facilities include Bedwellte's greyhound track.	Moderate	An extensive, reasonably well preserved irregular rural fieldscape of post-medieval date with limited evidence of 19th-20th century industrial exploitation and modern afforestation; the moderate value assigned to this area reflects the limited nature of the available archaeological record.
CYNONHL706	Pen March	Marginal Land	This area of unenclosed moorland is bounded to the east and south by Cynon HL866, whilst the north and western limits of this aspect are defined by the Unitary Authority boundary. Prehistoric activity within the aspect is under represented in comparison to adjacent areas such as Merthyr Common and Waun y Gwair; Mark Ucha has been described as a Bronze Age cairn but is almost certainly a natural feature. Although the landscape is unenclosed it is not without some built features. Four sheep shelters were identified from cartographic evidence; however their existence today remains unconfirmed in the field. Located to the north of the A465, and west of Blaencarno Common are a number of heavy gouges in the hillslope, which extend over 150m in length. Linear in form, these features overlie earlier coal-tips. To the south, and incorporated into the A465, are extensive post-medieval coal-tips. A line of concrete railway posts, north of the A465, delineate the northern width of the Merthyr, Tredegar & Abergavenny Railway. To the south of the posts are the remnants of a raised platform that marks the limit of a double track width.	Moderate	An extensive area of unenclosed open moorland, forming the easternmost outlier of Merthyr Common, which has remained largely unchanged since the late 19th century. The moderate value assigned to this area reflects the limited nature of the archaeological resource identified in this area.
MRTHRHL001	HL001 Taff Fawr valley	Irregular Fieldscapes	The area is characterised as an enclosed agricultural fieldscape of traditional drystone and hedged bank boundaries, with features associated with post-medieval livestock management, such as sheep pens. The area retains some of its post-medieval agricultural settlement (farms and farm buildings) and is also an established line of communication, emphasised by recent improvements to the A470(T), to by-pass Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer. Other characteristics are provided by enclosed and wooded hillslopes, including areas of Ancient Woodland, Historic association and limited areas of minor industrial incursion. The route of the A465(T), the Heads of the Valley Road also partly lies within the area. In contrast to the areas immediately to the south, the Taff Fawr valley has retained an essentially rural character. On the early maps (going back to Saxton's (1578)), this western part of the large mountain parish of Vaynor (county of Brecknock), there are no features between Nant Ddu, to the north, and Merthyr Tydfil, and the area was largely dominated by enclosed fields and farms in the valley floor, enclosed pasture on the slopes, and unenclosed summer pasture on the summits (HL002). The aspect area includes agricultural enclosure and ancient and environmentally sensitive deciduous woodland in the area to north of the A465(T) and Gellideg. Post-medieval farms, such as Coed Meurig, Tai Mawr, Tai Mawr-uchaf, Pen-Rhiw, Cwmffrwd, Ty'n Coedcae and Cwm-Waun-newydd, are associated with a landscape of by drystone walled enclosures and sheep pens. The area was part of the Dynevor Estate during the 19th century, leased to various tenant farmers. Progressive encroachment on the waste or common during the early post-medieval period is suggested by the nature of enclosure (intakes of rough grazing), and supported by place-name evidence, ie Ty'n Coedcae and Cwm Waun-newydd; the latter are later additions, which having been enclosed were later settled separately from the original holding, possibly through permanent occupation of earlier temporary structures. The earlier holdings were Coed Meyric (Coed Meurig), Tai Mawr, Tai Mawr-uchaf, Pen-rhiw and Cwmffrwd; all of which were well-established permanent settlements by the 18th century (Yates' map of 1799). All the agricultural holdings of the area were extant by 1814. The area also has historic associations with Ifor ap Meurig (mid-12th century) reflected in the place name Coed Meurig. The agricultural landscape pattern of the area has seen three phases of change, earliest of which was the extensive limestone quarrying and limeburning on the slopes of Cefn Cilsanws above the (old) Brecon road; these are indicated as "Old" on the OS map of 1890, and were probably connected to the Cyfartha ironworks; limeworking continued into the late 20th century. Llwyn-Onn Reservoir was built in 1914-1927 (Bowen 1992, 23), drowning a series of long-established farms in the valley floor, and altering the balance of the landscape by removing the best agricultural land (noted as a factor in de-stabilising the agricultural economy further down the valley (MTCG 1981)), and leading to the creation of "Llwyn-Onn village". More recently, the slopes have seen extensive forestry planting, obscuring the previous field pattern, although many of the boundaries still survive.	Moderate	The moderate value assigned to this landscape reflects the limited scope of the archaeological record and the fragmented nature of the fieldscape and settlement pattern in this area, resulting from several factors, including the construction of the Llwyn Onn reservoir, modern limestone quarrying operations and the A465 trunk road. However, the Victorian funerary landscape represented by the extensive Cefn Cemetery and adjacent Jewish Burial Ground has survived in a remarkably good state and possibly merits consideration as a separate aspect area in its own right.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q4)	Overall Evaluation (Q40)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q41)
MRTHRHLO02	HL002 Garn Ddu	Marginal Land	This area has characteristics typical of unenclosed/semi-enclosed marginal upland common/moorland. The area is essentially a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape, with discrete/limited areas of prehistoric and medieval upland agricultural enclosure and settlement. This area comprises the large block of upland between the Taff Fechan and Taff Fawr valleys; much of it still unenclosed moorland pasture. There are a large number of prehistoric monuments surviving as visible features, notably the ridge-top cairns and Iron Age enclosures, and, very rare in southeast Wales, a group of Iron Age hut circles. These features would seem to reflect a relatively intensive occupation in the later prehistoric period compared to later, starting (presumably) with initial woodland clearance (and perhaps shifting agriculture) in the Bronze Age, and occupation and pastoral farming in the Iron Age. The tradition of pastoral farming was maintained in the medieval period, but with a shift to transhumance and the construction of what are now known as Deserted Rural Settlements (platform houses). More recently, the southern areas have seen enclosure, including one isolated farm and walled land (now abandoned) at Cwm Moel, and there are also walled plantations. The upland is now subdivided by post-and-wire fences, some replacing 19th century iron posts. There is little evidence of quarrying, although lead ore mines were tried in the early-mid 19th century (Bowen 1992, 147).	Outstanding	This area has been assigned an overall value of outstanding as representing an extensive, unspoiled area of largely unenclosed upland common, containing an exceptionally large and well-preserved series of cairns, hut circles and field/settlement enclosures and house platforms constituting a remarkable concentration of agricultural, funerary and settlement features ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period.
MRTHRHLO03	HL003 Taff Fechan valley	Irregular Fieldsapes	This area is characterised by dispersed agricultural settlement and enclosed fields; the other dominant characteristic of the area is as a communication corridor: rail and road links. There is also evidence of limited small-scale extractive industry and processing (limestone). The valley sides of the Taff Fechan are covered by dense woodland, much of it regenerated Ancient Woodland. This area forms a strong contrast to the adjoining urbanisation of Merthyr Tydfil (HL005), but has seen major landscape change in the last century. The Roman road from Penydarren fort to Brecon followed the valley, and there may have been limited roadside settlement. The medieval parish of Vaynor was essentially rural, with a dispersed settlement pattern. The battle of Maesvaynor took place in 1291 perhaps arising from the disputed construction of Morlais Castle (MTCG 1981, 181). The church and adjoining Church Tavern lie off the modern road, following the turnpike route; farms and enclosed fields lie to the north. The aspect area is characterised by the embankments, cuttings, bridges and other features associated with a rail and road corridor; these features are associated with the BM & LNWR joint line (built 1868 by the Brecon & Merthyr (BM), joint from 1879), the Brecon and Merthyr Line, and the Merthyr Tredegar & Abergavenny (LNWR) and the Morlais Tunnel (1879). Particularly impressive structures include the Glais Viaduct at Pontsarn (built by Savin and Ward 1866). The remains of the Brecon and Merthyr Line, to the northeast of Pant junction are partly re-used by the current Brecon Mountain Railway. Other distinctive features are the ventilation towers of the Morlais Tunnel. Ponsticill is a more recent settlement, originating in the early 19th century as a row of quarry-workers cottages, since enlarged by modern housing. Limestone quarrying (on the east bank of the valley (HL019) was the principal industrial activity from the 18th century onwards, leading to the construction of many tramroads and the Brecon Mountain Railway, which also had a passenger service between Merthyr and Ponsticill. In the 19th century, the area also had a scatter of rural craft workshops and mills. The Taff Fechan valley proved to be suited to the construction of reservoirs; Ponsticill, was completed in 1927; in order to protect water quality, restrictions were imposed on the type of farming allowed in the catchment area. More recently, the west bank has been planted with forestry.	High	This area has been assigned an overall value of high, reflecting the largely intact nature of the fieldscape and settlement pattern and its historic associations as a long-established communications route since the Roman period, distinguished by substantial remains of mid to late 19th century communications features, including the Morlais Tunnel and Pontsarn railway viaduct.
MRTHRHLO04	HL004 Morlais	Marginal Land	The main characteristic of the area is that of a relict planned post-medieval (18th/19th century) landscape of regular drystone walled enclosures. Associated contemporary features include limekilns with associated drystone walled coppiced stands, (including Bunker's Hill) and sheep pens. Also within the area is the site of deserted rural settlement of Pantton, a victim apparently of agricultural improvement initiated at the start of the 19th century. Communication features are also key elements; the area contains the potential route of the Roman Road to the crossing point on the Taff Fechan at Pont Sarn, and a significant early industrial tramway route between the Penydarren Ironworks (and the Plymouth Ironworks) and the Morlais Castle Quarries. Morlais Hill is the site of a large Iron Age hillfort, probably representing a major settlement of this period, exploiting both a good defensive position and access to the resources of the surrounding land, to be contrasted with the smaller-scale and undefended sites on Garn Ddu (HL002). In the medieval period, the same site was selected by the de Clares to consolidate their hold on the area, leading to the construction of Morlais Castle, probably starting in 1289 (RCAHMMW 2000). The castle fell to Morgan ap Maredudd during Madog ap Llywelyn's revolt of 1294, and was probably then abandoned. By 1530 Leland noted its ruined state. During the post-medieval period the area formed part of the Cyfarthfa Estate part of Dan-y-Castell Farm (Llwyn-moelgoch), and the holding of Gurnos, centred on its "model" farm" leased to William Crawshay in 1820. The southeastern corner of the area was part of the Plymouth Estate, leased to the Penydarren Iron Company. Cartographic evidence indicates that the area's field and track layout underwent drastic remodeling between 1814 and 1826, resulting in an industrial agricultural landscape of large regular enclosures and stands of trees associated with the "model" farm. This remodeling included the removal of the settlement of Pantton; field names and relict enclosures indicate its existence. The quarries at Bryniau were owned by the Plymouth Estate, and leased to the Dowlais Iron Company during the 19th century. The area, depicted as wooded (scrub) on maps between 1766-1875, was being worked by 1875, and is shown connected by tramroad to Dowlais and the Ivor Iron Works. The quarry with its associated tram network had expanded considerably by 1915.	Outstanding	This area has been assessed as being of outstanding value, representing a relict, multi-period landscape which has been described as being of 'national importance' (Roberts, 2003), with extensive evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval field patterns and settlement features, dominated by the remains of Morlais Castle, a defensive site of high antiquity.
MRTHRHLO05	HL005 Merthyr Tydfil Core	Nucleated Settlement	Polyfocal settlement linked to intensive industrial activity associated with the iron industry from the mid 18th century, with late 19th century and 20th century infill. A dominant element today are the area's extensive estates, largely 20th century social housing. The area's commercial core developed over the earlier medieval/post medieval settlement in the area immediately north of St Tydfil's Church. Ribbon development characterised much of the early industrial settlement, though grid-street pattern and planned elements were also a factor: see Historic Landscape Characterisation Report for further details (Roberts 2003). Edward Llyud, writing in the late 17th century, described Merthyr Tydfil as "a village with about 40 houses, a rectory of considerable value. A remarkable parish" (cited in Hilling 1971, 171). Merthyr Tydfil village in 1800 comprised "half a dozen shops, drapery, hosiery and ironmongers, and a public market" (Wilkins 1867, 238). Its growth into a major urban conurbation was therefore a rapid phenomenon of the early 19th century: house building in Merthyr reached a peak in 1857, when 293 houses were started (Hilling 1971, 184). The development was focused on the main ironworks of the area, with their related watercourses, tips and tramroads, initially leading to the growth of distinct settlements around the Cyfarthfa ironworks (Georgetown), Dowlais, Penydarren and Pentrebach (just within HL012), linked by the Penydarren tramroad and Glamorganshire canal, with housing built by the ironmasters. Penydarren and Dowlais operated a "truck shop" system of payment in tokens redeemable at the company shop; the discontent this caused led to riots in the early 1800s. The settlement has continued to expand into the gaps, so that by the 1970s "Although Merthyr Tydfil, Dowlais and Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer were once separate and distinct settlements, they are now so inextricably interconnected and integrated that it would be wrong to treat them as anything but a single urban agglomeration" (Hilling 1971, 168). There is considerable variation in the extent to which the historic layout and building stock has survived; in some areas, such as Merthyr High Street, there has been major remodelling following housing clearance. The characteristic urban form of Merthyr as an early iron town, the first in the world, was determined by the clustering around the ironworks, tipping and mining areas, and the sinuous routes of tramroads which became the focus of the road layout. Industrial processing remains are a major characteristic of the area; primarily iron works and nearby interrelated features: including industrial transport and water management features and the site of a former ironmaster's residence located along the Afon Taff, but also along the Morlais Brook by remains associated with internationally important early ironworks and includes the remains of blast furnaces, an engine house, industrial housing, nationally and internationally important historic, and technological associations and by industrial transport and power generation features. The area is also rich in historic, technological and artistic associations (Roberts 2003). Cyfarthfa Iron Works is characterised by nationally and internationally important industrial remains protected by legislation. These include the recently restored furnace bank, water management features and associated transport network. The Cyfarthfa ironworks retains the remains of the furnace bank, brick kilns, and engine house, together with those of the melting house and boiler (all within SAM Gm425). Closely related features include the Tai-mawr leat to the northwest (SAM Gm479), Pont-y-Cafnau Iron Bridge (SAM424), the Cyfarthfa Feeder Canal and the Gurnos Tramroad (SAM Gm478). The site of the first Cyfarthfa House, built by Anthony Bacon and home to the Crawshays until 1810 is also within the area as is the extant farm group of Panddy Farm (grade II listed), comprising farmhouse, clock tower, barn and stables, c. 1820. The area includes the canal head of the Glamorganshire Canal to the east of George Town, with the re-erected iron canal bridge from Rhydyrcar (Gm486), now sited at Chapel Row (grade II listed), the surviving industrial housing of George Town and birth Place of Dr. Joseph Parry, the prolific 19th century Welsh composer. (Roberts 2003). Connected to Cyfarthfa by the Slag and Cinder tips to the south is the Ynys Fach Iron Works. This site retains four blast furnaces, including two dating from 1801, which bear the initials of George Watkin, foundry manager at Cyfarthfa from 1792 and the recently restored engine house built c. 1836 to replace an earlier engine house, portrayed by Penry Williams in c. 1815. Both structures are scheduled (SAM Gm331) and listed grade 11* (Roberts 2003). The Morlais Brook area of on the east side of Merthyr Tydfil is based around the three main ironworks: Dowlais, Penydarren and the Ivor iron works (Plymouth Ironworks to the south of Merthyr is placed within HL012, due to its geographical location). The area includes the site of Dowlais House re-built 1818 for JJ Guest (1785-1852),ironmaster, demolished c. 1960. The main surviving industrial structure at Dowlais is the red brick Blast Engine House of 1909, furnace bases and other potential features are thought to survive under massive banks of reclaimed soil. There is some indication that remains on the site of blast furnaces survived the wholesale redevelopment of the Penydarren Iron Works site during the late 19th century, though late 19th century/early 20th century terraced housing now dominates the area, which is associated with Trevithick and the Penydarren Tramroad (see HL012). The Ivor Iron Works, which opened in 1839 as an extension of the Dowlais Iron Works, is also included in the area (Roberts 2003).	Outstanding	Merthyr Tydfil urban core has been assigned an overall value of outstanding, reflecting its key importance as a nationally important industrial centre during the 18th and 19th centuries. Merthyr Tydfil rapidly expanded from a modest village in the 1750s to become the largest town in Wales by 1801, its rapid growth fuelled by its association with the great expansion of the ironworking industry in this area from the mid 18th century onwards. Despite impacts from extensive recent land reclamation and the expansion of 20th century social housing, the town and its environs, together with the extant remains of the ironworks at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Ynysfach, constitute what has been characterised as 'a potent example of an internationally renowned industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries (Roberts, 2003).
MRTHRHLO06	HL006 Cwm-glo and Bryn-y-Badell	Extractive	This area is characterised by largely enclosed hillside with extensive and nationally important industrial remains associated with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, including outcrop and underground workings for coal and ironstone, rail and tramroad links and water management system. Agricultural use continues, though the fabric of the earlier medieval/post-medieval enclosures has been severely degraded by industrial development and subsequent dereliction. The area forms the western edge of the town of Merthyr Tydfil, rising to the Mynydd Aberdare ridge. Although mostly open ground, it has a diverse and complex pattern of past land-use. In the early post-medieval period, much of the area of the lower slopes was enclosed, and parts of the resulting fieldscape survive, notably within Cwm-glo itself. The mineral resources were heavily exploited, by 17th - 18th century hushing near Winch Fawr, ironworking at Cwm Felin, and extensive ironstone levels, coal levels and coal mines, linked to the Cyfarthfa ironworks, the canal and railway to the east by a complex system of tramways, tracks and railways. Over the last century, these workings and their tips have been abandoned and now have begun to merge with area of surviving moorland and regenerated woodland as a visually integrated unit.	Outstanding	This area has been assigned an overall score of outstanding, representing a complex, historically significant industrial/extractive landscape with extensive, reasonably well-preserved remains of 18th-20th century coal and ironstone workings and related features, which has been characterised as being of 'national and international importance' (Roberts, 2003).
MRTHRHLO07	HL007 Blaen-canaid and Hendre-fawr	Irregular Fieldsapes	The area is characterised as surviving enclosed agricultural land, dominated by irregular fieldscape centred on Blaencanaid Farm and Hendre Fawr; extensive coniferous plantations have subsumed a large portion of the area. The area, which has important early non-conformist/Dissenter associations, has seen limited industrial incursion, represented by largely isolated industrial extractive features, including levels, shafts and quarries. The early history of this area is similar to that of Cwm-glo (HL006); by the 1800s, most of the slopes had been enclosed, leaving the summit area (HL011) open moorland pasture. Blaen-canaid Farm played an important part in the history of Nonconformity in Wales; although the tradition of an early Puritan meeting house of 1620 has been discounted (MTCG 1981, 211), in 1650 it was the site of a conventicle under the auspices of Howel Lewis, an itinerant preacher recruited following the Propagation Act of 1650. Later industrial activity was relatively restricted, with some small-scale quarrying and the digging of small coal levels. In the 20th century this patchwork of enclosed and unenclosed farmland, isolated farms, and old industrial workings was replaced by extensive forestry planting.	High	The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects the largely intact survival of the fieldscape and settlement pattern in this area, in spite of encroachment by industrial extractive activity and, more recently, extensive forestry plantations, which now dominate the landscape, as well as the survival of an 16th century furnace site at Melin Ganaid and the site of an important 17th century Dissenters chapel at Blaen-canaid Farm.
MRTHRHLO08	HL008 East Merthyr	Extractive	This area was an important and rare example of a relict industrial landscape associated with the Iron Industry, characterised by surviving extractive, and related water management, industrial and public rail and tramroad features, interspersed with surviving earlier landscape features. It has been largely opencasted and reinstated during the early 21st century. The area was part of the Merthyr Common, which elsewhere (HL014) remains essentially marginal upland characterised by upland agricultural features and prehistoric funerary monuments. There are a group of cairns at the northern end of the main ridge, but otherwise there is little evidence of intensive activity until the onset of industrialisation, and in particular the construction of the Dowlais ironworks at the north end of the area in 1759. The Dowlais ironworks was developed by the Guest family, exploiting the availability of coal and ironstone from the slopes to the south and limestone to the north. Dowlais had become the biggest ironworks in the world during the early to mid 19th century, employing 6,000 people in 1840; Dowlais shifted to steel production in 1865 after demand for iron production suffered difficulties in the 1860s. In 1930 steelmaking ended, and the works finally closed in 1987. The area included extensive coal and ironstone workings, linked to a series of tramroads and railways, however the principal innovative industrial feature in the area was the Dowlais Free Drainage System, which collected groundwater from a catchment area on the hills to the east of Merthyr and conveyed it to the ironworks through a complex system of open leats, culverts and aqueducts. The system was developed and extended as demand for water increased and as extraction altered the landscape. The east part of this area, around Trecatti, has been extensively remodelled in the recent past, with reworking of coal tips and subsequent opencasting, now partially reinstated.	Low	This area has been downgraded to a Low value due to 21st century opencast mining. It was originally assigned an overall value of outstanding, which reflected its national importance as an industrial landscape created by an upsurge in coal and ironstone extraction from the latter half of 18th century. Surviving features included the remains of extensive coal and ironstone workings and a well-preserved complex of water-management features associated with the Dowlais Free Drainage System.
MRTHRHLO09	HL009 Pen March	Marginal Land	The area is characterised as marginal land traditionally used for upland grazing, and part of the extensive Merthyr Common. The area contains numerous water management features, part of the extensive, Dowlais Free Drainage System. The area has been encroached upon by lime and ironstone quarries, the most extensive of which have been placed within separate aspect area (HL021) combining all the major stone extraction areas along the northern edge of Merthyr Tydfil. This area, a tract of surviving unenclosed marginal upland, the detached northern part of Merthyr Common, is chiefly characterised by water management remains of the Dowlais Free Drainage System. This system channelled the water resources of the upper slopes of Merthyr Common through the construction of numerous ponds and miles of ditches to supply water to the ironworks along the Morlais Brook (HL005) using gravity. The system extends throughout an extensive portion of Merthyr Common, and is a major characteristic of the area.	High	This area has been assigned an overall value of high, based on the survival of extensive remains of the Dowlais Free Drainage System and other water-management features and quarries associated with the Dowlais Ironworks, which together represent a significant concentration of 19th century industrial water-management features of considerable historical importance.
MRTHRHLO10	HL010 Graweth	Irregular Fieldsapes	This area is characterised by a varied and mixed landscape of surviving agricultural areas interspersed with relict industrial features and reclaimed land. The enclosed agricultural land has pasturage links with adjacent Common Land HL008 and HL014. A major characteristic are industrial features linked to the adjacent areas, notably the Scheduled Iron Workers' settlement near Ffos-y-fran (SAM Gm496), from which workings in both HL010 and 008 were worked. The area also contained mineral workings (iron ore and coal) for the Plymouth Iron Works, in HL012. The medieval and post-medieval period saw extensive enclosure of the lower slopes; at Pen-y-lan the relationship of the farm to the common is shown by the sheep pens at the junction between the open common (HL014) and the enclosed fields. The area contains post-medieval farmsteads (mostly abandoned and ruined) within their associated holdings of evolved small irregular enclosures, located on a spur above the valley floor.	Moderate	This area has been assigned an overall value of moderate, reflecting the fragmented condition of the irregular fieldscape surrounding the ruined farmsteads of Graweth and Pen-y-lan and the fact that modern reclamation activity has removed many of the 19th century ironstone and coal workings and associated features in the central and northern parts of the aspect area.
MRTHRHLO11	HL011 Mynydd Merthyr and Mynydd Gethin	Marginal Land	This area is characterised as unenclosed upland pasture, marginal upland ridge straddling the boundary between Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf. The main archaeological sites in the area are prehistoric funerary and ritual features, typically Bronze Age cairns; the remainder are predominantly industrial extractive features, e.g. quarries and coal levels (1st and 2nd edition OS 6-inch). Some recent enclosure of the area has occurred, primarily for upland sheep pasture, but also to enclose modern forestry plantation. This area is one of the least industrialised in the Borough, retaining much of its pre-1800 character despite some modern changes. As with the northern parts of the Mynydd Merthyr/Mynydd Aberdare ridge, evidence of prehistoric activity is restricted to Bronze Age cairns, and the area would appear to have seen little intensive use. In the medieval and early post-medieval period, the lower slopes (HL023 and HL24) were enclosed (probably for use as winter pasture); there are also sheepfolds relating to the use of upland common as summer pasture. A small part of the eastern boundary follows the former line of the Glamorgan Canal, now beneath the A470 road, and there is some evidence for small-scale quarrying near the summit and at Cnwç Farm. The most important industrial relic of the aspect area, however, is the site of the former Aberfan coal tip, from where spoil slid on the fateful day in 1966, burying the village school below. The area of the tip now forms part of a Registered Historic Park and Garden, along with the site of the school and the nearby cemetery where the victims of the Aberfan disaster were buried. Major landscape changes have resulted from the planting of areas of forestry, from on-going quarrying at Craig y Efail, and most recently from the construction of the A470(T) road which has effectively separated the slopes from the valley bottom to the east.	High	The value of this area has been assessed as high, reflecting the survival of the pre-industrial character of the landscape, characterised by largely unenclosed, marginal upland pasture and the presence of a prehistoric ritual/funerary landscape on the western edge of the aspect area.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q4)	Overall Evaluation (Q40)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q41)
MRTHRHL012	HL012 Taff valley corridor	Nucleated Settlement	This area is characterised as the main transport/communication corridor for the Merthyr area linking the area to the ports, in particular at Cardiff and Barry, of the Glamorgan Coast. The area is also characterised by generally later industrial settlement (largely post 1850s ribbon development) associated largely with coal extraction and transport, interspersed with valley bottom fieldscape. Settlements within the area include Pentre-bach, Troed-y-Rhiw, Merthyr Vale and Aberfan, scene of the tragedy of 1966; when colliery waste buried the village junior school and 16 houses, killing 143 children and adults. The main settlements associated with the early development of Merthyr as an iron producing centre have been mostly excluded (placed within HL005), and are characterised elsewhere to Level 4/5 (see Roberts 2003). The area is dominated by public and industrial rail, canal and tramroad links from the industrial and urban centres of Merthyr Tydfil. The area is dominated by the embankments, cuttings, bridges and other features associated with a formerly much more extensive canal and rail corridor. The area contains nationally and internationally important canals, the Glamorgan Canal and the Cyfarthfa Canal (SAM Gm467), the latter protected by legislation, and numerous industrial railways, the Gethin (Castle Pit), Cwm Pit, and Ynys-fach Railways, and public railways, the B&M and L & NWR Joint Line and the Vale of Neath Railway. The area is also characterised by the course of the nationally and internationally important Penydarren or Merthyr Tramroad and the associated Trevithick's Tunnel. The site of the Plymouth Ironworks, the earliest of the three Plymouth Iron furnace sites, is also located within the area. Despite reclamation work carried during the 1970s, the potential still exists for the survival of buried remains associated with the works. Other industrial remains in the area include Ironstone and coal mining features associated with Cyfarthfa, dating back to at least the late 18th century, though mostly of the period 1820-40, including the impressive remains at Cwm Pit. The site of the Merthyr Vale Colliery of 1875 also lies in the area. The valley bottom area, defined on the west by the Glamorganshire Canal and A470(T) and on the east by the A4054, shows a range of land-use. The area includes fieldscape and settlement of late 19th and 20th century date; a result of the development of the steam coal trade from new deep pits along the valley edge. There are also extensive sandstone quarries. The area retains little evidence of early activity; the bridge across the Taff at Pont-y-Rhun, Troed-y-rhiw is the only medieval site. There is scattered evidence of early post-medieval ironworking, exploiting waterpower, but the area remained largely agricultural well into the 19th century, even after the creation of the canal and railway links to Merthyr Tydfil. One of the best-preserved sections of the canal follows the contour of the hill on the wets side of the valley. Troed-y-rhiw owes its growth to the development of the Castle and Plymouth Pits in the 19th century; its grid layout reflects its creation as a planned settlement. Merthyr Vale is late 19th century, associated with the colliery, and comprises densely packed terraces running down the slope. Aberfan owes its growth to the presence of the canal and colliery, but has retained much less of a designed appearance in its subsequent development.	High	The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects the historic importance of the Taff Valley as a key industrial transport corridor, evidenced by the survival of extensive remains of industrial communication features (canals, disused tramroads and railway lines) and well-preserved 19th century industrial settlements at Abercanaid, Llwyn-y-Eos and Pentrebach. The decision to rate this area as high rather than outstanding reflects the extent to which the remains of communication features have been impacted by modern infrastructure work and land reclamation activity.
MRTHRHL014	HL014 Cefn-y-Fan	Marginal Land	This area comprises marginal upland Common land characterised by established use for livestock grazing. Archaeologically the area is dominated by prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments; burial cairns (many of which are grouped together as Scheduled Ancient Monuments GM222, GM271 and GM272) and at least one standing stone, all of Bronze Age date. Other characteristic features include post-medieval industrial extractive sites (late 19th century quarries and levels, and the industrial communication routes to these) and medieval long huts; the latter associated elsewhere with seasonal occupation and livestock husbandry (hafod-hendref system). The area also contains the remains of a medieval chapel of ease, Florest Chapel. This extensive upland area between Cwm Bargoed and the Taff valley has been left largely unaffected by industrialisation. The ridges of Coed Cae and Cefn Merthyr have large numbers of Bronze Age cairns, probably constructed to indicate some claim to cleared land; these form a horseshoe-shape around the sheltered southeast-facing valley of Cwm Cothi (HL013). In medieval period the area was probably a mixture of upland pasture and woodland; this is reflected in placenames (including Cefn Florest). Cartographic evidence shows that, although the summit areas were largely unenclosed and open, the eastern slopes of the area remained wooded by the mid 19th century and were also enclosed. Platform houses (Deserted Rural Settlements) are found in the area, and indicate the use of the area for summer pasture, possibly through the practice of transhumance. The township of Forest had its own chapel-of-ease. There has been minor industrial activity of 19th century date on the unenclosed common. Specifically limited to quarrying and coal levels, mines and tipping on the slopes above Merthyr Vale, Pontygwaith, and west of Bedlinog, but otherwise there has been little change in the recent past apart from the replacement of the old woodland with modern forestry plantations.	Outstanding	The assessment of HL014 as outstanding reflects its importance as an extensive, well-preserved area of marginal upland common pasture, with significant evidence of Bronze Age burial, ritual and field clearance activity, represented by the substantial groupings of cairns at Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil and, in particular, Cefn Merthyr.
MRTHRHL015	HL015 Gelligaer Common (west)	Marginal Land	The aspect area of Gelli-gaer Common (West) represents the northwestern portion of Gelligaer Common Historic Landscape (HLW [MGL] 4), (Hill, 1999). It is an increasingly rare survival in Southeast Wales of an area of high upland moor. This aspect area includes the summits of Pen Garbugail (470m) and Mynydd Fochriw (459m) at its northern end, with slopes falling sharply westwards into the Cwm Bargoed valley from these hills. A narrow strip of the area extends southwards along the common for some 4km to the south of Pen Garbugail, mostly between 200 metres and 500 metres in width. The eastern edge of the aspect area is defined by the boundary between Merthyr and Caerphilly counties. The aspect area consists of predominantly unenclosed upland moorland and contains a diversity of archaeological sites. Prehistoric activity is well-represented by Bronze Age burial and ritual sites, of which a notable concentration occurs on Pen Garbugail, with other examples found along the ridgeline further south. Possible Roman activity has also been noted, in the form of a postulated Roman Road (RR621), which is thought to have run from the south-southeast to the north, connecting Roman forts at Gelligaer and Penydarren. There is good evidence for medieval activity with a cluster of medieval platform houses in the middle valley slope of Cwm Bargoed, north of Coly Uchaf, which now survive as bare earthwork terraces, cut into the valley side, where timber framed houses and buildings would have stood in medieval times. During post-medieval times, the enclosure of the lower slopes to increase the farmed area reduced the area of the open mountain pasture to its present extent. The industrial era and the consequent increase in settlement has had little impact on the common, with coal and iron ore mining activity mainly focused in the valleys to the east and west. A small colliery did operate at Nant Gruffydd, just inside the western boundary of the aspect area in the mid-20th century.	Outstanding	The overall value of outstanding assigned to this area reflects the remarkably intact character of this upland landscape and the exceptionally rich, multi-period quality of the archaeological resource, attesting to a remarkable continuity of occupation since the prehistoric era.
MRTHRHL016	HL016 Cwm Bargoed East	Irregular Fieldscares	Much of this area has been characterised as part of the Gelligaer Historic Landscape Characterisation (Hill 1999), its Key Historic Landscape Characteristics were defined by the report as follows 'Roman road; distinct field boundaries; prehistoric funerary monument; important relict medieval archaeology; enclosure'. The area is characterised by enclosed pastureland, which had formerly been open upland common, and small loosely dispersed agricultural settlement. The field boundaries are of the clawdd type, though chronological progression to large dry-stone walling in the northern part of the area is discernible. Prior to the enclosure, which had occurred by the late 18th century, the area had been organised into a field pattern probably associated with the known dispersed medieval upland settlements of the area, many of which may have been seasonally occupied. In contrast to the adjacent landscape of Gelligaer Common (HL015), this area is much more diverse and fragmented.	High	The overall value of high assigned to this landscape reflects the reasonably well-preserved character of the fieldscape and settlement pattern in this area, in spite of limited encroachment by industrial extractive activity, and the multi-period nature of the archaeological resource, with evidence of prehistoric and medieval settlement and ritual activity.
MRTHRHL018	HL018 Cyfarthfa Castle	Designed	Cyfarthfa Castle as it appears today is characterised as a nationally important 19th century historic park and garden; a good example of an iron master's seat within its parkland setting, with important historic and artistic associations. The area is also characterised by its historical connectivity with the adjacent Cyfarthfa Ironworks and the wider extractive landscapes beyond, strongly demonstrated by the paintings of Penry Williams and photographs of the mid-19th century. The area has also been developed for a range of later recreational and educational uses. The historic landscape area of Cyfarthfa Castle is the largest open space in the Merthyr Tydfil conurbation, representing a mature designed landscape, graded as 11* (Cadw/ICOMOS UK 1999, 95). The house was commissioned by William Crawshay in 1825, and was designed by Robert Lugar as a mock castle. The house (a Grade I Listed Building) overlooks grounds dropping to the southwest and the Cyfarthfa Ironworks.	Outstanding	This area has been assigned an overall value of outstanding, based on the fact that it represents an important, extremely rare and well-preserved example of an ironmaster's residence and estate, with strong historic associations as the seat of the Crawshay family. Registered park and garden (PGW2*: Cadw/ICOMOS UK, 2000). A nationally important group of interrelated listed buildings centred upon a Grade I listed castellated mansion.
MRTHRHL020	HL020 Vaynor Quarry	Extractive	The area is characterised as part of a discontinuous industrial extractive landscape (along with HL019 and HL021) ranged along the Taff Fechan Valley and comprises large imposing limestone quarries associated with the Cyfarthfa, Penydarren, Dowlais, Ivor and Plymouth Ironworks. The cavernous working faces of the quarries provide a striking visual impression of 19th century extraction. Other dominant characteristics include limekilns and associated tramroads. Vaynor Quarry, the only active quarry in the area, originated during the 1870s to provide limestone for Crawshay's Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The current works have rapidly expanded since being re-opened under AW Lewis; the area now contains an array of modern quarry buildings and structures, such as conveyors and hoppers.	Moderate	The moderate value assigned to this aspect area reflects the severe impact on the archaeological resource resulting from the modern expansion of quarrying activity, which has destroyed many earlier landscape elements (irregular fieldscape, limekilns, tramroad) shown on OS 1st and 2nd edition maps.
MRTHRHL021	HL021 Morlais Quarries	Extractive	The area is characterised as part of a discontinuous industrial extractive landscape (along with HL019 and HL020) ranged along the Taff Fechan Valley and comprises large imposing limestone quarries associated with the Cyfarthfa, Penydarren, Dowlais, Ivor and Plymouth Ironworks. The cavernous working faces of the quarries provide a striking visual impression of 19th century extraction. Other dominant characteristics include limekilns and associated tramroads. The earliest of the quarries were those below Morlais Castle; these were associated with Penydarren and Dowlais Ironworks, on land leased from the Earl of Plymouth from 1763. Leases indicate that part of the area was leased to the Dowlais Iron Company (Isaac Wilkinson and John Guest) from 1763/65, while leases of 1810 and 1819 illustrate the connection of the Plymouth Iron Company (the Hill family) to the area. Contemporary tramroad features originally provided a direct link between the ironworks and their particular section of the workings; these include the remains of the Morlais Tramroad (constructed 1793) from the Penydarren, and Plymouth Ironworks, which retains in situ sleeper blocks. Cartographic evidence of 1814 and 1826 shows the Morlais Tramroad linked to a lime works west of Morlais Castle. Between 1814 and 1826 a track connected the eastern quarry area to Pant and the Dowlais Ironworks, while a plan attached to a lease of 1848 showed the quarry effectively divided in three between the ironworks of Dowlais, Penydarren and Plymouth. The OS maps of 1875 to 1915 chart the later development of the quarries, indicating the development of different quarry faces over time and the associated tramroad systems.	High	This area has been assigned an overall value of high as representing a visually striking and historically important extractive landscape of late 18th-19th century date, with substantial extant remains of the transport network linking the quarries with the Dowlais and Penydarren Ironworks. The decision to rate Morlais as high rather than outstanding reflects the fact that it represents one of three well-preserved quarry sites linked with major ironworking complexes within the Merthyr historic landscape (consequently reducing its rarity value) and that Cwm-Glo and Bryn y Badell contains a much greater density of surviving features (hence the evaluation of HL006 as outstanding).
MRTHRHL022	HL022 Bargoed Taf and Bedlinog corridor	Communications	The area is characterised as a transport corridor based on the Joint Great Western and Rhymney Valley Railway (opened in 1881), which originally extended to Cae Harris, Dowlais to Quaker's Yard. The northern extent of the line passes through the extractive landscape east of Dowlais, while the southern extent of the line survives as a mineral line through Cwm Bargoed. The area includes nucleated settlements of Bedlinog, and Cwmfelin, settlements, which owe their origin to colliery development in the Bargoed Taf Valley from the 19th century and are characterised by industrial terraces and non-conformist chapels. At the southern end of the area are the sites of the Taf Merthyr, Deep Navigation and Trelewis Drift Mines, which have been redeveloped as a retail park (the Millennium Park) and climbing centre, though retain elements characteristic of former industrial use. Formerly of similar character to HL016 and HL026, the transport/urban industrial nature of the valley bottom developed during the latter part of the 19th century; the settlements of Bedlinog and Cwmfelin originated as three small hamlets, but following the opening of the Bedlinog Colliery in the 1870s, grew substantially.	High	The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects its importance as an industrial communication corridor through the Cwm Bargoed valley and the survival of key components in a relatively intact condition, including the line of the Great Western and Rhymney Valley Railway (partially in use as a mineral railway) and mid-late 19th century coalmining settlements established on the slopes of Cwm Bargoed at Bedlinog and Cwmfelin containing well-preserved examples of workers' terraced housing.
MRTHRHL023	HL023 Lower Taff enclosed valleyside	Irregular Fieldscares	This area is characterised as a valleyside irregular fieldscape with minor elements associated with coal extraction. The area is co-terminous with the former extent of post-medieval agricultural enclosure, though during the 20th century has seen extensive afforestation. Features characteristic of the adjacent unenclosed area HL011 are characteristic of the area, suggesting the extent of the unenclosed landscape was formerly more extensive in the area; for example, the area retains characteristic prehistoric funerary and ritual sites, Bronze Age cairns, such as those at Craig-yr-Efail, on the ridgetop near Cefn-glas, while post-medieval agricultural features associated with livestock farming (eg sheep folds) are found throughout. In the medieval and early post-medieval period, the area was enclosed (probably for use as winter pasture); there are also sheepfolds relating to the use of the adjacent upland common (HL011) as summer pasture. Minor industrial features are also characteristic of the area, and include a charcoal burning site at Craig-yr-Efail and a number of quarries, airshafts, coal shafts, levels and coal tips. Major landscape changes have resulted from the planting of areas of forestry, from the on-going quarrying at Craig yr Efail, and most recently from the construction of the A470(T) road which has effectively separated the enclosed slopes from the valley bottom and transport corridor (HL012) to the east.	Moderate	The overall value of moderate assigned to this area reflects the disruption to the fieldscape pattern resulting from extensive modern forestry plantation and the moderate to poor condition of the surviving archaeological resource, with surviving components increasingly threatened by quarrying activity (e.g. Craig-yr-efail).
MRTHRHL024	HL024 Mid Taff enclosed valleyside	Extractive	This area is characterised as a valleyside mineral field associated with coal extraction, for both industrial (iron works), steam coal, and domestic production during the 19th century, in particular the Cefn-glas, Graig, Gethin and Castle Collieries, the former opened before 1860, the latter in 1869. The area is co-terminous with the former extent of post-medieval agricultural enclosure, though during the 20th century has seen extensive afforestation. Features characteristic of the adjacent unenclosed area HL011 are characteristic of the area, indicating the former extent of the unenclosed landscape. The area retains characteristic prehistoric funerary and ritual sites, Bronze Age cairns, while post-medieval agricultural features associated with livestock farming (eg sheep folds) are found throughout. In the medieval and early post-medieval period, the area was enclosed (probably for use as winter pasture); there are also sheepfolds relating to the use of the adjacent upland common (HL011) as summer pasture. As well as the main colliery sites, minor industrial features are also characteristic of the area, and include a number of quarries, airshafts, coal shafts, levels and coal tips. Major landscape changes have resulted from the planting of areas of forestry, and most recently from the construction of the A470(T) road which has effectively separated the enclosed slopes from the valley bottom and transport corridor (HL012) to the east.	High	The high value assigned to this area reflects the reasonably intact condition of the upland pastoral fieldscape and the presence of substantial extant remains of mid 19th century extractive activity specifically associated with the 'steam coal' industry, now obscured by extensive late 20th century forestry plantations which have detracted from the coherence of this landscape.
MRTHRHL025	HL025 Trefechan	Nucleated Settlement	This area has been the subject of HLC and has been characterized as a planned Post Second World War settlement of social housing with domestic, public and commercial buildings. The settlement of Trefechan was designed in 1947 (Arthur J Hayes & Gordon H Griffiths) and comprises a council estate intended to function as an independent community with its own public buildings, and formal road layout; the houses are all semi-detached pairs angled to the contours, and are built of variety of materials: brick exposed or roughcast, pre-cast slabs, and timber clad. Trefechan as it appears today is characterised as a architect designed and planned, single phase settlement of social/council housing of some interest as a post-Second World War housing experiment forming an independent community with its own associated public and commercial buildings. The community is good surviving and largely unaltered example of 20th century social engineering.	Moderate	Although Trefechan represents an important and well-preserved example of post Second World War social housing, its overall value has been assessed as moderate, reflecting the limited scope of the archaeological record for this area.
MRTHRHL026	HL026 Cwm Golau and Cwm Bargoed West	Irregular Fieldscares	The area is characterised by enclosed pastureland, which had formerly been open upland common, and small loosely dispersed agricultural settlement. The field boundaries are of the clawdd type, though chronological progression to large dry-stone walling in the northern part of the area is discernible. Prior to the enclosure, which had occurred by the late 18th century, the area had been organised into a field pattern probably associated with the known dispersed medieval upland settlements of the area, many of which may have been seasonally occupied. In contrast to the adjacent landscape of Gelligaer Common (HL015), this area is much more diverse and fragmented, including narrow areas of open common, enclosed fields, non-nucleated agricultural settlement, and extractive features. This is reflected in the area's origin as piecemeal encroachment on the surrounding common land from the late medieval/early post-medieval period, when much of the area of the lower slopes was enclosed as part of a dispersed farming landscape with some areas of enclosed woodland. The evidence of prehistoric activity includes Bronze Age "burnt mounds", cooking or sauna sites, as well as cairns, standing stones and cairnfields. The medieval period is strongly represented by platform houses (Deserted Rural Settlements) found at the limit of enclosed fields, most of which were probably occupied only in summer, used by the cowherds, although there are some indications of all-year-round settlement from some of the excavated examples. The distribution of the these sites would seem to imply that by this time the enclosed lands had reached close to their present extent; these fields are mostly enclosed by well-built dry-stone walls. Additionally many of the farms are likely to have medieval precursors. In the post-medieval period there has been some further enclosure of the Common, and the more intensive use of the Taff Bargoed valley itself (HL022). Industrial extraction has been relatively small scale, comprising coal levels and quarries on the unenclosed common, of 19th century date.	High	The high value assigned to this area reflects the intact condition of the irregular fieldscape and dispersed settlement pattern in this area and the multi-period character of the archaeological resource, dominated by extensive remains of 19th century industrial extractive activity and associated water-management and transport features.
BRCKNHL133	Mynydd Llangynidr	Marginal Land	Extensive open limestone upland common on Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangatwg. Early prehistoric settlement and land use indicated by lithic finds, hut circles, enclosed settlements and numerous burial and ritual sites. Exploitation of upland summer pastures represented by hafod sites of medieval and later date and by sheepfolds. Early pasture improvement, possibly from the prehistoric period onwards indicated by stone clearance cairns. Small-scale industrial activity in post-medieval period represented by stone quarries and limekilns. Upland and bogs of potential palaeoenvironmental significance.	Outstanding	Extensive area of marginal land dominated by prehistoric settlement and burial archaeology and post medieval farming remains. An area scoring highly in all areas.
BRCKNHL750	Abercriban Quarry	Extractive	Disused limestone quarries and scattered miners' cottages and residual areas of ancient broadleaved woodland on steeply-sloping valley side. The Brecon Mountain Railway (former Brecon-Merthyr Railway) runs along one side of the area. Listed railway bridge.	Moderate	Area of disused quarries and relict industrial landscape, now reverting to agriculture.
BRCKNHL864	Taf Fechan	Woodland	20th-century conifer woodland and reservoirs. Early settlement and land use indicated by early prehistoric lithic finds and structures, some from submerged contexts below reservoirs. Relict medieval and post-medieval landscape superimposed by moder woodland, including dispersed abandoned and derelict farmsteads, trackways, boundaries, quarries and limekilns. Buildings and structures related to the former Brecon-Merthyr Railway. Listed buildings and structures relating to waterworks.	Outstanding	Complex reservoir system lying within afforested valley. Overlying evidence of prehistoric activity.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Summary Description (Q4)	Overall Evaluation (Q40)	Justification for Overall Evaluation (Q41)
CYNONHL005	Cefn y Brithdir	Marginal Land	Cefn y Brithdir is an area of unenclosed upland between the Rhymney and Nant Bargoed Rhymney valleys, used for upland grazing, but there has been some sub-division within the area with the use of post and wire fencing. It includes a number of Bronze Age funerary cairns as well as a group of scheduled medieval long huts and more recent coal levels and quarries. A modern aviation beacon is positioned on top of the hill.	High	This landscape is not in a pristine condition and has seen changes in modern times with some enclosure and improvement. It is relatively rich in archaeological terms and has potential for further study.

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Night Time Light Pollution (Q1)	Attractive Views (Q2)	Perceptual / Sensory Qualities (Q4)	Wales Tranquil Area (Q6)	Dark Sky Reserve (Q7)
BLNGWCLS002	A465	Road Corridor	Substantial	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
BLNGWCLS007	Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estates	Urban	Substantial	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
BLNGWCLS016	Mynydd Llangynidr	Upland Moorland	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil. Wild. Spiritual	Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Undisturbed	Yes
BLNGWCLS020	Brynbach Park	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone B	No
BLNGWCLS024	Cwm Tyswg	Upland Grazing	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone B	No
BLNGWCLS027	Mynydd Bedwellte	Upland Moorland	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil. Wild. Spiritual	Over 75% Zone B	No
BRCKNCLS039	Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangattock	Upland Moorland	Negligible	...both in and out	Wild	Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B	Yes
BRCKNCLS046	Ponsticill and Pentwyn Reservoirs	Lake	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil. Spiritual	Over 75% Undisturbed	Yes
BRCKNCLS093	Upper Taf Fechan Valley	Wooded Upland Valleys	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Undisturbed	Yes
CYNONCLS003	A465	Village	Substantial	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS005	Ffos-y-Fran Railhead	Excavation	Moderate	out		Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B	No
CYNONCLS012	Cefnpennar	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	Slight	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS018	Pentrapeod	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	Negligible	out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Undisturbed	No
CYNONCLS022	Rhymney	Village	Moderate	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS024	Penmoelallt	Wooded Upland & Plateaux	Negligible	out		Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed	Yes
CYNONCLS025	West of Rhymney	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	Slight	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS036	North of Bargoed	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	Negligible	out		Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B, Urban	No
CYNONCLS045	Bryn-oe'r Patch	Upland Grazing	Negligible	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS047	Rhoslas	Upland Grazing	Negligible	out	Wild	Mosaic of: Zone C, Zone B, Undisturbed	Yes
CYNONCLS048	Rhoslas	Upland Grazing	Negligible	out	Wild	Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS052	Gelligaer Common	Upland Grazing	Negligible	out	Wild	Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B	No
CYNONCLS071	Cefn Y Brithdir	Upland Grazing	Negligible	out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Undisturbed	No
CYNONCLS082	East of Rhymney	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	Slight	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS083	East of Rhymney	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	Slight	out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Urban, Zone C	No
CYNONCLS095	Parc Cwm Darran	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C	No

Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Night Time Light Pollution (Q1)	Attractive Views (Q2)	Perceptual / Sensory Qualities (Q4)	Wales Tranquil Area (Q6)	Dark Sky Reserve (Q7)
CYNONCLS096	Parc Cwm Darran	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C, Zone B, Urban	No
CYNONCLS108	Abernant and Surrounds	Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	Moderate	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
CYNONCLS122	St. Tydfil Forest	Wooded Upland & Plateaux	Negligible	...neither in or out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C	No
MRTHRCLS002	Gelligaer Farmlands	Upland Grazing	Slight	...both in and out		Over 75% Undisturbed	No
MRTHRCLS003	Merthyr Tydfil	Urban	Substantial	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS004	Merthyr Tydfil	Urban	Substantial	out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Urban	No
MRTHRCLS005	Merthyr Tydfil	Urban	Substantial	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS006	Merthyr Tydfil	Urban	Substantial	out		Mosaic of: Urban, Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS007	Merthyr Tydfil	Urban	Substantial	out		Mosaic of: Urban, Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS008	Vaynor Quarry	Excavation	Moderate	out		Over 75% Zone B	Yes
MRTHRCLS010	Vaynor Farmlands	Upland Grazing	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C	Yes
MRTHRCLS011	Vaynor Farmlands	Upland Grazing	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS012	Vaynor Farmlands	Upland Grazing	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS013	Taff Fechan	Wooded Upland Valleys	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Urban	Yes
MRTHRCLS015	Merthyr North Flank	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux	Slight	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS016	Mid Taff Valley	Open Upland Valleys	Slight	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS017	Mid Taff Valley	Open Upland Valleys	Slight	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS018	Ffos-y-Fran Merthyr Upper East Flank	Excavation	Moderate	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS019	Ponsticill Reservoir	Lake	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed	Yes
MRTHRCLS020	Craig Fargoed	Open Upland Valleys	Slight	...both in and out		Over 75% Undisturbed	No
MRTHRCLS021	Vaynor Uplands	Upland Moorland	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil. Wild	Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B	Yes
MRTHRCLS022	Taff Fawr	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Urban	Yes
MRTHRCLS023	Bedlinog	Urban	Moderate	out		Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed	No
MRTHRCLS024	Merthyr Common	Upland Moorland	Negligible	...both in and out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C, Undisturbed	No
MRTHRCLS027	Gethin Woodlands	Wooded Upland Valleys	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone B	No

FFOS-Y-FRAN FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY - LVIA LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services							
Area ID	Name	Classification (Level 3)	Night Time Light Pollution (Q1)	Attractive Views (Q2)	Perceptual / Sensory Qualities (Q4)	Wales Tranquil Area (Q6)	Dark Sky Reserve (Q7)
MRTHRCLS028	Upper Taff Bargoed Valley	Open Upland Valleys	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone C	No
MRTHRCLS029	Aberfan and Merthyr Vale	Urban	Moderate	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS030	Cyfarthfa Park	Amenity Land	Slight	...into		Over 75% Urban	No
MRTHRCLS032	Lower Taff Valley	Wooded Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out	Tranquil	Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS034	Taff/Cynon Ridge	Mosaic Upland & Plateaux	Negligible	...both in and out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Zone C	No
MRTHRCLS038	Upper Taff Fechan	Wooded Upland Valleys	Negligible	...both in and out	Tranquil	Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C	Yes
MRTHRCLS039	Gelligaer Common	Upland Moorland	Negligible	...both in and out		Mosaic of: Undisturbed, Zone C	No
MRTHRCLS040	Merthyr East Flank	Derelict/Waste Ground	Moderate	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS041	Merthyr East Flank	Derelict/Waste Ground	Moderate	out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS044	Merthyr West Flank	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Mosaic of: Zone B, Urban	No
MRTHRCLS045	Merthyr West Flank	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS046	Merthyr West Flank	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS047	Merthyr West Flank	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS048	Merthyr West Flank	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate	...both in and out		Over 75% Zone B	No
MRTHRCLS001	Lower Taff Bargoed Valley	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Slight	...both in and out	Tranquil	Mosaic of: Zone C, Undisturbed, Zone B	No

APPENDIX 2 – Landscape Character Area Descriptions



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1 Penmoelallt Plantation

Uplands located to west of A470 and to north of A465. Boundary is defined by extent of managed woodland. Mynydd-y-glog is to the west and Pant Sychbant to the north.

The LCA contains part of or all the following LANDMAP aspect areas (as summarised in Appendix 1).

Table 1 LCA01 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-207 <i>Penmoelallt</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-006 <i>Penmoelallt</i> and CYNON-HL-635 <i>Upper Cwm Taf</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-024 <i>Penmoelallt</i>

LCA01 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau with glacial mountain valley to the south and tectonically controlled valley to the north. Cover is predominantly managed coniferous plantation, semi-natural woodland and rock outcrops. Disused Dynevor Arms liquefied national gas storage facility located within plantation. Forest tracks and fire breaks divide uniformly planted areas. Plantation block shapes and tracks determined by strongly undulating terrain.

LCA01 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and of enclosed character with attractive outward views from outer edges of a generally unattractive coniferous monoculture.

Tranquillity

Traffic using A465 and A470 corridors influence the southern and eastern aspects of this LCA. Infrequent access for human recreation and occupation. The Taff Trail promoted route crosses this area.

Night-time changes

Located within Bannau Brycheiniog National Park it has International Dark Sky Reserve status. Light sources from within limited to liquefied national gas storage facility, but light pollution is very slightly influenced by neighbouring developed areas of Merthyr Tydfil town centre, and A470 corridor retail parks and industry.

LCA01 Historic and cultural characteristics

Majority of LCA is within the *East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog* HLA. Although disturbed by forestry operations the area contains scheduled sites including a medieval house and Bronze Age funerary cairns and barrows.

LCA01 Value and susceptibility to change

The majority of this LCA is within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and as such is judged to have a very high value.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, the majority more than 5 km. The area is enclosed and experiences views of Ffos-y-Fran from the outer edges at the southern side of the plantation only, views that also take in Merthyr Tydfil and the upper Taf valley. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining very high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA01 is assessed as Low.

2 Nant Ffrwd Upland

Upland north of A465 and south of Penmoelallt. Boundary is defined by conifer plantation to the north and west, the A465 to the south and agricultural land associated with Ffrwd Uchaf and Ffrwd-isaf.

The LCA contains part of or all the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 2 LCA02 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-207 <i>Penmoelallt</i> and MRTHR-VS-393 <i>Taff Fawr</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-001 <i>Taff Fawr Valley</i> and CYNON-HL-635 <i>Upper Cwm Taf</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-022 <i>Taff Fawr</i> and CYNON-CLS-024 <i>Penmoelallt</i>

LCA02 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau and glacial mountain valley. Landcover is a mosaic of semi-improved grassland and heath on the plateau and bog and marsh within the valley. Scattered trees and scrub located alongside valleys. Some irregularly shaped large fields, with boundary fences determined by watercourses and ridges.

LCA02 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open character with attractive views to and from uplands of the National Park and detractive views of Merthyr Tydfil.

Tranquillity

Traffic using the A465 influences the area to the west of Nant Ffrwd, whereas the more open plateau is further away and is more tranquil. Infrequent access for occupation and some recreation within unenclosed upland parts.

Night-time changes

Partly located within Bannau Brycheiniog National Park it has International Dark Sky Reserve status. No internal light sources, but light pollution is slightly influenced by neighbouring developed areas of Merthyr Tydfil and the A465.

LCA02 Historic and cultural characteristics

Minor part of LCA is within the *East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog* HLA. There are no scheduled sites.

Part of the LCA is within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the east of Nant Ffrwd, and the part west of Nant Ffrwd is within *Winchfawr* Special Landscape Area.

LCA02 Value and susceptibility to change

Part of the LCA is designated as National Park, HLA and as SLA and as such is judged to have a very high value.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, the majority more than 5 km. The area is open and experiences views of Ffos-y-Fran throughout. Views that also take in Merthyr Tydfil and the upper Taf valley. The susceptibility to change is judged as medium.

Combining very high value and medium susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA02 is judged as Medium.

3 Winch Fawr Upland

Upland to west of Cyfarthfa that forms the east facing flank of Mynydd Aberdar. Boundary is defined by A465 to the north, settlements of Clwydyfagwr, Winch Fawr and Heolgerrig to the east, conifer plantation to the south and the ridge of Mynydd Aberdar to the west.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 3 LCA03 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i> and MRTHR-VS-729 <i>Taff/Cynon Ridge</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-006 <i>Cwm-glo and Bryn-y-badell</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-045 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i> and MRTHR-VS-034 <i>Taff/Cynon Ridge</i>

LCA03 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland mountain and glacial mountain valley. Landcover is predominantly a mosaic of marshy grassland, heath and acid grassland covering remnants of old mineral workings and tips. Telecommunications masts and access tracks are located at the summit of Mynydd Aberdar. Stock proof fences divide the higher ground to the south whilst the north part where the remnants of mineral works are more concentrated tends to have no boundary features.

LCA03 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open character with attractive views to and from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the north and Gethin Woodland to the south. Detractive views to and from Gellideg, Heolgerrig, Merthyr and Ffos-y-Fran.

Tranquillity

There is some disturbance from neighbouring areas to north and east. The area retains a rural character but is influenced by nearby settlements. Open access to upland from settlements with infrequent access for recreation and occupation.

Night-time changes

No internal light sources, but light pollution is influenced by neighbouring developed areas of Merthyr Tydfil town centre, the A470 corridor and neighbouring settlements.

LCA03 Historic and cultural characteristics

Vast majority of LCA is within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and includes the Winch Fawr iron mine scheduled site, which is associated with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The area has a complex pattern of past land-use that involved the extraction of coal and ironstone inter-connected with tracks and tramways. The LCA is within the *Winchfawr* SLA.

LCA03 Value and susceptibility to change

The majority of the LCA overlaps HLA and SLA designations and as such is judged to have a high value.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, the majority more than 5 km. The area is open and unenclosed and experiences a view of Ffos-y-Fran throughout. The receiving landscape is a complex mining landscape that has not been restored, and natural colonisation of grasses, heaths and scrub has occurred over time. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA03 is judged as Negligible.

4 Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland

Upland valley side north of A465 and west of A470. Boundary is defined by the Afon Taf Fawr and/or the A470 to the east, the A465 to the south. To the west and north upland grassland and plantation respectively.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 4 LCA04 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-393 <i>Taff Fawr</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-001 <i>Taff Fawr Valley</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-022 <i>Taff Fawr</i>

LCA04 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley. Landcover is predominantly improved grassland fields with scattered rural settlement associated with Ffrwd Uchaf and Ffrwd-isaf farms and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland valley sides. Irregularly shaped fields determined by undulating topography bounded by a mixture of hedgerows, walls, stock-proof fences and drainage ditches.

LCA03 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed character with attractive views to and from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park broadly to the north and detractive views to Merthyr Tydfil and outskirts broadly to the south. Generally, of high scenic quality, and area that acts as a setting to the Bannau Brycheiniog.

Tranquillity

Traffic using A465 and A470 influences the area. Infrequent access for occupation with little access for recreation where the Taff Trail crosses the LCA at Ffrwd Uchaf.

Night-time changes

Majority located within Bannau Brycheiniog National Park it has International Dark Sky Reserve status. Internal light sources limited to agricultural dwellings and buildings. Light pollution slightly influenced by neighbouring developed areas of Merthyr Tydfil and the main roads.

LCA04 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located in-between *Merthyr Tydfil* and *East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog* HLAs. There are no scheduled sites. Area dominated by agricultural fieldscape bounded by traditional dry-stone wall and hedged banks.

Majority of the LCA is within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and minority within *Winchfawr* SLA.

LCA04 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated as National Park or SLA and as such judged to have a very high value.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, the majority between 4 and 5 km. The area is enclosed with views of Ffos-y-Fran filtered by vegetation. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining very high value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA04 is judged as Low.

5 Cefn Coed Cemetery

Upland glacial mountain valley to north of A465 in the Vaynor community. Boundary is defined by the A470, the Afon Taf and the A4054 Upper High Street.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 5 LCA05 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-393 <i>Taff Fawr</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-001 <i>Taff Fawr Valley</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-022 <i>Taff Fawr</i>

LCA05 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley of the Taf Fawr, which flows from Llwyn-on Reservoir. Landcover is predominantly broadleaved woodland on the steep valley sides, amenity grassland and planting on the cemetery sites and built elements consisting of chapels, pathways and graves. Pathways are generally parallel to the river and valley sides with access between levels perpendicular to the river. Boundaries are a mixture of masonry walls and metal railings.

LCA05 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed character with attractive views to and from the National Park and detractive views to Merthyr and outskirts. LCA itself considered to have a high scenic quality and character.

Tranquillity

Enclosed by steep valley sides and woodland. Disturbance from the A470 is mitigated by a planted false cutting next to the road but is open to the A465 dualling that is under construction. Frequent access for funerary services, commemorations and quiet contemplation.

Night-time changes

Very few (if any) internal light sources. Light pollution slightly influenced by neighbouring residential areas.

LCA05 Historic and cultural characteristics

Partially within the *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA, but suspect that the cemeteries were intended to have been included within it and the boundary shown within the Data Map Wales dataset is incorrect. *Cefn Coed cemetery and Jewish Burial ground* is a Registered Historic Park and Garden (RHPG).

Part of the cemetery is within the National Park and the remainder is included within the *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA.

LCA05 Value and susceptibility to change

The LCA is designated for its landscape and heritage qualities being part of the National Park, HLA and RHPG and as such is judged to have a very high value.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, at its closest point next to the A465 is about 3.8 km away. Views of Ffos-y-Fran are limited by landform and woodland to the area nearest to the A470, and then interrupted by newly constructed A470 junction bridge and Taf Fawr viaduct. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining very high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA05 is judged as Negligible.

6 Winch Fawr Tramway

Lower east facing flank of Mynydd Aberdar between Cyfarthfa settlements of Gellideg and Heolgerrig. Boundary defined by unenclosed upland to the west and settlement to north, east and south.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 6 LCA06 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-006 <i>Cwm Glo and Bryn-y-Badell</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-045 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>

LCA06 Physical Characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley. Landcover is a mosaic of acid grassland on level platforms, dense scrub woodland on sloping areas, intermittent scrub and acid grassland, and enclosed improved grassland fields at the eastern end. Settlement consists of scattered rural settlement and ribbon development along Winchfawr Road that connects the higher elevation parts of Gellideg and Heolgerrig. Predominantly unenclosed but there are irregular shaped fields bounded by hedge banks and fences at Pen-y-coedcae farm.

LCA06 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and relatively open character with attractive views to and from the National Park broadly northward, and the Afon Taf vale and Cwm Glo broadly southward. Detractive views to and from Merthyr Tydfil and outskirts. Scenic quality is considered moderate and landscape character considered high.

Tranquillity

Disturbance from neighbouring settlements and commercial/industrial areas. Open access to old mineral working levels and tips.

Night-time changes

Internal light sources from scattered settlement and influenced by light pollution from A470 corridor, and adjacent settlements.

LCA06 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. The area has a complex pattern of past land use that involved extraction of coal with old working levels, tips, tracks and tramways.

A minor part of the LCA is included within the *Winchfawr* SLA.

LCA06 Value and susceptibility to change

LCA within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and partly within *Winchfawr* SLA and as such is judged to have a high value.

The LCA is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 3 km from its closest point at Heolgerrig. The area is relatively open, and a view of Ffos-y-Fran is available from old working levels and hillsides where woodland does not interrupt the view. The receiving landscape is a complex and unrestored mining landscape. Colonisation of grassland and scrub has developed naturally over time. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA06 is judged as Negligible.

7 Cwm Ffrwd

Upland valley fragmented from Ffrwd-farmland and surrounded by road infrastructure and settlements. Northern and eastern boundaries are defined by the A465 and A470 roads respectively and the southern and western boundary defined by Gellideg.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 7 LCA07 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-001 <i>Taff Fawr Valley</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-045 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>

LCA07 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley. Landcover consists of improved and semi-improved grassland fields and semi-natural broadleaved woodland valley sides and field boundaries. Spring fed watercourses flow north-eastward into the Nant Ffrwd. Irregularly shaped fields defined by watercourses have not been intensively managed and as such resemble parkland. Field boundaries are a mixture of earth banks, unmanaged hedgerows and stock-proof fences. The Nant Ffrwd itself runs in a densely wooded gorge. Very few scattered rural dwellings.

LCA07 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed character with some attractive views to and from the National Park and Taf Valley, and detractive views towards Merthyr Tydfil and the road

infrastructure. Views outward limited to upper elevations and outer edges of LCA. Generally, of moderate scenic quality and high landscape character.

Tranquillity

Traffic using A465 and A470 influences the area, both roads cross the gorge on high viaducts. Very infrequent access for occupation. There is a track that connects Swansea Road in Gellideg to the confluence of the Nant Ffrwd and Afon Taf Fawr near to Cefn coed Viaduct. National Cycle Network (NCN) route 46 crosses the eastern edge of the LCA between Gellideg and the A470, which it passes beneath.

Night-time changes

Part of the LCA north of the gorge is within the National Park but is influenced by light pollution from the roads and surrounding settlements. Internal light sources limited to individual dwellings.

LCA07 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. There are no scheduled sites.

Majority to south of gorge within *Winchfawr* SLA and minority north of gorge within the National Park.

LCA07 Value and susceptibility to change

Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and divided into National Park and *Winchfawr* SLA. As such judged to have a very high value. Threatened by development of Gellideg and the A465 dualling.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 3,5 km at its closest point near to the A470. Views of Ffos-y-Fran available from open areas away from dense woodland. The area is predominantly enclosed by road infrastructure and woodland. The susceptibility to change is assessed as negligible.

Combining very high value and negligible susceptibility, the landscape sensitivity of LCA07 is judged as Negligible.

8 Gellideg and Heolgerrig

Outskirt settlements of Merthyr Tydfil having developed along Swansea Road and Heol Gerrig (which translates as stone road). Boundaries defined by the largely 20th Century settlement extent and the A470 road corridor to the east.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 8 LCA08 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-006 <i>Cwm-glo and Bryn-y-Badell</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-007 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA08 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley west of Afon Taf Fawr. Landcover is urban settlement and retail area with major superstore and undeveloped building platforms formed from old mineral waste tips. Housing is suburban in nature and a mixture of terraced, semi-detached and detached dwellings with private garden spaces and apartment blocks organised along roads and within estates.

LCA07 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of mixed character, some parts are enclosed, and some parts are open. Some suburban housing estates are located on sloping terrain and have an open character with views of the upland flanks of the valley, and also across the valley overlooking Merthyr Tydfil, whilst the views from other estates are restricted by buildings. Generally, there are

attractive views out towards the National Park and the valley upland sides and detractive views internally and of the retail areas of Merthyr Tydfil. Considered to be of low scenic quality and character.

Tranquillity

An urban area with frequent access for occupation and residents located near to a busy main road.

Night-time changes

Light pollution concentrated at the A470 corridor and retail area, diminishing slightly towards the higher elevations of the settlement.

LCA08 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and contains a section of the Cyfarthfa Tramroad scheduled site. The extractive area is associated with Cyfarthfa Ironworks, but the working levels and the majority of tips have been reprofiled to enable development.

LCA08 Value and susceptibility to change

The area is highly regarded in terms of its industrial heritage but much of what remains has been redeveloped, with little remaining other than some tracks and tramways now in use as roadways and the occasional tip used as open space. As such, the LCA is judged to have a medium value.

The LCA is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 2.4 km from its closest point at the Trago Mills superstore. In open areas and from streets there is a view of Ffos-y-Fran that overlooks Merthyr Tydfil town centre available to the majority of the area. For a redeveloped mining landscape, the susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA08 is judged as Negligible.

9 Vaynor Upland

Upland moorland plateau between the Afon Taf Fawr and Afon Taf Fechan valleys. Northern edge is defined by the county boundary of Merthyr Tydfil and Powys, and to the south by the limit of the developed area of Vaynor.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 9 LCA09 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-387 <i>Vaynor Uplands</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-002 <i>Garn Ddu</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-021 <i>Vaynor Uplands</i>

LCA09 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Undulating upland terrain and plateau dissected by a series of ridges and watercourses. Landcover is predominantly marshy grassland and unimproved acid grassland with rock outcrops, scree slopes, bogs, ponds and watercourses. Prominent peaks and ridges include Cefn Cil-Sanws, Garn Ddu, Twyn Croes and Gwaun y Pynt, with the ground rising steadily northward towards the summit of Pen y Fan. Nant Wern-ddu, Nant Llysiog, Nant Gwinau and Nant y Car watercourse flow westward into the Afon Taf Fawr valley whilst Nant Rhyd-ddu, Nant Car Fach, Nant y Ffrwd and Nant y Wern flow eastward and southward into the Afon Taf Fechan valley. Includes the area of former limestone quarries (Vaynor Quarry).

LCA09 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Very large scale and exposed character with extensive and attractive views of the surrounding upland hills and valleys, and also views considered detractive towards Merthyr

Tydfil town centre and surrounding settlements. High scenic quality with panoramic views and largely unspoilt moorland character.

Tranquillity

Remote and tranquil upland. Western flank of Cefn-Cil-Sanws is next to the A470 but the steep scree slope buffers the influence of road traffic noise and movement from the plateau. Frequent access for recreation to the southern portion nearest Merthyr Tydfil. The northern portion is more remote and consists of marsh land. Informal paths tend to stick to ridges connecting summits in-between watercourses.

Night-time changes

National Park has International Dark Sky Reserve status. Little or no internal light sources. Light pollution limited to south facing flanks.

LCA09 Historic and cultural characteristics

A prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape. There are scheduled monuments that include ridge-top cairns, Iron Age enclosures and hut circles and now isolated farm enclosures. It bounds the *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA to the south and is within the National Park.

LCA09 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated as national park and as such judged to have a very high value.

The LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 3.5 km from its closest point at Trefechan. The area is exposed and experiences uninterrupted views of Ffos-y-Fran from summits, ridges and south facing slopes. The susceptibility to change is judged as medium.

Combining very high value and medium susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA09 is judged as Medium.

10 Cefn Coed and Trefechan

Outskirt settlements of Merthyr Tydfil to the north of the A465 road corridor having developed along the A4054 High Street and Vaynor Road. This section of Cefn Coed has been severed from the more commercial centre by the A465. Trefechan is a 20th Century housing estate built on the grounds associated with Vaynor House.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 10 LCA10 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-025 <i>Trefechan</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-007 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA10 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland valley slope and valley side between Afon Taf Fawr and Afon Taf fechan watercourses. Landcover is predominantly urban settlement of buildings and roads with private and recreational amenity areas. Trefechan is an example of an architect designed and planned single phase settlement of social housing with its own public and commercial buildings. Cefn Coed is a more naturally developed settlement based on small regularly shaped land parcels and tracks leading to old quarries.

LCA10 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of mixed character, some parts are open, and some parts are enclosed. The settlements are located on sloping terrain, Buildings, streets and amenity spaces

located at higher elevations have open views of the upland flanks of the valleys and across the valley overlooking Merthyr Tydfil. At lower elevations the elements are more enclosed with limited outward views. Considered to be of low scenic quality and character.

Tranquillity

Sub-urban areas with frequent access for occupation and residents located near to a busy main road.

Night-time changes

Light pollution concentrated at the A465 and Vaynor Road corridors, diminishing slightly towards higher elevations of the settlement.

LCA10 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA, it contains no scheduled sites. Cefn Coed-y-cymmer was a settlement separate and distinct from Merthyr Tydfil, but they have since been connected. Trefechan is considered as a well-preserved post Second World War social housing estate.

The National Park and the *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA surround Cefn Coed and Trefechan urban areas.

LCA10 Value and susceptibility to change

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and partially overlapping land designated as SLA, these areas contribute to the complex story of the industrial development of Merthyr Tydfil. The LCA is judged to have a medium value.

The LCA is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 3.2 km from its closest point at Trefechan. Views of Ffos-y-Fran are slightly impeded by intervening high ground and surface elements at Gurnos and Penydarren. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining medium value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA10 is judged as Low.

11 Cefn Coed-y-cymmer

The core of the urban settlement enclosed by the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan rivers to west and east respectively, and the A465 road corridor to the north. The confluence of the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan which together form the Afon Taf is at the southern point of this LCA.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP aspect areas.

Table 11 LCA11 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-007 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA11 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley sides between the Afon Taf Fawr and Afon Taf Fechan watercourses. Landcover is predominantly urban settlement of buildings, roads and public amenity space. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and riversides are disconnected from the settlement. High Street follows the broad ridge between the two rivers.

LCA11 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of enclosed character. Enclosed by the A465 corridor to the north and woodland at both riversides. Considered to be of low scenic quality and character, but spectacular views of the Taf Valleys available from the Cefn-coed Viaduct.

Tranquillity

Urban area with frequent access for occupation, recreation and residents. Busy main roads to north and west.

Night-time changes

Light pollution evenly spread throughout area; some influence from A470 retail areas.

LCA11 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. *Cyfarthfa* Conservation Area (CA) covers the river valleys, as does the *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA.

LCA11 Value and susceptibility to change

Located within Merthyr Tydfil HLA and partially overlapping land designated as Ca and SLA, this LCA is judged to have a high value.

The LCA is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 2.6 km from its closest point at the confluence of the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan rivers. Views of Ffos-y-Fran are limited by the higher ground of Cyfarthfa Castle and Gurnos to the north-western part of the LCA. There is no view of the surface mine, it is limited to the restored backfill and the summits of the overburden mounds. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA11 is judged as negligible.

12 Cwm Glo

East facing flank of Mynydd Aberdar between Heolgerrig and Upper Abercanaid. Boundary derived by settlement to north, main road to east, forestry and woodland to south and unenclosed upland to west.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 12 LCA12 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-006 <i>Cwm Glo and Bryn-y-Badell</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-045 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>

LCA12 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial mountain valley, western side of Afon Taf. Landcover is a mosaic of marshy grassland, acid grassland, semi-improved grassland, semi-natural broadleaved woodland scrub woodland and acid heath. Settlement consists of scattered rural businesses. Some agricultural use but the fabric of the agricultural landscape has been past severely degraded industrial development.

LCA12 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and relatively open character with attractive views to and from the National Park northward, and the Afon Taf vale and Gethin Woodland to the south. Detractive views to Merthyr Tydfil and Ffos-y-Fran. Scenic quality is considered moderate and landscape character considered high.

Tranquillity

Disturbance from neighbouring settlement and A470 corridor. Open access to old mineral workings in upland areas. Infrequent access for occupation and recreation.

Night-time changes

Very few internal light sources. Light sources from A470 Corridor and Cyfarthfa retail areas affects the lower slope, which are quite densely wooded.

LCA12 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. The area has a complex pattern of past land use of coal and ironstone extraction with old working levels, tips, shafts, reservoirs, tramways and inclines. Scheduled industrial sites include *Cwm Glo Chapel*, *Cwm Glo Pit and Ironstone Tip*, *Black Pins Early Ironstone Workings* and *Cyfarthfa Canal Level*.

Overlaps parts of *Winchfawr* and *Merthyr West Flank* SLAs.

LCA12 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its historical and landscape value and as such the value is judged as high.

The LCA is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, the majority more than 2 km. The upper slopes of the valley side have a more open aspect than the more densely wooded lower slopes. The receiving landscape is a complex and unrestored mining landscape that has been recolonised by grassland and woodland over time. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA12 is judged as Negligible.

13 A465 Road Corridor (under construction)

Dualling of the A465 trunk road between Hirwaun and Dowlais Top, where the road improvement ties in with the stage completed in 2004 from Dowlais Top to Tredegar. The section enters the western side of study area at the saddle between the summits of Mynydd Aberdar and Mynydd-y-glog.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 13 LCA13 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-393 <i>Taff Fawr</i> , MRTHR-VS-762 <i>A465 Corridor</i> , MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i> and MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-006 <i>Penmoelallt</i> , MRTHR-HL-001 <i>Taff Fawr Valley</i> , MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-009 <i>Pen March</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-022 <i>Taff Fawr</i> , MRTHR-CLS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i> , MRTHR-CLS-003 and 006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA13 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Road corridor crossing undeveloped upland, land with a history of mineral extraction and exploitation, residential and industrial areas. Significant structures required to cross Nant Ffrwd, A470, Afon Taf Fawr, Afon Taf Fechan and junctions at Prince Charles Hospital and Dowlais Top. Road and infrastructure footprint has increased to include earthworks for

grade separated junctions, side roads, surface water attenuation lagoons, mitigation planting and seeding areas.

LCA13 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and linear. Where road on embankment or viaduct open aspect. Where road in cutting enclosed aspect. Attractive views out to National park and surrounding uplands. Detractive views from surrounding uplands and residential areas. Scenic quality considered low and landscape character considered low.

Tranquillity

Busy main road, frequent access as a strategic route linking south-west Wales to the English midlands and providing an alternative east-west corridor in south Wales to the M4.

Night-time changes

Road lighting required at junctions, will contribute additional light pollution to significant light sources from Prince Charles Hospital and Pengarnddu Business Park.

LCA13 Historic and cultural characteristics

Crosses *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and has a direct detrimental impact on *Cefn Coed Cemetery* RHPG. Crosses over the *Gurnos Quarry Tramroad and Leat* scheduled site. Direct detrimental impact on *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA.

LCA13 Value and susceptibility to change

Landscape value is judged as low.

At its closest point at Dowlais Top, the A465 dualling is at an intermediate distance (more than 0.5 km from the Ffos-y-Fran site boundary. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Low value and negligible susceptibility to change, the sensitivity of LCA13 is judged as Negligible.

14 Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland

Ridge and east facing upper slopes of Mynydd Aberdar and Mynydd Gethin. Western boundary defined by Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil county boundary that runs along the ridge line. Limit to north, east and south determined by extent of managed plantation and semi-natural woodland.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 14 LCA14 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-729 <i>Taff/Cynon Ridge</i> and MRTHR-VS-487 <i>Gethin Woodlands</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-011 <i>Mynydd Merthyr and Mynydd Gethin</i> , MRTHR-HL-007 <i>Blaen-canaid and Hendre-fawr</i> and MRTHR-HL-024 <i>Mid Taff Enclosed Valley Side</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-034 <i>Taff/Cynon Ridge</i> and MRTHR-CLS-027 <i>Gethin Woodlands</i>

LCA14 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Wooded upland plateau and glacial mountain valley side. Landcover predominantly coniferous plantation with areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland and bracken covered slopes. No settlements, forest tracks and fire breaks divide irregularly shaped planting blocks. BikePark Wales trails begin from Mynydd Gethin summit and Cefn Pennar ridge line.

LCA14 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and of mixed character with enclosed woodland and more exposed where planting blocks have been recently felled or restocked. Attractive views in and out to valley uplands and re-naturalised coalfield plateau. Detractive views to outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and frequent access for mountain biking recreation.

Night-time changes

No internal light sources. Some influence from A470 corridor and Merthyr Tydfil retail areas, but woodland of lower slopes mitigates light pollution.

LCA14 Historic and cultural characteristics

Remains of Bronze Age prehistoric funerary and ritual features and industrial extractive features such as quarries. *Garn Las Earthwork* and *Carn Castell y Meibion Ring Cairn* are scheduled site located on the ridge.

Overlaps *Merthyr Tydfil HLA* and *Merthyr West Flank SLA*.

LCA14 Value and susceptibility to change

Part of the LCA is designated and as such is judged to have a high value.

The LCA is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, about 2.8 km from its nearest point at Blaen-canaid. Views of Ffos-y-Fran are available across Merthyr Tydfil, notably the restored backfill and overburden mounds. Susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining high value and low susceptibility to change, landscape sensitivity for LCA14 is judged as Low.

15 Cyfarthfa Castle

South-west facing slope on the eastern side of the Afon Taf Dechan and A5054 Brecon Road. Boundary is defined by the extent of the RHPG with Gurnos residential area to the north and east and the built up area of Park ward to the south.

The LCA contains part or all the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 15 LCA15 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-588 <i>Cyfarthfa Park</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-018 <i>Cyfarthfa Castle</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-030 <i>Cyfarthfa Park</i>

LCA15 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side. Predominantly mixed woodland with open parkland meadows and tree belts/avenues and scattered parkland trees, formal gardens, reservoirs and a fish pond/lake. Settlement consists of the Gothic Victorian mock castle and museum, garden hothouses and greenhouses, and institutional buildings set within the park grounds. Designed formal landscape with Romantic and informal elements.

LCA15 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale with enclosed character. Woodland and rising ground behind the castle encloses park frontage as accessed from Brecon Road and Park Row. There are attractive views of the castle and the parkland from elevated positions to the west, which include detractive elements of built-up areas surrounding the park. Considered to be of high scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Popular tourist destination with frequent access for recreation and occupation.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources, some of the internal roads are lit. Influenced by light pollution from A470 corridor. Woodland limits influence from residential areas to the east.

LCA15 Historic and cultural characteristics

Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. The park is a Grade II* RHPG and the castle a Grade I listed building. There are no scheduled sites but several of the park features such as gate piers, park walls and fountain are Grade II listed buildings. The Parks is within the *Cyfarthfa* CA.

LCA15 Value and susceptibility to change

Statutory landscape and heritage designations, the landscape value is judged as very high.

The majority of the park, including the castle are more than 2 km from the boundary of Ffos-y-Fran. The eastern part adjacent to Park Row and Gurnos residential area is at an intermediate distance (between 0.5 and 2 km). The terrain and surface elements limits views of Ffos-y-Fran to the overburden mounds and the restored backfill slopes. Views available to the broad ridge and more open parkland the makes up the eastern part of the RHPG. Susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining very high value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

16 Cyfarthfa Park Ward and Retail Park

Developed part of Park ward in Merthyr excluding the *Cyfarthfa Castle* RHPG. The western boundary defined by A470 road corridor.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 16 LCA16 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-001 <i>AvonTaf</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA16 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland river system within shallow sloped glacial mountain valley. Landcover is predominantly buildings and roads and includes residential areas of Tydfil's Well, George Town, Cae-pant-tywyll, Morgantown and the Quar. Retail and industrial areas include Cyfarthfa Retail Park and Cyfarthfa Industrial Estate/Williamstown, and recreational areas of Pen-y-Darren Park and informal open space between the A470 and Afon Taf Fawr.

LCA16 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Mixed scale and enclosed character. Large scale retail areas and medium to small scale residential areas. Cyfarthfa Retail Park located on the site of the Cyfarthfa Cinder Tip and Coke Ovens, and industrial areas on working platforms and sites associated with the ironworks. Much of the residential areas near to the Afon Taf have been redeveloped retaining some of the original streets. Uphill of the street Quarry Row, to the east of Afon Taf, much of the residential areas are unchanged in layout since the 19th Century. Fields

and parkland to the north-east of Tydfil's Well were gradually developed into residential areas during the 20th Century.

Tranquillity

Urban areas with frequent access for occupation, recreation and habitation.

Night-time changes

Retail areas and A470 corridor are major contributors to light pollution.

LCA16 Historic and cultural characteristics

Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and developed around the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. Scheduled sites include the *Tai Mawr Leat for Cyfarthfa Iron Works*, the *Remains of Blast Furnaces*, *Cyfarthfa Iron Works* and *Pont y Cafnau Tramroad Bridge*. *Cefn Railway Viaduct* is a Grade II* Listed Building.

Riverside remains associated with the ironworks including tramways and leats are within the *Cyfarthfa* CA and the *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA. *Morgantown* and part of *Town Centre* CA included within LCA.

LCA16 Value and susceptibility to change

A part of Merthyr Tydfil rich in industrial heritage designations. Much of the area has been redeveloped and much of the industrial legacy remains. Landscape value is judged as high.

At its closest point at Trevethic Trading Estate, Ffos-y-Fran is about 0.75 km away. Much of the residential part of this LCA is at an intermediated distance (between 0.5 and 2 km), and the retail and industrial areas are at a long distance (more than 2 km). The rising landform to the east limits the view of Ffos-y-Fran to that of the overburden mounds and restored backfill. Surface elements further limit the available view. The susceptibility to change of this urban area is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA16 is assessed as Negligible.

17 Gurnos

Predominantly residential estate bounded by the A465 Road Corridor to the north, Penydarren residential area to the east, and Cyfarthfa Castle and Cefn Coed/Taf Fechan to the south and west.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 17 LCA17 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA17 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Elevated undulating plateau. Landcover is predominantly urban settlement of residential and institutional buildings (such as Prince Charles Hospital), roads and private and public amenity areas. Established after the Second World War and expanded during the 1970s and again in the 1990s. Formerly open farmland and parkland associated with Cyfarthfa Castle and Gyrnos Farm. The planned housing estate layout is based on *Radburn principle* and *garden city movement* that promote communities that are a satellite to town centres. Some areas of informal and undeveloped open space.

LCA17 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of generally of open character. Some parts of the estate dwellings are built following contour lines and have outward and open aspects whereas other parts are designed around a central yard or street and have inward and enclosed aspects.

Considered to be of low scenic quality and character, but there are attractive outward views of the valley uplands available.

Tranquillity

Sub-urban area with frequent access for occupation and habitation. Located near to busy institutional buildings and roads.

Night-time changes

Prince Charles Hospital a major contributor to light pollution. An even spread of lighting from residential roads and buildings.

LCA17 Historic and cultural characteristics

Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. *Gurnos Quarry Tramroad and Leat* is a scheduled site located next to the Afon Taf Fechan in the valley floor. Undeveloped parts to the west of the LCA is part of *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA.

LCA17 Value and susceptibility to change

Landscape value is judged as medium, very little remains of the former parkland and heritage features are restricted to Afon Taf valley.

The LCA is at an intermediate (0.5 to 2.0 km) to long distance (more than 2 km) from Ffos-y-Fran. Neighbouring Penydarren residential area slightly limits views of Ffos-y-Fran to that of the overburden mounds and the restored backfill. Susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining medium value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA 17 is assessed as Low.

18 Ynys-fach and Rhyd-y-car

Located between the A470 and the Afon Taf west of Merthyr Town Centre and in the Cyfarthfa ward.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 18 LCA18 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-001 <i>AvonTaf</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-012 <i>Taff Valley Corridor</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA18 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side. Landcover is predominantly urban settlement with institutional buildings, and commercial areas of *Keir Hardie Health Park*, *Orbit Business Centre* and *Rhydyicar Leisure Park*. Mixed plantation belts divide up residential areas from the road infrastructure and commercial land uses. Built upon remains of Ynys-fach Iron Works and Rhyd-y-car Pit and associated tips, railways, tramways, waterways and working levels. Open space for passive recreation located at Afon Taf river side.

LCA18 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium to large scale and of enclosed character. Very little remains of former industrial land uses.

Tranquillity

Urban area with frequent access for occupation, recreation and habitation.

Night-time changes

Significant contributor to light pollution with A470 road corridor and Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre.

LCA18 Historic and cultural characteristics

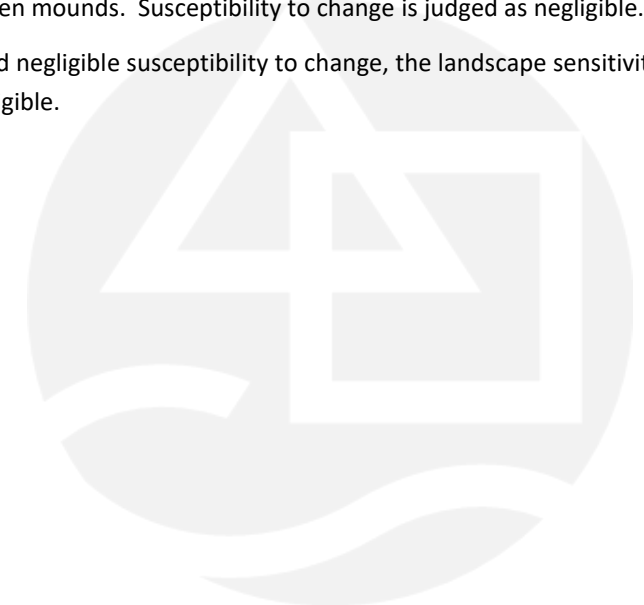
Located within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. Ynys Fach Iron Furnaces is the only scheduled site within the LCA. *Ynysfach Engine House* (Grade II*) and *Rhydyicar Canal Bridge* (Grade II) are Listed Buildings.

LCA18 Value and susceptibility to change

Most of the industrial area has been restored and redeveloped. Landscape value is judged as medium.

The majority of the LCA is at an intermediate distance from Ffos-y-Fran (0.5 to 2.0 km), but located in the valley floor the view of Ffos-y-Fran available is limited to the restored backfill and the tops of the overburden mounds. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA 18 is assessed as Negligible.



19 Vaynor Farmland

Enclosed farmland. Boundary to north defined by unenclosed uplands, to east and south by the Afon Taf Fechan wooded valley, and to west by the Vaynor Quarry.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 19 LCA19 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-198 <i>Vaynor Farmlands</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-003 <i>Taff Fechan Valley</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-010 <i>Vaynor Farmlands</i>

LCA19 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Exposed upland dry karst valley. Landcover is predominantly improved and semi-improved natural grassland fields bounded by a mixture of stone wall, unmanaged hedgerow, clipped hedge and stock-proof fence. Natural and semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the Nant y Glais valley and to the west of Pontsticill. The field pattern is a mixture of large regularly shaped fields and small irregularly shaped fields. Settlement limited to scattered rural businesses and dwellings with clusters of dwellings near to Pontsticill.

LCA19 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of enclosed character. There are attractive views to and from farmland and surrounding upland. Detractive views of Vaynor Quarry. Forms a buffer between urban areas and remote upland. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation, habitation and recreation. Most movement and noise associated with the Vaynor Road which connects Trefechan to Pontsticill settlement and Pontsticill Reservoir. Several public rights of way provide connectivity between Vaynor Road and the open upland.

Night-time changes

Located within the National Park it has International Dark Sky Reserve Status. Internal light sources limited to scattered and clustered residential properties. Light pollution slightly influenced by Trefechan and A465 road corridor.

LCA19 Historic and cultural characteristics

A small part of this LCA overlaps the *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA near to the edges of the Afon Taf Fechan wooded valley. There are a small number of Listed Buildings distributed along Vaynor Road.

The LCA is within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

LCA12 Value and susceptibility to change

Landscape value is judged as very high due to its location within the National Park.

The LCA is at a long distance (between 2 and 5 km) from Ffos-y-Fran. Morlais Hill and the enclosed nature of the area limits the view available of Ffos-y-Fran to the northern and higher elevated part of the LCA. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining very high value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA19 is assessed as Low.

20 Upper Abercanaid

Wooded valleys side located between the A470 and Mynydd Gethin/Mynydd Merthyr upland. Northern boundary defined by edge of Cwm Glo and southern boundary by an area of enclosed farmland.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 20 LCA20 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-007 <i>Blaen-canaid and Hendre-fawr</i> , MRTHR-HL-024 <i>Mid Taff Enclosed Valleyside</i> and MRTHR-HL-012 <i>Taff Valley Corridor</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-045 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>

LCA20 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side, lower west flank of the Afon Taf valley. Several watercourses create a strongly undulating terrain of enclosed valleys and ridges. Landcover is predominantly semi-natural broadleaved woodland with blocks of conifer plantation, open areas of grassland and bracken. Sparsely settled and hosting the BikePark Wales mountain bike centre. Former coal mines and ironstone quarries which cover the area have become naturally recolonised by woodland. The disused Abernant to Merthyr Tydfil Railway tunnel emerges in the Nant Canaid valley near to the site of the disused *Cyfarthfa Crossing* railway junction.

LCA20 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed character. Outward views limited by gaps in woodland. Attractive views to upland areas, the National Grid power lines and pylons are a visual detractor.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and fairly frequent access for recreation due to the network of footpaths and bridleways and bike trails throughout the wooded areas. Disused tramways and railway lines can be exploited as a means of connecting to the outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources. Light pollution from A470 corridor influences lower slopes.

LCA20 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by the main transport/communication corridor for Merthyr and remains of mineral extraction. Incorporated into the *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA, the LCA hosts *Cyfarthfa Balance Pond and Leat*, *Cwm Pit and Head of Railway* and *Vale of Neath Railway Cutting and Tunnel Portal* scheduled sites. The mine remains at Cwm Pit are the most complete coal mine complex in the Merthyr area showcasing developments from 18th Century to 19th Century extraction methods. Overlaps the *West Merthyr Flank* SLA.

LCA20 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for heritage and landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as high.

The majority of the LCA is more than 2 km from Ffos-y-Fran. Views of the surface mine are limited to the those of the restored backfill and the overburden mounds. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.

21 Morlais Castle

Upland valley with mixed use of agriculture, recreation and abandoned mineral workings. Boundary is defined by wooded Taf Fechan valley to the north and A465 road corridor to the south.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 21 LCA21 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-198 <i>Vaynor Farmlands</i> and MRTHR-VS-313 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-021 <i>Morlais Quarries</i> and MRTHR-HL-004 <i>Morlais</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-011 <i>Vaynor Farmlands</i> and MRTHR-CLS-015 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i>

LCA21 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Exposed upland dry karst valley. Landcover is a mosaic of predominantly improved and amenity grassland, semi-improved calcareous grassland, semi-improved acid grassland bracken and bare ground. There are also tree belts, hedgerows and a few blocks of broadleaved woodland. Settlement consists of scattered farms, a farm converted into a golf club and a cluster of dwellings at Ponsarn Close.

LCA21 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed character. There are attractive views to and from the Taf Fechan valley and the Vaynor uplands. There are detractive views towards the Pengarnddu retail

area. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality with strong distinctive features such as the remains of Morlais castle and cliffs formed from limestone extraction.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for recreation at Morlais Castle Golf Club. Infrequent access for occupations for land associated with Gyrnos Farm and Dan-y-Castell Farm. LCA is crossed by Ponsarn Road. Noise and movement from A465 road corridor a significant influence on the southern part of the LCA.

Night-time changes

Slight internal light sources from dwellings and rural businesses. Light pollution influenced by A465 road corridor and Pengarnddu retail area.

LCA21 Historic and cultural characteristics

Majority of LCA, excluding Morlais Castle Quarries is within the *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. Scheduled sites include *Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle Section*, *Morlais Castle* and *Morlais Hill Ring Cairn*. Characterized by a relict planned post-medieval landscape with drystone walled enclosures and an early industrial tramway linking ironworks to quarries. Notable landmarks include the Iron Age hillfort on Morlais Hill, the site of Morlais Castle from the 13th Century, and dramatic 19th-century changes that transformed the landscape into an industrial agricultural setting.

LCA21 Value and susceptibility to change

Within *Nant Morlais* and *Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA and designated for its historic qualities the landscape value is judged as high.

Open and expansive views towards Ffos-y-Fran from golf course and castle plateau but not from agricultural land. Majority of LCA at long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

High value and low susceptibility to change, sensitivity assessed as Low.

22 A470 Road Corridor

Dualled section of A470 including extent of earthworks, junctions and mitigation features from its junction with the A465 to where it enters the southern side of the study areas at Aberfan.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 22 LCA22 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-460 A470 Corridor
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 Merthyr Tydfil Core and MRTHR-HL-012 Taff Valley Corridor
Cultural Landscape Services	n/a

LCA22 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Road corridor crossing previously developed land and railway lines associated with mineral extraction. Business and retail parks have been developed at junctions with county roads. Sinuous alignment broadly follows the line of the former railways serving the Afon Taf Fechan valley. Mitigation planting to western side has integrated with the lower valley slopes, but the road severs the valley side from Merthyr Tydfil with few points of access across.

LCA22 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and open character in the northern part of the study area and more enclosed further south by mixed woodland plantations. Attractive views out to Afon Taf valley sides

along the line of the road or where gaps in planting allow. Detractive views towards Merthyr retail areas and across Merthyr to Ffos-y-Fran surface mine.

Tranquillity

Busy main road, frequent access as a strategic route linking mid Wales and the Heads of the Valleys to south Wales and Cardiff.

Night-time changes

Significant contributor to light pollution in combination with adjacent retail parks.

LCA22 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as the main transport corridor for the Merthyr area linking it to the ports at Cardiff and Barry. Remains of mineral extraction works buried by the development of the road. Within the Merthyr Tydfil HLA. No scheduled sites within the road corridor footprint.

Runs next to parts of Winchfawr, Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan, Merthyr West Flank and Pontygwaith SLAs.

LCA22 Value and susceptibility to change

Landscape value is judged as low.

The section at Rhydyar Leisure Park is at an intermediate distance (about 1.8 km from the site boundary), but the majority is at a long distance. Direct view of the overburden mounds and the restored backfill from where the A470 crosses the A465. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Low value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA 22 is assessed as Negligible.

23 Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre

Town centre, boundaries defined by the A4102 to the north, the A4060 and the East Merthyr reclaimed area from east to south, and the Afon Taf from south to west.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 23 LCA23 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-001 <i>AvonTaf</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA23 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side and active upland river system. Landcover is urban settlement of historic town centre, terraced streets and housing estates surrounding the centre. These surrounding areas include 18th and 19th Century sections at Pontmorlais, Thomas Town, and Twynyrodyn,. Complex area where the pattern of development has historically been controlled the exploitation of minerals and related industrial development. 20th Century settlement has been developed on reclaimed land at Penyard, Penyrheol, Mountain Hare and Ysgubor Newydd. Also, considerable redevelopment of the industrial parts near to the Afon Taf.

LCA23 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and enclosed character. Developed on a sloping basin which falls from east to west. Considered to be of low scenic quality and character.

Tranquillity

Busy town centre with frequent access for occupation habitation and recreation.

Night-time changes

Light pollution evenly spread throughout area with additional influence from A470 corridor retail areas.

LCA23 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by intensive industrial activity from mid-18th Century with 19th Century and 20th Century additions or redevelopments. Ribbon development along main roads infilled with housing estates and green spaces which are remnants of the mineral extraction industry. Within the *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. *Town Centre* and *Thomastown* are CAs. *Trevithick's Tunnel* is a scheduled site located to the south of the LCA.

LCA23 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its industrial heritage, the landscape value is judged as high.

Mountain Hare is near (less than 0.5 km) to Ffos-y-Fran site boundary, but the hill side facing the town has been restored to upland pasture since 2016. The remainder of the town centre is at an intermediate distance (between 0.5 to 2 km). The views of Ffos-y-Fran are limited by the rising ground and the reclaimed landscape of East Merthyr to the restored backfill slope. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA23 is judged as Negligible.

24 Penydarren

Penydarren ward, LCA boundary defined by A465 to north, Dowlais ward and Nant Morlais valley to east, Park and Town wards to south and Gurnos ward and Goitre valley to west

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 24 LCA24 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA24 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Urban and sub-urban settlement. Initially developed as a ribbon along the High Street connecting Merthyr Tydfil town centre and Dowlais. The earliest expansion consisted of the development of tightly packed terraced streets on the steeply rising ground north of the High Street that would have overlooked the Dowlais Iron Works site, the Great Tip and numerous working levels, shafts, pits tramways and railways. Later 20th Century expansion saw the development of suburban housing estates on reclaimed mineral workings or farms, the names of which are still associated with the housing estates.

LCA24 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Elevated undulating plateau. Landcover is predominantly urban and suburban settlement of residential buildings with small scale commercial elements. Medium scale open character.

Tranquillity

Active residential area with frequent access for occupation, habitation and recreation.

Night-time changes

Light pollution evenly spread throughout residential area with influence from A465 corridor.

LCA24 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by residential areas developed on farmland from 19th Century and rapidly expanded in the 20th Century. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. *Council Street and Urban Street* CAs represent the earliest example of Council housing in Merthyr Tydfil signifying a stage in the planned expansion of the Penydarren estate using a formal street pattern. No scheduled sites.

LCA24 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its industrial heritage, the landscape value is judged as high.

The LCA is at an intermediate distance from the Ffos-y-Fran boundary (between 0.5 and 2.0 km). The hill side facing the residential area has been restored to upland pasture since 2016, but many streets and open areas have direct views of the surface mine and OB1. The susceptibility to change is judged as medium.

Combining high value and medium susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA24 is judged as Medium.

25 Abercanaid

Troed-y-Rhiw ward, LCA boundary defined by A470 to west and a combination of A4054 and A4060 to the east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 25 LCA25 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-001 <i>AvonTaf</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-VS-917 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-012 <i>Taff Valley Corridor</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> , MRTHR-CLS-046, 047 and 048 <i>Merthyr West Flank</i>

LCA25 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side and upland river valley channel with industrial, retail and suburban settlement and areas of parkland and woodland. Land reclaimed from Upper Aber-canaid Pit and Gethin Pit and mines, working levels, canals and railways associated with them. Characterised as the main transport/communications corridor linking Merthyr Tydfil to the ports at Cardiff and Barry.

LCA25 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Lower valley side and floor. Landcover a mixture of building and recreational land reclaimed from former industries. Medium scale and enclosed character.

Tranquillity

Busy industrial and residential area with frequent access for occupation, habitation and recreation.

Night-time changes

Pentrebach Business Park and Merthyr Road industrial areas significant light pollution source.

LCA25 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as the main transport/communications corridor linking Merthyr Tydfil to the ports at Cardiff and Barry. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. *Abercanaid Haystack Boiler* is a scheduled site. 19th Century grid layout of terraced houses at Aber-canaid, set between the Afon Taf and Glamorganshire Canal, with a concentration of listed buildings at Nightingale Street.

LCA25 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its industrial heritage, the landscape value is judged as medium.

The LCA is at an intermediate to long distance from Ffos-y-Fran, at around 2 km away. The hill side visible from the area has been restored to upland pasture since 2016. A few places have a glimpse of the summits of OB1 and OB2. The susceptibility to change is judged as Negligible.

Combining medium value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA25 is judged as Negligible.

26 Mynydd Merthyr

Divided into Troed-y-Rhiw and Merthyr Vale wards. The boundary is defined by the Mynydd Merthyr/Pen Rhiwporthmon ridge to the west and enclosed upland pasture of Aberfan to the east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 26 LCA26 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-729 <i>Taff/Cynon Ridge</i> and MRTHR-VS-317 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-011 <i>Mynydd Merthyr and Mynydd Gethin</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-034 <i>Taff/Cynon Ridge</i> and MRTHR-CLS-017 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>

LCA26 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain terrain and upper rounded valley side. Exposed and unenclosed mountain pasture with engineered landscape formed from the former tips at Aberfan. Landcover is predominantly grassland with tracks and drainage systems with very little shrub or woodland cover. No settlement.

LCA26 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed. Open and uninterrupted views of Afon Taf valley. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality and of low landscape character. Attractive outward views of the coalfield plateau and detractive views of the outer edges of Merthyr Tydfil. Part of an important skyline between Taf and Cynon valleys.

Tranquillity

Remote. Infrequent access for occupation.

Night-time changes

Slight influence from A470 corridor and valley floor settlements but no internal light sources.

LCA26 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as unenclosed upland pasture and upland ridge straddling Taf and Cynon valleys, with some ritual and funerary Bronze Age cairns. Part of the *Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area* RHPG. Site of material removed from Aberfan colliery tips, engineered landscape.

No landscape designation but set between *Cynon Valley Northern Slopes* and *Pontygwaith* SLAs.

LCA26 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for heritage qualities, the landscape value is judged as high.

Long distance from Ffos-y-Fran (more than 2 km). View of overburden mounds and restored backfill. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high value and negligible susceptibility to change, landscape sensitivity is judged as Negligible.

27 Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland

Lower slopes and east facing flank of Mynydd Gethin within Troed-y-Rhiw ward. Boundary defined by Gethin plantation woodland to west and north, A470 road corridor to east and Nant Cwm-du to the south.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 27 LCA27 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-317 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-024 <i>Mid Taff Enclosed Valleyside</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-017 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>

LCA27 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Enclosed upland valley side. Landcover is a predominantly pasture with blocks of deciduous woodland, bracken and rough grassland on steep valley sides. Fields are bounded by hedges with trees. Engineered landscape of field and planting blocks with drainage channels on the site of Castle Pit tramway and tips.

LCA27 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and enclosed character. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality with attractive and detractive views of valley sides and valley floor. Low landscape character. Scattered rural dwellings and businesses.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and habitation. Influenced by busy A470 corridor.

Night-time changes

Slight influence from A470 corridor and valley floor settlements, with very few internal light sources.

LCA27 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as valley-side mineral field. Minor industrial features also characteristic of the area but there are no heritage designations or scheduled sites.

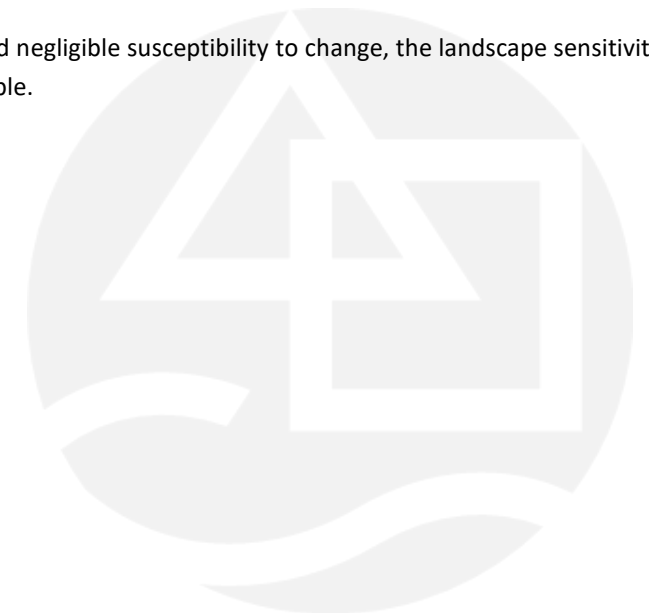
Within *Merthyr West Flank* SLA.

LCA27 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its local landscape qualities, the value is judged as medium.

Long distance from Ffos-y-Fran (more than 2 km). View of overburden mounds from fields where gaps in boundary vegetation allow. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity of LCA17 is judged as Negligible.



28 Aberfan Valley Side

Divided into Troed-y-Rhiw and Merthyr Vale wards, the boundary is defined by the unenclosed uplands to the west, Nant Cwm-du to the north and A470 road corridor to the east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 28 LCA28 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-317 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-011 <i>Mynydd Merthyr and Mynydd Gethin</i> and MRTHR-HL-024 <i>Mid Taff Enclosed Valleyside</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-017 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>

LCA28 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Open and rounded upland glacial valleys side. Features engineered landscape at site of Aberfan colliery tips and slide area and stone quarry tips. Landform is predominantly pasture with patches of bracken, blocks of woodland and scattered rural dwellings.

LCA28 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and of mixed character. Lower slopes enclosed whereas rounded area of CRoW open access exposed. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality and of low landscape character. There are attractive view of the Afon Taf valley sides and detractive views of the Afon Taf valley floor settlements.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and recreation. Noise and movement influence from A470 road corridor.

Night-time changes

Bery few internal light sources. Influence from A470 corridor and valley floor settlements.

LCA28 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as a mixture of unenclosed upland pasture and valley side mineral extraction. Nationally important site of Aberfan colliery tips and slide landscape and features the restored and engineered landscape after removal of tips. Wholly within the *Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area* RHPG.

No landscape designation but set in-between *Cynon Valley Northern Slopes* and *Pontygwaith* SLAs.

LCA28 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its nationally important disaster, the landscape value is judged as very high.

It is a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran (more than 2 km). A view is limited to that of the overburden mounds. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining very high landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.

29 Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation

Majority within Dowlais Ward with western and southern fringes within Penydarren and Town. Northern boundary is defined by dense residential areas of Penydarren and Dowlais and southern boundary by the dualled A4060. The A4102 divides the LCA from Merthyr Tydfil town centre.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 29 LCA29 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-VS-876 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-008 <i>East Merthyr</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-CLS-040 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i>

LCA29 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

A significant part of the East Merthyr Reclamation of the site of Dowlais Iron Works, Dowlais Great Tip, Goat Mill and Railway yards and terminals. Industrial buildings. Land cover is a mixture of industrial buildings and landscaped parks with blocks of woodland. A small sub urban housing estate is located at Caeharris.

LCA29 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open character. Restored landscape provides an eastern backdrop to areas of modern industry on the site of the Iron Works and railway system. Deemed to be of low

scenic quality and landscape character. Attractive view outward of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park available, but detractive view of industrial and retail areas.

Tranquillity

Busy landscape with frequent movement and high noise levels from occupation transport and residential uses.

Night-time changes

Constant spread of light source and pollution that diminishes up the restored landscape and parkland areas that make up the south-east flank.

LCA29 Historic and cultural characteristics

Important and rare example of relict industrial landscape associated with the iron industry. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and part of *Dowlais* CA within LCA. No scheduled sites, the remains of the Iron Works have been buried.

LCA29 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its industrial heritage, the landscape value is judged as high.

The majority of LCA near to Ffos-y-Fran and next to the area of surface mine gradually restored since 2016. The view is limited by rising landform to that of the edges of the surface mine site, restored backfill and summit of overburden mound. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining high landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

30 Pant Farmland

Within Pant ward. The boundary is defined by the Afon Taf Fechan wooded valley to the north, the unenclosed uplands of Llangyndir to the east and the built-up outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil to the south and west.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 30 LCA30 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-313 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-003 <i>Taff Fechan Valley</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-015 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i>

LCA30 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Dry limestone valley side slopes and upland plateau farmland between built up areas and open moorland. Land cover is predominantly pastoral grassland bounded by stone walls and hedgerows. Scattered rural businesses with utility compounds and power lines. Relics of limestone quarries and a branch of the Brecon and Merthyr railway.

LCA30 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open character. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character. There are attractive view of Vaynor uplands and Afon Taf Fechan valley and detractive views of Pengarnddu and retail parks at outskirts of Merthyr.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation but influenced by neighbouring built up areas.

Night-time changes

Little internal light source but strongly influenced by neighbouring retail parks and settlement.

LCA30 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by dispersed agricultural settlement and enclosed fields. Remains of Brecon and Merthyr Railway line and old quarries. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. No scheduled sites.

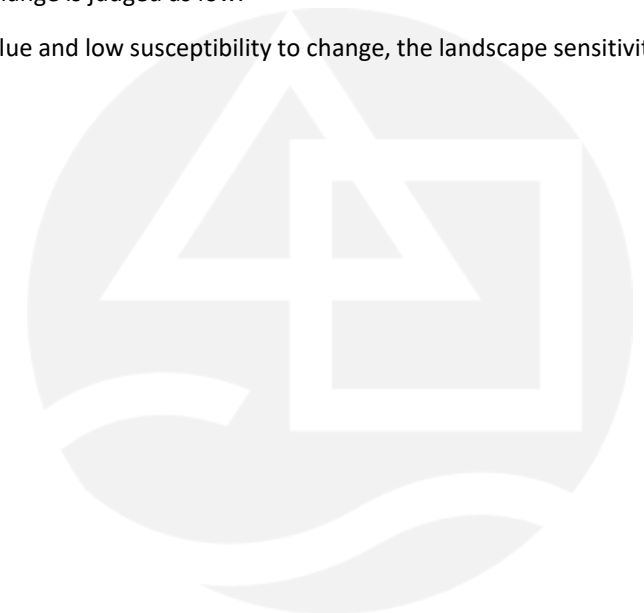
Within *Nant Morlais* and *Taf Fechan* SLA.

LCA30 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage and landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as high.

The majority of the LCA is at a long distance from Ffos-y-Fran (more than 2 km). There is a view available of the overburden mounds, restored backfill slope and the tops of mine walls. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining high landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.



31 Aberfan Farmland

Within Merthyr Vale ward. Boundary is defined by upland plantation ridge to the west, Aberfan RHPG to the north and the A470 corridor to the east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 31 LCA31 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-317 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-023 <i>Lower Taff Enclosed Valleysides</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-017 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>

LCA31 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain steep valley side. Landcover is predominantly pastoral fields with patches of bracken and rough grassland, fragmented hedgerows and trees and scattered rural businesses.

LCA31 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed by plantations to east and west. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality and low character. There are attractive views of the Afon Taf valley sides and detractive views of the Afon Taf valley floor settlements.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and influenced by noise from the A470 corridor and valley floor settlements.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources. Influenced by A470 corridor and valley floor settlements. Light pollution diminishes at higher elevations.

LCA31 Historic and cultural characteristics

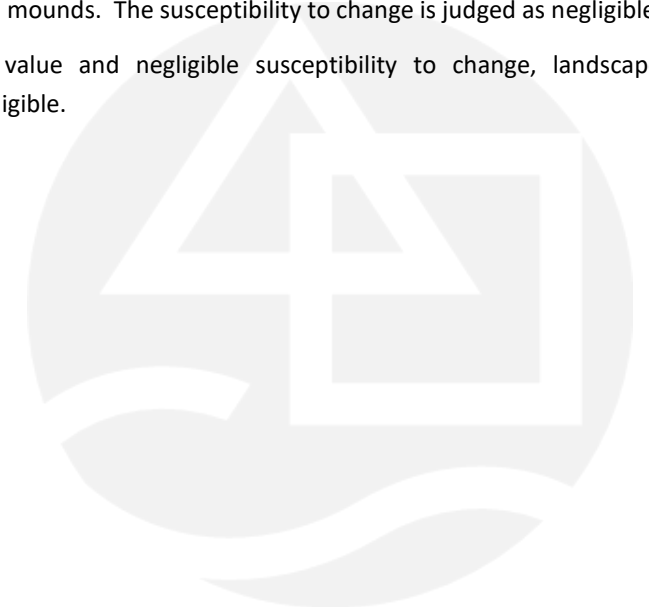
Characterised by irregular shaped fields. It overlaps part of *Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area* RHPG and provides a backdrop to the site of the tips and slide area and cemetery. Near to Aberfan cemetery but separated from it by A470. No scheduled sites.

LCA31 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its association with the Aberfan disaster, the landscape value is judged as high.

A long distance to Ffos-y-Fran (more than 5 km for the majority of the LCA). The view limited to that of overburden mounds. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



32 Cwmlacks Farmland

Predominantly within Troed-y-Rhiw ward, with northern fringe within Town. Boundary defined by dualled A4060 and Pentrebach built-up area to the west, Bogey Road and Ffos-y-Fran surface mine to the north and unenclosed uplands of Merthyr Common to the east and south.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 32 LCA32 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-876 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i> and MRTHR-VS317 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-010 <i>Graweth</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-041 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i> and MRTHR-CLS-016 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i>

LCA32 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side distinct from Afon Taf valley floor and rolling upland ridges. Predominantly pastoral grassland and scrub woodland on land reclaimed from mineral extraction workings and quarries. Scattered rural dwellings and businesses.

LCA32 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open aspect. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and landscape character. Attractive views outward of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Afon Taf valley uplands, and detractive views towards Merthyr Tydfil.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and habitation. Influenced by Neighbouring built-up areas, A4060 and Bogey Road.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources but influenced by Merthyr Tydfil town centre and Pentrebach Business Park.

LCA32 Historic and cultural characteristics

Disturbed landform with remains of mineral extraction including working levels, tips, pits, inclines and tramways. Partially restored around site of Clyn-mil Pond. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. No scheduled sites.

LCA32 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated as part of the industrial landscape, the landscape value is judged as medium.

Part near to Ffos-y-Fran (less than 0.5 km), but the majority is at an intermediate distance (between 0.5 and 2 km). The view of Ffos-y-Fran available is limited by the rising ground to that of the restored backfill slope and the overburden mounds. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining medium value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

33 Dowlais

Within Dowlais ward. Boundary defined by A465 Heads of the Valleys road corridor to north, dualled A4060 and reclaimed Dowlais Iron Works land to south and Nant Morlais valley between Dowlais and Penydarren to the east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 33 LCA33 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-009 <i>Pen March</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>

LCA33 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau and valley side. The landcover is an equal mixture of urban settlement and open space/parkland on reclaimed land such as that associated with the Ivor Iron Works, Dowlais Top reservoir and Cwm Rhyd-y-Bedd tips and working levels.

LCA33 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and enclosed aspect. Street layouts are formal, and grid based with terraced housing set into the steeply sloping ground. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and landscape character. There are attractive views out to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Afon Taf valleys sides, and also detractive views towards commercial areas and to Ffos-y-Fran surface mine.

Tranquillity

Active with frequent movement for occupation and habitation, with influence from A465 and A4060 road corridor.

Night-time changes

Even spread of internal light source throughout streets with additional influence from the A465 corridor and Pengarnddu Business Park.

LCA33 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by the remains associated with internationally important early iron works surrounded by settlement. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA and includes part of *Dowlais CA*. There are no scheduled sites.

LCA33 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its industrial heritage, the landscape value is judged as high.

The High Street is near to Ffos-y-Fran (less than 0.5 km), and the majority is at an intermediate distance (between 0.5 and 2 km). Views of surface mine activities and OB1 available. The susceptibility to change is judged as medium.

Combining high landscape value and medium susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Medium.

34 Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach

Settlements in Afon Taf valley floor area within Troed-y-Rhiw ward. Boundary defined by dualled A4060 and A470 road corridors to west, steeply rising flank of Mynydd y Capel to the east and limit of settlement in the Afon Taf valley to the south

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 34 LCA34 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-001 <i>AvonTaf</i> and MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-VS-876 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-012 <i>Taff Valley Corridor</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-006 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-CLS-041 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i>

LCA34 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Valley floor built-up land. Landcover is a mixture of industrial and residential areas with some open space and woodland alongside the Afon Taf and fringes to industrial areas.

LCA34 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and enclosed by valley sides and woodland. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and landscape character. There are attractive views out towards the uplands of the Afon Taf valley but limited by woodland.

Tranquillity

Busy area with frequent access for occupation and habitation.

Night-time changes

Even spread of internal light sources with influence from road corridors.

LCA34 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as the main transport and communications link between the industrial areas of Merthyr and the docks of Cardiff and Barry. Includes Glamorganshire Canal and Taff Vale railway. Trevithick's Tunnels scheduled site and overlaps part of *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA.

LCA34 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its industrial heritage, landscape value is judged as medium.

Linear character area, A4060 road corridor section near to Ffos-y-Fran, restored landscape between Mountain Hare and Pentrebach at an intermediate distance. Settlements of Pentrebach and Troedyrhiw at long distance. View of Ffos-y-Fran limited by rising terrain to restored backfill. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



35 Pant and Pengarnddu

Within Pant ward. Settlement, Industry and Business Park to north of A465. Northern boundary defined by marginal land and limit of settlement.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 35 LCA35 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Common</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-122 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-VS-313 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-005 <i>Merthyr Tydfil Core</i> and MRTHR-HL-009 <i>Pen March</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-003 <i>Merthyr Tydfil</i> and MRTHR-CLS-015 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i>

LCA35 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland glacial valley slope. Mosaic of suburban residential and business/retail with open space and irregularly shaped fields at the head of the Nant Morlais valley. Pengarnddu Business Park developed on site of ironstone/limestone quarries with 20th Century expansion of Merthyr being developed on farmland in between mineral extraction sites and railway lines.

LCA35 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of mixed aspect. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character. There are attractive outward views towards Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and detractive view of industrial areas within the LCA.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for habitation and occupation, with significant influence from A465 road corridor.

Night-time changes

Pentrebach business park significant contributor to light pollution, with an even source from street lighting throughout the remaining area.

LCA35 Historic and cultural characteristics

Contains water management systems that are part of the Dowlais Free Drainage System that managed water supply to the iron works. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. No scheduled sites. Upland around Blaen Morlais Farm and Cemetery within *Nant Morlais and Cwm Taf Fechan* SLA.

LCA35 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage qualities, and margins within a landscape designation, the landscape value is judged as high.

Intermediate distance from Ffos-y-Fran. Pengarnddu ridge and A465 limits views of Ffos-y-Fran to higher elevations with open southward aspect. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining high landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

36 Merthyr Common and Cilfach yr Encil

Section of Merthyr Common to the south of Ffos-y-Fran and within Troed-y-Rhiw ward. Upland Moorland. Boundary defined by limit of CRoW open access land on upland ridge between Afon Taf and Afon Bargoed Taf valleys.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 36 LCA36 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i> and MRTHR-GL-018 <i>Craig Penddeugae</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-317 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i> and MRTHR-VS-452 <i>Merthyr Common</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-010 <i>Graweth</i> and MRTHR-HL-014 <i>Cefn-y-Fan</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-016 <i>Mid Taff Valley</i> and MRTHR-CLS-024 <i>Merthyr Common</i>

LCA36 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau between glacial mountain valleys. Landcover is predominantly upland acid grassland with patches of bracken and rush, rock outcrops and remains of small quarries. Scattered rural settlements at Cilfach-yr-encil.

LCA36 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open aspect. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and moderate landscape character. There are attractive views out towards upland areas across the Afon Taf and Bargoed Taf valleys. Ffos-y-Fran and Merthyr Tydfil are detractors to the view.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and recreation and influenced by Bogey Road and Ffos-y-Fran.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources. Slight influence from Merthyr Tydfil and outlying settlements.

LCA36 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by established use for livestock grazing. Prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments along the ridge and featuring post-medieval industrial extractive sites. Partly within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. *Deserted Iron Mining Village at Ffos-y-Fran, Sarn Howell Pond and Watercourses* and *Merthyr Common Round Cairns* scheduled sites.

LCA36 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage features, the landscape value is judged as high.

Deserted village and Sarn Howell watercourses are next to the Ffos-y-Fran site. North facing flank of Merthyr Common is near to the southernmost overburden mound. The remainder of the ridge is at an intermediate to long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. The susceptibility to change is judged as medium.

Combining high landscape value and medium susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Medium.

37 Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine

Surface mine site including restored backfill, mine void and walls, overburden mounds, processing and workshop area, railway terminal and loading area and office buildings.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 37 LCA37 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i> and MRTHR-GL-018 <i>Craig Penddeugae</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-355 <i>Ffos-y-Fran Merthyr Upper East Flank</i> , MRTHR-VS-876 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i> and CYNON-VS-005 <i>Ffos-y-Fran Railhead</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-008 <i>East Merthyr</i> and CYNON-HL-831 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-018 <i>Ffos-y-Fran Merthyr Upper East Flank</i> MRTHR-CLS-040 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i> and CYNON-CLS-005 <i>Ffos-y-Fran Railhead</i>

LCA37 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Excavation and engineered overburden mounds and partially restored landform. Landcover of restored area and stable overburden mounds is upland grassland. Elsewhere is predominantly bare ground of tipped material, working levels, haul roads and ancillary mine buildings and structures including rail head terminal and offices. Surface water management system of drains, ponds and soakaways.

LCA37 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed aspect. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and of moderate landscape character. Rapidly changing extractive landscape. Attractive views out towards upland ridges across Afon Taf and Bargoed Taf valleys and also towards Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Tranquillity

Active during coal extraction. Infrequent access for restoration of landform.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources limited as required to working areas.

LCA37 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by surviving extractive land use and related surface and ground water management. Within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. Scheduled sites excluded from LCA. Last surface coal mine in Wales.

LCA37 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage qualities, landscape value is judged as medium.

Directly impacted by restoration works. LCA has been a rapidly changing industrial landscape during the operation of the mine. Before surface mining operations began, the landscape was one of derelict mineral extraction with working levels, shafts, pits, tips, quarries, railways and tramways. Part of the East Merthyr land reclamation project. Susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining medium landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape value is assessed as Low.

38 Trecatti Landfill Site

Straddling the county boundary between Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly, the western part is within Dowlais ward, and the eastern within Twyn Carno ward. Northern boundary defined by A465 and A4060. Southern boundary defined by Ffos-y-Fran and Fochriw Road. Previously restored quarry landform and final restoration of Trecatty open cast mine.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 38 LCA38 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-008 <i>Dowlais Top</i> and CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i> and CYNON-LH-109 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-876 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i> and CYNON-VS-361 <i>Rhoslas</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-008 <i>East Merthyr</i> and CYNON-HL-866 <i>Blaen Rhymni</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-040 <i>Merthyr East Flank</i> and CYNON-CLS-048 <i>Rhoslas</i>

LCA38 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley side, engineered landform with surface drainage grips and uniform grassland cover. Excavation set within restored hillside gradually being infilled with domestic waste. Surface water management system and settling ponds.

LCA38 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open aspect. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and landscape character. There are attractive outward views northward towards Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and detractive views of A465 road corridor industry and Ffos-y-Fran.

Tranquillity

Active landfill site. Frequent access for occupation and influenced by A465 road corridor.

Night-time changes

Few internal light sources out of working hours. Light pollution from Pengarnddu Business Park and A465 corridor.

LCA38 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by surviving extractive land use and related surface and ground water management. Partly within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. No scheduled sites.

LCA38 Value and susceptibility to change

Partly designated for its heritage, landscape value is judged as medium.

Next to surface coal mine and northernmost overburden mound. Susceptibility to change judged as low.

Combining medium landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

39 Mynydd y Capel

Within Merthyr Vale and Bedlinog wards. Upland moorland plateau. Boundary defined by CRoW open access upland and valleys sides and areas of enclosed upland pasture with prehistoric sites.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 39 LCA39 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-018 <i>Craig Ppenddeugae</i> and MRTHR-GL-015 <i>Cwm Cothi</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-452 <i>Merthyr Common</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-014 <i>Cefn-y-Fan</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-024 <i>Merthyr Common</i>

LCA39 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Ridge and upland valley sides between Afon Taf and Bargoed Taf valleys. Landcover predominantly upland acid grassland and heath with patches of bracken, marsh and improved pasture. No settlements.

LCA39 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open aspect. Deemed to be of low scenic quality and of moderate landscape character. There are attractive outward views towards other upland ridges across the Afon Taf and Bargoed Taf valleys, and detractive outward views of the valley settlements.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and recreation.

Night-time changes

No internal light source. Slight influence from settlements in valley floor.

LCA39 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as marginal upland with established use for livestock grazing. Many prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments that are grouped together as scheduled sites. *Cefn Merthyr Round cairns* scheduled site. Remains of quarries and *Forest Chapel*.

LCA39 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage and with landscape designation to its east and west flanks, landscape value is judged as medium.

Long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View limited to that of overburden mounds from ridges and north facing slopes. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.

40 Cwm Bargoed

West flank of valley is within Troed-y-Rhiw ward, east flank within Bedlinog ward and head of valley within Town ward. Boundary defined by valley ridges and settlement to the south.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 40 LCA40 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-018 <i>Craig Penndeugae</i> , MRTHR-GL-017 <i>Cwm Bargoed</i> and MRTHR-GL-019 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-506 <i>Upper Taff Bargoed Valley</i> and MRTHR-VS-101 <i>Lower Taff Bargoed Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-026 <i>Cwm Golau and Cwm Bargoed West</i> and MRTHR-HL-022 <i>Bargoed Taff and Bedlinog Corridor</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-028 <i>Upper Taff Bargoed Valley</i> and MRTHR-CLS-001 <i>Lower Taff Bargoed Valley</i>

LCA40 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Glacial mountain valley. Landcover is a mixture of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, acid grassland, bracken on steep slopes and scattered rural dwellings and businesses. The Taf Bargoed railway branch is the main route for the transport of coal from Ffos-y-Fran.

LCA40 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed aspect. Deemed to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character. Attractive views of upland valley sides and detractive views of ffos-y-Fran from the head of the valley.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for occupation near to Bogey Road, elsewhere fairly infrequent and tranquil.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light source, slight influence at south of LCA from Bedlinog, and north of LCA at Cwm Bargoed railway terminal and Ffos-y-Fran.

LCA40 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as a piecemeal encroachment into the surrounding common land with a diverse and fragmented land cover. *Sarn Howell Pond and Watercourses* scheduled site located between Bogey Road and Cwm Bargoed railway line. Northern part of LCA within *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA.

LCA40 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage and part of *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed* SLA, landscape value is judged as high.

Sarn Howell scheduled site is next to Ffos-y-Fran. Head of Cwm Bargoed and Cwm Golau are next to the southernmost overburden mound. Remainder of LCA at intermediate to long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View limited to that of overburden mounds. Susceptibility to change judged as medium.

Combining high landscape value and medium susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Medium.

41 Penddeugae and Nant-y-fedw Enclosed Farmland

Within Bedlinog ward Boundary defined by open upland to the west, enclosed valley to the north and Afon Bargoed Taf and Bedlinog to the east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 41 LCA41 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-018 <i>Craig Penddeugae</i> and MRTHR-GL-017 <i>Cwm Bargoed</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-45 <i>Merthyr Common</i> and MRTHR-VS-101 <i>Lower Taff Bargoed Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-026 <i>Cwm Golau and Bwm Bargoed West</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-024 <i>Merthyr Common</i> and MRTHR-CLS-001 <i>Lower Taff Bargoed Valley</i>

LCA41 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau and glacial valley side less steep than Cwm Bargoed to the north. Landcover is predominantly improved grassland fields enclosed by hedgerows and blocks of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Scattered rural dwellings and businesses, and where slopes are steep grassland recedes into areas of bracken and scrub woodland.

LCA41 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and of mixed aspect, open at saddle between the hills and enclosed at the steeper valley side. Deemed to be of low to moderate scenic quality and moderate landscape character. There are attractive outward views to other upland ridges and detractive views of valley settlements.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and habitation.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light source, slight influence from Bedlinog/Cwmfelin mitigated by woodland to Bargoed Taf valley side.

LCA41 Historic and cultural characteristics

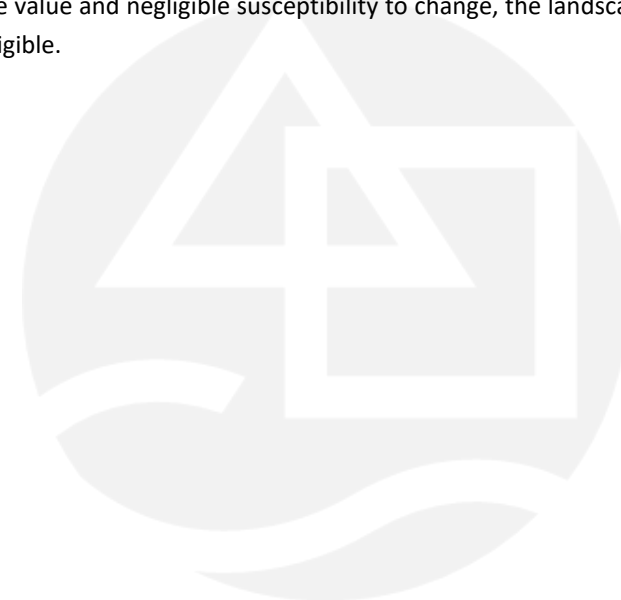
No scheduled sites. Within *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed* SLA.

LCA41 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as medium.

Long distance to Ffos-y-Fran. View of Ffos-y-Fran limited to the overburden mounds. Susceptibility to change judged as negligible.

Combining medium landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



42 Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland

Extensive upland moorland plateau straddling parts of the counties of Powys, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 42 LCA42 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-313 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i> , BRCKN-VS-372 <i>Mynydd Llangyndir and Mynydd Llangattock</i> , CYNON-VS-361 <i>Rhoslas</i> and BLNGW-VS-399 <i>Mynydd Llangyndir</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-019 <i>Twynau Gwynion</i> , MRTHR-HL-009 <i>Pen March</i> , BRCKN-HL-133 <i>Mynydd Llangyndir</i> , CYNON-HL-706 <i>Pen March</i> and BLNGW-HL-001 <i>Trefil Ddu</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-015 <i>Merthyr North Flank</i> , BRCKN-CLS-039 <i>Mynydd Llangyndir and Mynydd Llangattock</i> , CYNON-CLS-047 <i>Rhoslas</i> and BLNGW-CLS-016 <i>Mynydd Llangyndir</i>

LCA42 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Undulating upland terrain and plateau, landcover consisting of a mosaic of dry heath and acid grassland with marsh, blanket bog and bracken, rock outcrops and scree.

LCA42 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Very large scale and exposed aspect. Considered of high scenic quality and landscape character. Attractive views of Usk valley and Black Mountain uplands. Detractive views of industrial areas along A465 corridor.

Tranquillity

No settlement. Remote and tranquil upland. Southern edge is near to A465 Heads of The Valleys. Infrequent access for recreation or occupation, Cambrian Way promoted route skirts the northern boundary of the LCA.

Night-time changes

No internal light sources, southern part influenced by light pollution from A465 road corridor and industrial areas.

LCA42 Historic and cultural characteristics

Remnants of large-scale limestone quarries at Twynau Gwynion, Cwar yr Ystrad, Cwar yr Hendre and Cwar Blaen-dyffryn. South-western flank within the MTCBC local authority boundary part of *Merthyr Tydfil* HLA. Scheduled sites represented by early prehistoric settlement and land use such as hut circles, enclosed settlements, burial and ritual sites.

Northern part within National Park, International Dark Sky Status.

LCA42 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as very high.

South-western corner at intermediate distance from Ffos-y-Fran. Majority at long distance. The area is exposed and experiences uninterrupted views of the overburden mounds and backfill slopes. Susceptibility to change judged as medium.

Combining very high landscape value and medium susceptibility to change, landscape sensitivity is assessed as Medium.

43 Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland

Within Bedlinog ward. Boundary defined by limit of enclosed pasture north of Nant Llwynog and enclosed by upland common and steep valley sides.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 43 LCA43 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-019 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-119 <i>Gelligaer Farmlands</i> and MRTHR-VS-101 <i>Lower Taff Bargoed Valley</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-016 <i>Cwm Bargoed East</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-002 <i>Gelligaer Farmlands</i> and MRTHR-CLS-001 <i>Lower Taff Bargoed Valley</i>

LCA43 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau and valley side. Scattered rural farm dwellings and businesses. Landcover is predominantly Improved grassland pasture bounded by stock proof fencing and clipped hedges, with some stone walling.

LCA43 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and open aspect at higher elevation, becoming enclosed at the Nant Llwynog valley side. Moderate scenic quality and high to moderate landscape character. Attractive views towards uplands and detractive views towards Bedlinog and scattered farms.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for occupation and habitation.

Night-time changes

Little internal light source, slight influence from Bedlinog/Cwmfelin.

LCA43 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as enclosed pasture with dispersed agricultural settlement. Part of *Gelli-gaer Common* HLA. Features remains of medieval house platforms scheduled sites.

Within *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed* SLA.

LCA43 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage and landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as high.

Long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of overburden tips from western flank of LCA, near to the railway. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland

Mostly within Fochriw ward with northern fringe within Twyn Carno ward. Upland plateau grazing. Boundary defined by Ffos-y-Fran and Trecatti to the west, Cwm-carno valley and Rhymney valley to north and east. Mynydd Fochriw and Fochriw settlement define the southern boundary.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 44 LCA44 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	CYNON-LH-112 <i>Rhoslas</i>
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-361 <i>Rhoslas</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-831 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-361 <i>Rhoslas</i>

LCA44 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Head of glacial mountain valley, upland consisting of rough pasture. Strongly undulating with industrial mineral extraction past with surface water management system and supply. Cover is a mosaic of heath and grassland. No settlement.

LCA44 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed aspect. Considered of high scenic quality with attractive outward views Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Afon Bargoed and Afon Rhymney valley uplands. Visual detractors include Ffos-y-Fran and A465 road corridor.

Tranquillity

Frequent access along roads connecting Taf to Rhymni valleys, and Heads of the Valleys to Bargoed Taf valley. Infrequent access for recreation and occupation throughout open areas. Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk crosses eastern flank of LCA.

Night-time changes

No internal light sources. Some influence from Cwm Bargoed rail terminal.

LCA44 Historic and cultural characteristics

Represents an increasingly rare survival of an area of upland moor with a diverse archaeological resource demonstrating a long continuity of human occupation and activity. *Rhaslas Pond South Dam* sole scheduled site within LCA. Several dismantled railways and tramways, disused mines and tips.

LCA44 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its heritage, the landscape value is judged as medium.

Next to eastern boundary of Ffos-y-Fran, majority of LCA is at an intermediate distance. Receiving landscape one of abandoned mineral workings. View of Ffos-y-Fran limited to the overburden mounds, with glimpses of the restored backfill available. Susceptibility to change judged as low.

Combining medium landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

45 Cwm Carno

Predominantly within Twyn Carno ward with southern part in Pontlloftyn ward. Boundary defined by A465 corridor to north, Rhymni settlement to the east and Gelligaer unenclosed common to south and west.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 45 LCA45 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	CYNON-LH-109 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-209 <i>West of Rhymney</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-866 <i>Blaen Rhymni</i> and CYNON-HL-831 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-025 <i>West of Rhymney</i>

LCA45 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Hillside and scarp slope mosaic. Enclosed fields and semi-improved rough pasture on eastern side of Rhymney Ridgeway. Scattered rural settlements/businesses.

LCA45 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and open aspect. Attractive views of undeveloped upland areas and detractive views of industrial areas developed alongside A465 road corridor. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation/habitation and recreation. Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk crosses through this LCA.

Night-time changes

Significantly influenced by Rhymni built up areas and A465 road corridor.

LCA45 Historic and cultural characteristics

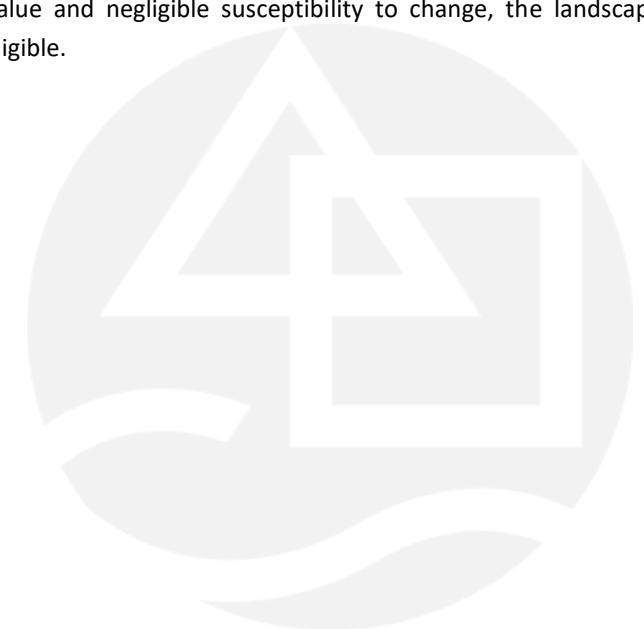
Partially restored mineral extraction landscape. Several disused tips, coal and limestone working levels and railways/tramways. No historic landscape designation or scheduled sites.

LCA45 Value and susceptibility to change

Non designated land crossed by promoted route, the landscape value is judged as low.

Intermediate to long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. A view of northernmost overburden tip only, available from open areas near to A465 road at northern edge of LCA. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining low landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



46 Blaen Rhymni

Within Twyn Carno ward in Caerphilly. Boundary is defined by A465 corridor and settlements to the south and unenclosed uplands to west, north and east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 46 LCA46 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-361 <i>Rhoslas</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL- <i>Blaen Rhymni</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-047 <i>Rhoslas</i>

LCA42 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau and head of Afon Rhymni valley. Strongly undulating landform with irregularly shaped fields, reservoirs and woodland. Scattered rural dwellings and businesses.

LCA46 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed aspect. Attractive views out towards woodlands and detractive views towards A465 and industrial areas. Considered of high scenic with visual detractors and of moderate landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for habitation, occupation and recreation. Influenced by A465 road corridor.

Night-time changes

Little internal light source. Influenced by A465 road corridor and Tafarnaubach industrial estate.

LCA46 Historic and cultural characteristics

No historic landscape designation or scheduled sites. Some sites of former mineral extraction, and reservoirs to supply former iron works.

Within *Upper Rhymney Valley* SLA and next to boundary of National Park.

LCA46 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its landscape qualities, landscape value is judged as medium.

Long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View limited to that of part of the backfill slope and overburden mounds. Susceptibility to change judged as low.

Combining medium landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.



47 Fochriw

Settlement in Fochriw ward. Boundary defined by limits of modern and historic settlement.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 47 LCA47 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-785 <i>Parc Cwm Darran</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-602 <i>Nant Bargoed Rhymni</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-096 <i>Parc Cwm Darran</i>

LCA47 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Head of glaciated mountain valley. Settlement of dispersed housing estates sited next to the disused Brecon and Merthyr Railway. Landcover is predominantly buildings with areas of amenity grassland and planting.

LCA47 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of open aspect. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character. There are attractive views of the surrounding valley uplands and detractive views of valley settlements.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for habitation and occupation.

Night-time changes

Even distribution of light sources throughout built-up area, with light pollution influence from Rhymni.

LCA47 Historic and cultural characteristics

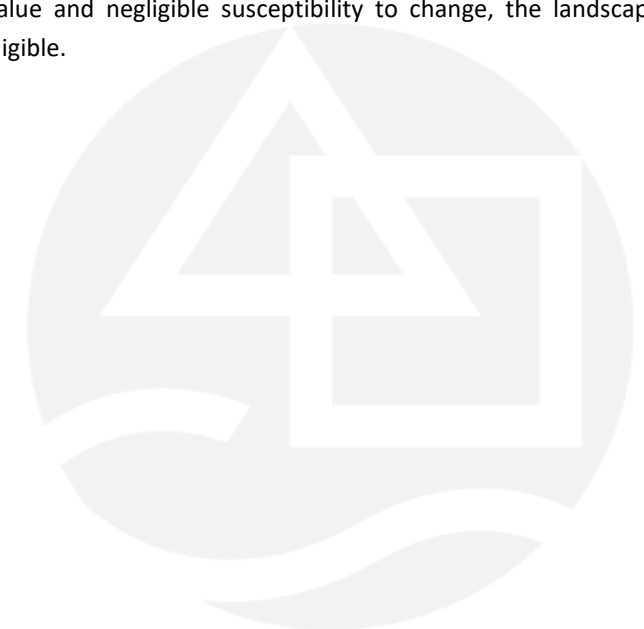
Little remains of the historic settlement except for a few terraced houses alongside Brook Row. No historic landscape designation or scheduled sites.

LCA47 Value and susceptibility to change

Non designated land, landscape value is judged as low.

Intermediate distance from Ffos-y-Fran. The view limited to northernmost and easternmost overburden mounds from eastern side of the Afon Bargoed Rhymni valley. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining low landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw

Upland ridge forming boundaries to several communities including Bedlinog, Fochriw and Deri. Boundary defined by limit of CRow open access land.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 48 LCA48 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	MRTHR-GL-019 <i>Gelligaer Common</i> and CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	MRTHR-LH-007 <i>Gelligaer, Merthyr and Mynydd y Capel Commons</i> and CYNON-LH-112 <i>Rhoslas</i>
Visual and Sensory	MRTHR-VS-858 <i>Gelligaer Common</i> and CYNON-VS-404 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Historic Landscape	MRTHR-HL-015 <i>Gelligaer Common (West)</i> and CYNON-HL-831 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	MRTHR-CLS-039 <i>Gelligaer Common</i> and CYNON-CLS-052 <i>Gelligaer Common</i>

LCA48 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland hill and plateau. Landcover is a mosaic of open rough pasture, heathland and moorland. There are no settlements.

LCA48 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed aspect. Detractive views of valley settlements and attractive views of valley uplands. Considered to be of high scenic quality and moderate landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation, and recreation. The common is crossed by several minor roads, bridleways and footpaths.

Night-time changes

No internal light sources. Some influence from valley settlements.

LCA48 Historic and cultural characteristics

Rich diversity of archaeological sites including Bronze Age ritual and burial sites, an assumed Roman camp and road, and medieval house platforms. Within *Gelli-gaer Common* HLA.

Merthyr Tydfil side of ridge is within *Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed* SLA and Caerphilly side of ridge is within *Gelligaer* SLA.

LCA48 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its historic and landscape qualities, landscape value is judged as high.

Strongly undulating landform. Intermediate to long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of parts of restored backfill and overburden mounds limited to the summit, northern and western facing flanks of Mynydd Fochriw. Susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining high landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

49 Rhymni

Settlement of Rhymni made up of parts of Twyn Carno, Pontlloftyn, St Davids, Moriah and Abertysswg wards. Boundary defined by settlement limits.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 49 LCA49 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-193 <i>Rhymney</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-701 <i>Rhymney Valley</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-022 <i>Rhymney</i>

LCA49 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Settlement broadly dispersed to eastern side of Afon Rhymni valley. Landcover is predominantly built land with woodland plantations in valley floor to screen views of industrial areas.

LCA49 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and enclosed aspect. Attractive views of valley upland and detractive views of valley settlement and industry. Considered to be of low scenic quality and of moderate landscape character.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for habitation and occupation.

Night-time changes

Significant light source from Industrial estates that are broadly to the west side of the Afon Rhymni. Influence from A465 corridor and Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate.

LCA49 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by industrial activity and urban growth along the length of the valley. No historic landscape designation. Includes *Bute Town* and *Rhymney Town* CAs. No scheduled sites within LCA.

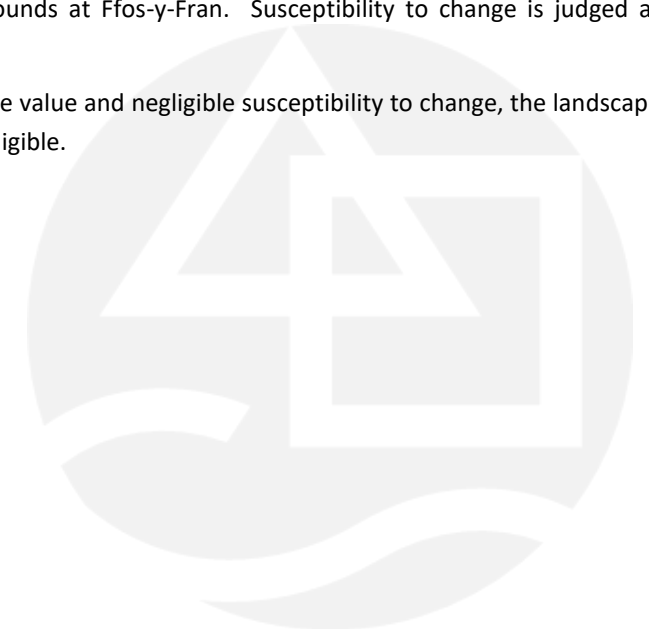
Northern part of SLA at Bute Town/Llechryd overlaps the *Upper Rhymney Valley* SLA.

LCA49 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for historic and landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as medium.

A long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of Ffos-y-Fran are limited to northernmost and easternmost overburden mounds at Ffos-y-Fran. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



50 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate

Predominantly within Sirhowy ward. Boundary defined by extent of Industrial Estate and including ribbon of dwellings at Princetown.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 50 LCA50 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	BLNGW-VS-242 <i>Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estates</i>
Historic Landscape	BLNGW-HL-013 <i>Waundeg Industrial Estate</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	BLNGW-CLS-007 <i>Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estates</i>

LCA50 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Rolling plateau edge at head of valley. Predominantly industrial development and hard surfaces with mixed woodland plantation screens. Regular layout at odds with gently undulating terrain.

LCA50 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and enclosed aspect. Attractive views outward from western edge of industrial estate and higher elevation of valley uplands. Considered to be of low scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for occupation.

Night-time changes

Significant source of light pollution.

LCA50 Historic and cultural characteristics

No historic landscape designation or scheduled sites. Previously site of disused quarries and farmland/upland pasture.

LCA50 Value and susceptibility to change

Non designated land, landscape value is judged as low.

A long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of the northernmost and easternmost overburden mound limited to outer edges of industrial estate. Susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining low landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



51 Cwm Darran

Darran valley to south of Fochriw. Northern part within Fochriw ward and southern part within Deri ward. Boundary defined by CROW open access upland to east and west, and settlement of Fochriw to north and Bargoed to south.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 51 LCA51 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-308 <i>North of Bargoed</i> and CYNON-VS-785 <i>Parc Cwm Darran</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-602 <i>Nant Bargoed Rhymni</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-038 <i>North of Bargoed</i> and CYNON-CLS-096 <i>Parc Cwm Darran</i>

LCA51 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland valley of the Nant Bargoed Rhymni with village settlements and scattered rural businesses, conifer plantations and semi-natural broadleaved woodland to steep valley sides.

LCA51 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and enclosed aspect. Attractive views of valley. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Frequent access for habitation/occupation and recreation. Nature reserve and country park tourist attractions.

Night-time changes

Very little light source within the valley. Steep sides limit influence from Afon Rhymni valley settlements.

LCA51 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised by extensive irregularly shaped fields, semi-natural woodland and conifer plantations, waterbodies and settlements. The western side of valley within *Gelli-gaer common* HLA. No scheduled sites.

Western side of valley within *Gelligaer* SLA.

LCA51 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its historic and landscape qualities, landscape value is judged as high.

Views of Ffos-y-Fran limited to upland area at eastern side of valley as an intermediate to long distance. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining high landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.

52 Rhymni Hill and Bryn Oer

North facing and west facing flank of Rhymney Hill. Covers parts of Sirhowy, Twyn Carno, St David's, Moriah and Abertysswg wards. Boundary defined by A465 road corridor to north, upland plateau to east, and settlement limit of Rhymni to south and east.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 52 LCA52 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-716 <i>East of Rhymney</i> and BLNGW-VS-436 <i>Brynbach Park</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-483 <i>Rhymney Hill</i> and BLNGW-HL-014 <i>Tredegar Patch</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-083 <i>East of Rhymney</i> and BLNGW-CLS-020 <i>Brynbach Park</i>

LCA52 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Scarp slopes and hill side to eastern flank of Rhymni. Predominantly improved grassland. Scattered rural dwellings at outskirts of Rhymni.

LCA52 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and open aspect. Attractive views outward towards valley uplands and National Parks. Detractive views of Rhymni and industrial estates. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for habitation/occupation and recreation. Cwm Oer wind farm turbines movement visible.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light source. Light pollution influence from Rhymni and A465.

LCA52 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as part of the north-south oriented ridges of the south Wales coal measures. No historic landscape designation. *Rhymney Upper Furnace* scheduled site at edge of LCA within *Bute Town* CA.

Northern part of LCA within *Upper Rhymney Valley* SLA.

LCA52 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its local landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as medium.

Long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. Uninterrupted views of overburden mounds available from ridges and west facing slopes. Susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining medium landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.

53 Cefn Y Brithdir

Upland ridge separating communities of Fochriw and Deri to the west and Pontlottyn and Tir-phil to the east. Boundary defined by extent of CRoW open access land and enclosed farmland and A469 to eastern side.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 53 LCA53 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	CYNON-LH-112 <i>Rhoslas</i>
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-605 <i>Cefn Y Brithdir</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-005 <i>Cefn y Brithdir</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-Cefn Y Brithdir

LCA53 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Broad ridge between Nant Bargoed Rhymni and Afon Rhymni valleys. Upland pasture and bracken slopes. Scattered rural dwellings and businesses.

LCA53 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and exposed aspect. Panoramic views northward of National Park and Heads of The Valleys, westward to Afon Bargoed Rhymni valley and eastward to Afon Rhymni valley.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for habitation/occupation and recreation. Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk follow a minor road at the crest of the ridge.

Night-time changes

Very few internal light sources. Light pollution influences from Rhymni, Bargoed and Heads of The Valleys.

LCA53 Historic and cultural characteristics

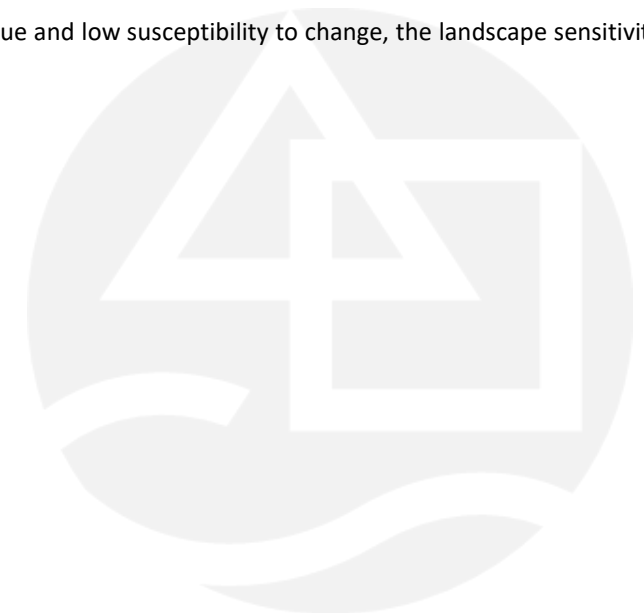
Characterised as an area of unenclosed upland between Rhymni and Nant Bargoed valleys used for livestock grazing. No historic landscape designation. Medieval house platforms scheduled sites.

LCA53 Value and susceptibility to change

Non designated landscape, the landscape value is judged as low.

A long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. Open and uninterrupted views from ridge, north and west facing slopes of the LCA of the overburden mounds and restored backfill. The susceptibility to change is judged as low.

Combining low landscape value and low susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Low.



54 A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Corridor

Dualled A465 Heads of the Valleys road from Dowlais Top to Tredegar.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 54 LCA54 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-003 A465 and BLNGW-VS-143 A465
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-866 <i>Blaen Rhymni</i> , BLNGW-HL-013 <i>Waundeg Industrial Estate</i> and BLNGW-HL-014 <i>Tredegar Patch</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-003 A465 and BLNGW-CLS-002 A465

LCA54 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Road corridor

LCA54 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Large scale and of mixed aspect. Enclosed within earthwork cutting, and open where road is on embankment. Attractive views outwards of upland ridges and valley sides. Detractive views of industrial roadside development.

Tranquillity

Busy road.

Night-time changes

Significant light source at junctions.

LCA54 Historic and cultural characteristics

Broadly follows line of Rhymney Joint Line railway within study area. No historic landscape designation. No scheduled sites.

Passes through *Upper Rhymney Valley* and *Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds* SLAs.

LCA54 Value and susceptibility to change

Within a locally designated landscape, the landscape value is judged as low.

At intermediate distance from Ffos-y-Fran where it crosses Fochriw Road. A view of the northernmost and easternmost overburden mounds available to westbound traffic. The susceptibility to change is assessed as negligible.

Combining low landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



55 Tredegar Patch

North-eastern flank of Rhymni Hill. Within Central and West Ward Tredegar.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 55 LCA55 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	BLNGW-VS-436 <i>Brynbach Park</i>
Historic Landscape	BLNGW-HL-014 <i>Tredegar Patch</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	BLNGW-CLS-020 <i>Brynbach Park</i>

LCA55 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau. Mosaic of rough pasture and scrub woodland with scattered rural businesses and dwellings.

LCA55 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and of open aspect. Attractive outward views of valley uplands. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and recreation.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light sources. Light pollution influence from Tredegar.

LCA55 Historic and cultural characteristics

No historic landscape designation. No scheduled sites. Reclaimed landform of former mineral extraction to the north-eastern side of Rhymni Hill.

LCA55 Value and susceptibility to change

Non designated landscape, the landscape value is judged as low.

A long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of overburden mounds limited to western edge of LCA. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining low landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



56 Cwm Tyswg

Nant Tyswg separates the communities of Abertysswg and Central and West Tredegar and the counties of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent. Defined by the head of the valley enclosed by upland ridges.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 56 LCA56 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-716 <i>East of Rhymney</i> and BLNGW-VS-673 <i>Cwm Tyswg</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-483 <i>Rhymney Hill</i> and BLNGW-HL-027 <i>Bedwellte Fieldscape</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-083 <i>East of Rhymney</i> and CYNON-CLS-024 <i>Cwm Tyswg</i>

LCA56 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland plateau of irregularly shaped fields and rough grazing upland with bracken. Scattered rural dwellings and businesses.

LCA56 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and open aspect. Panoramic views of surrounding uplands and Afon Rhymni valley. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and of high landscape character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation/habitation. Minor roads connecting Rhymni and Tredegar skirt the edges of the LCA.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light source. Valley sides limit influence from surrounding settlements.

LCA56 Historic and cultural characteristics

Largely unchanged in 20th Century. No historic landscape designation or scheduled sites.

Partially within *Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney and Sirhowy Side* SLA.

LCA56 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated for its local landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as medium.

A long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of overburden mounds available to north-eastern portion of LCA, part nearest to Tredegar cemeteries. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is judged as Negligible.

57 Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte

Upland ridge between Rhymni and Tredegar. Boundary defined by extent of CROW access land. Ridge forms boundaries of Twyn Carno, St David's and Moriah within Caerphilly and Central and West Tredegar in Blaenau Gwent.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 57 LCA57 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	Filtered out
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-352 <i>Bryn-oer Patch</i> and BLNGW-VS-688 <i>Mynydd Bewellte</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-483 <i>Rhymney Hill</i> , BLNGW-HL-026 <i>Rhymney Hill</i> and BLNGW-HL-036 <i>Mynydd Bedwellte</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-045 <i>Bryn-oer Patch</i> and BLNGW-CLS-027 <i>Mynydd Bedwellte</i>

LCA57 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Upland moorland. Landcover is predominantly acid grassland and dry heath. Scattered rural settlements and businesses located near to roads crossing the ridge between valleys.

LCA57 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Very large scale and exposed aspect. Panoramic and long-distance views of National Park, Heads of the Valleys and Afon Rhymni and Afon Sirhowy valleys. Considered to be of high scenic quality and landscape character.

Tranquillity

Occasional access for habitation/occupation and recreation. Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte upland crossed by several bridle paths and footpaths. Cwm Oer wind farm located at northern edge of LCA.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light source. Influence from Rhymni and Tredegar settlements.

LCA57 Historic and cultural characteristics

Characterised as an upland area with numerous mineral extraction remains. *Tredegar Ironworks Cholera Cemetery* scheduled site.

Forms core of *Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney and Sirhowy Sides* SLA. And part of *Upper Rhymney Valley* SLA.

LCA57 Value and susceptibility to change

Designated locally for its landscape qualities, the landscape value is judged as medium.

A long-distance from Ffos-y-Fran. View of restored backfill and overburden mounds available from summits, ridges and wet facing slopes of this LCA. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining medium landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.

58 Cefn Rhychdir

Upland valley dividing Abertyswg and New Tredegar wards. Defined by valley woodland and remains of collieries and railway lines.

The LCA contains part or all of the following LANDMAP areas.

Table 58 LCA58 LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area
Geological Landscape	CYNON-GL-008 <i>Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley</i>
Landscape Habitats	Filtered out
Visual and Sensory	CYNON-VS-785 <i>Parc Cwm Darran</i> and CYNON-VS-144 <i>Pentrapeod</i>
Historic Landscape	CYNON-HL-701 <i>Rhymney Valley</i> and CYNON-HL-885 <i>Bedwellte</i>
Cultural Landscape Services	CYNON-CLS-095 <i>Parc Cwm Darran</i> and CYNON-CLS-018 <i>Pentrapeod</i>

LCA58 Physical characteristics

Landform, landcover and pattern

Valley and hillside to Nant Tyswg and Afon Rhymni. Mosaic of conifer plantations, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, scattered and clustered dwellings and rural businesses.

LCA58 Perceptual characteristics

Scale and appearance

Medium scale and open aspect. Attractive outward views to uplands. Considered to be of moderate scenic quality and character.

Tranquillity

Infrequent access for occupation and habitation. Minor roads connect Afon Rhymni and Afon Sirhowy valleys, and footpaths connect the roads that weave up the valley sides.

Night-time changes

Very little internal light source. Steep valley sides limit influence from settlements in neighbouring valleys.

LCA58 Historic and cultural characteristics

Part of the Rhymni valley corridor characterised by mineral extraction. Reclaimed colliery landscape. No scheduled sites.

LCA58 Value and susceptibility to change

Non designated landscape, the landscape value is judged as low.

A long distance from Ffos-y-Fran. Views of overburden mounds limited to upper valley sides at eastern side of LCA. The susceptibility to change is judged as negligible.

Combining low landscape value and negligible susceptibility to change, the landscape sensitivity is assessed as Negligible.



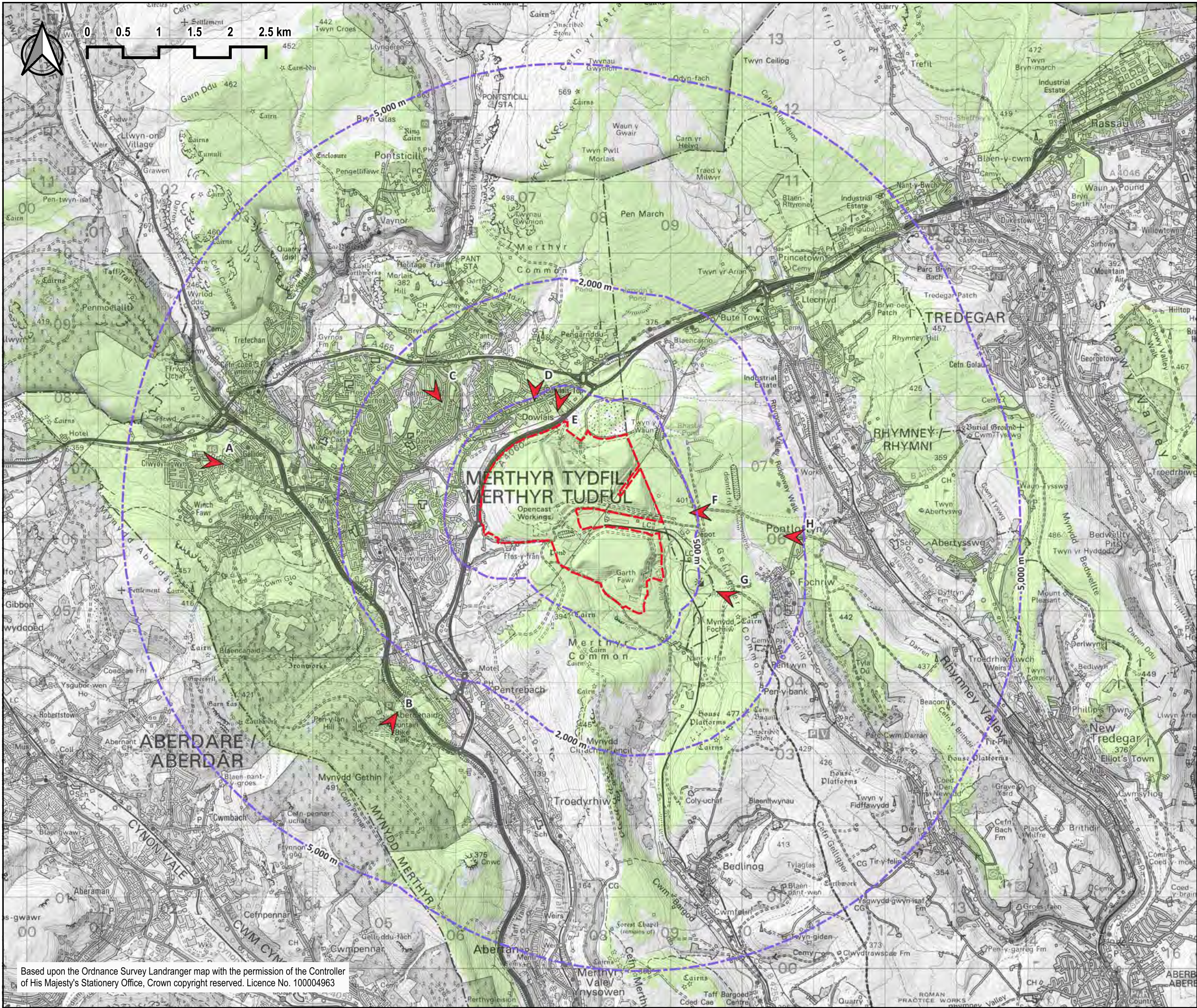
FIGURES

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Figure 3B	LANDMAP Landscape Habitats
Figure 3C	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory
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Cleint / Client:

MERTHYR (SOUTH WALES) LTD

Enw project / Project name:

FFOS-Y-FRAN FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

Landscape and Visual Impact Study Area

Eglurhad / Key:



Site boundary



Fixed distance buffer



Zone of theoretical visibility
(ZTV)



Representative viewpoint

View Location description

A	Gelli-deg
B	Gethin Woodland Park
C	Galon Uchaf
D	Pen-y-wern, Dowlais
E	Treharris
F	Gelli-Gaer Common
G	Mynydd Fochriw
H	Fochriw

Graddfa / Scale (A3):

1:50,000 @ A3

Dyddiad / Date:

Jan 2025

Darlunwyd gan:

RhE

Drafftio gan:

JS

Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:

Figure 1

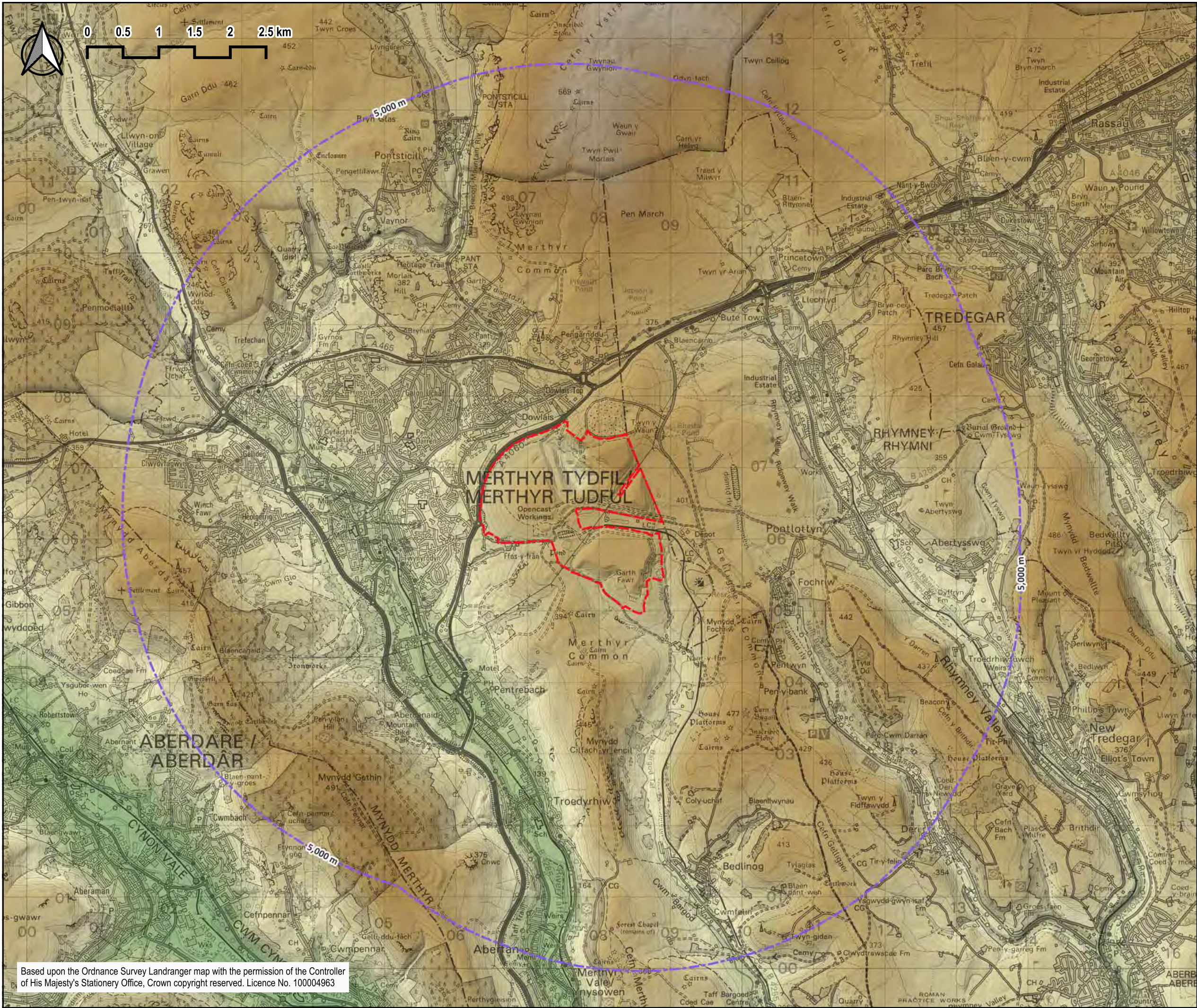
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Cleient / Client:

MERTHYR (SOUTH WALES) LTD

Enw project / Project name:

**FFOS-Y-FRAN
FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY**

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

**Landscape and Visual Impact
Landform and Terrain**

Eglurhad / Key:



Site boundary



Fixed distance buffer

Elevation (m AOD)



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1:50,000 @ A3

Dyddiad / Date:

Nov 2024

Darlunwyd gan:

RhE

Gwirio gan:

JS

Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:

Figure 2

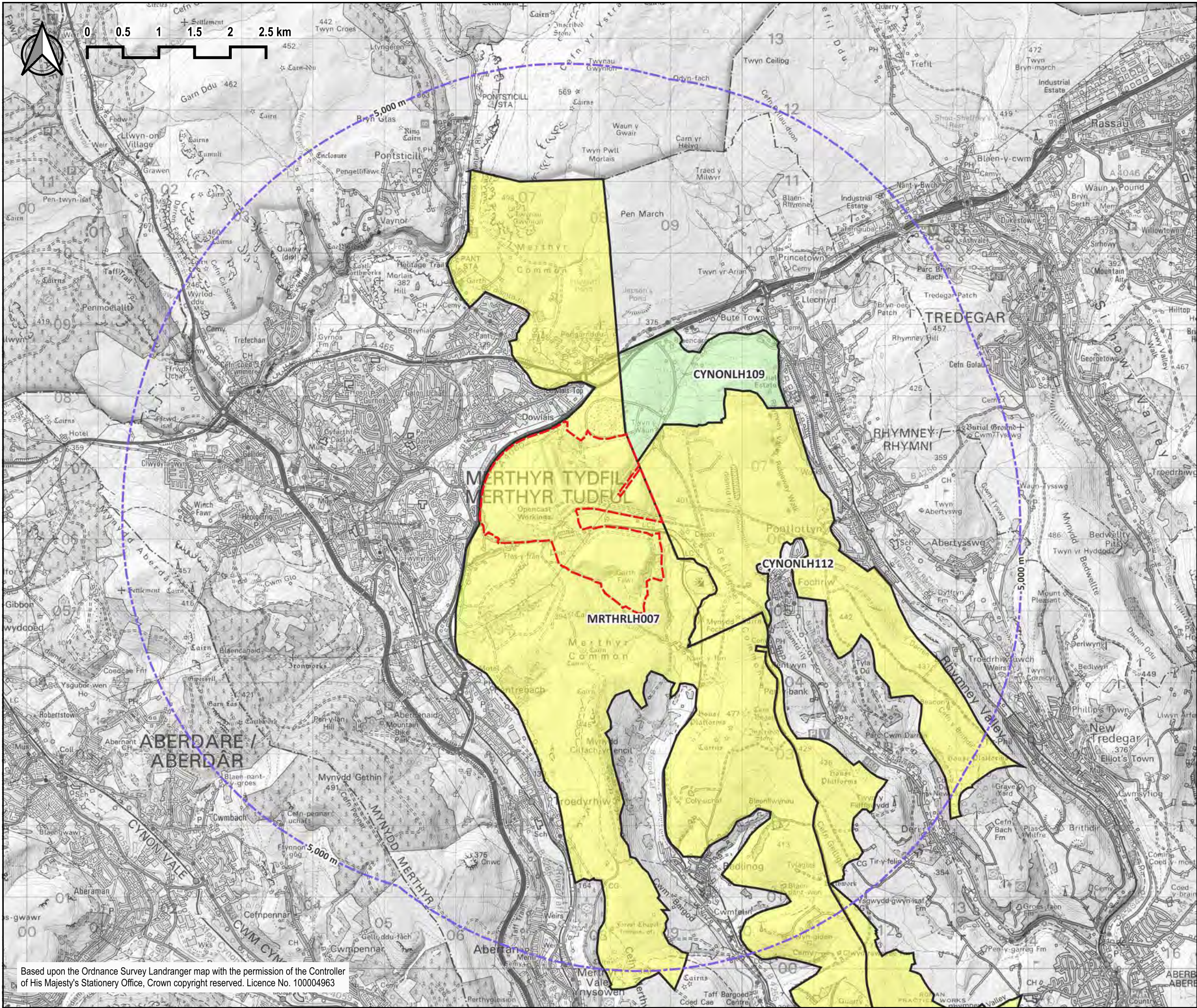
Cywyrted:

01

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RML, Cwm Y Ddraig, Ffordd Cymru, Rhydymwyn, Llanelli, SA11 1JL
Rhif Ffôn/Tel: +44 (0)1824 704566, Ffôn/Fax: +44 (0)1824 705450
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Cleient / Client:

MERTHYR (SOUTH WALES) LTD

Enw project / Project name:

FFOS-Y-FRAN FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

Landscape and Visual Impact LANDMAP - Landscape Habitats

Eglurhad / Key:

Site boundary

Fixed distance buffer

Overall Evaluation

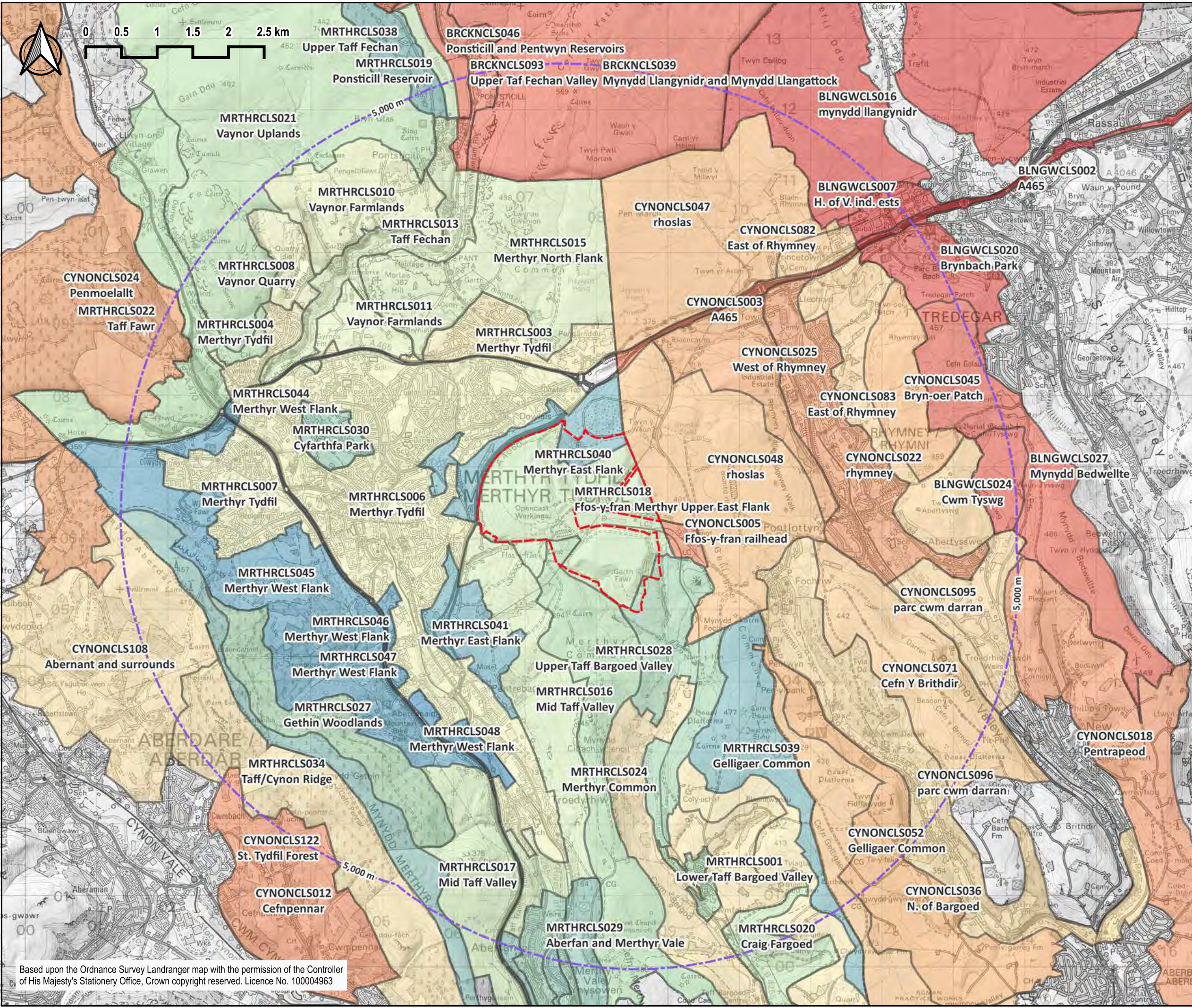
High

Moderate

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Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:		Gwilydd gan:
Figure 3B		JS
Darlunwyd gan / Prepared by:		Cwybied / Revision:
RML		01

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Enw project / Project name:

FFOS-Y-FRAN

FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

Landscape and Visual Impact

LANDMAP - Cultural Landscape

Eglurhad / Key:

Site boundary

Fixed distance buffer

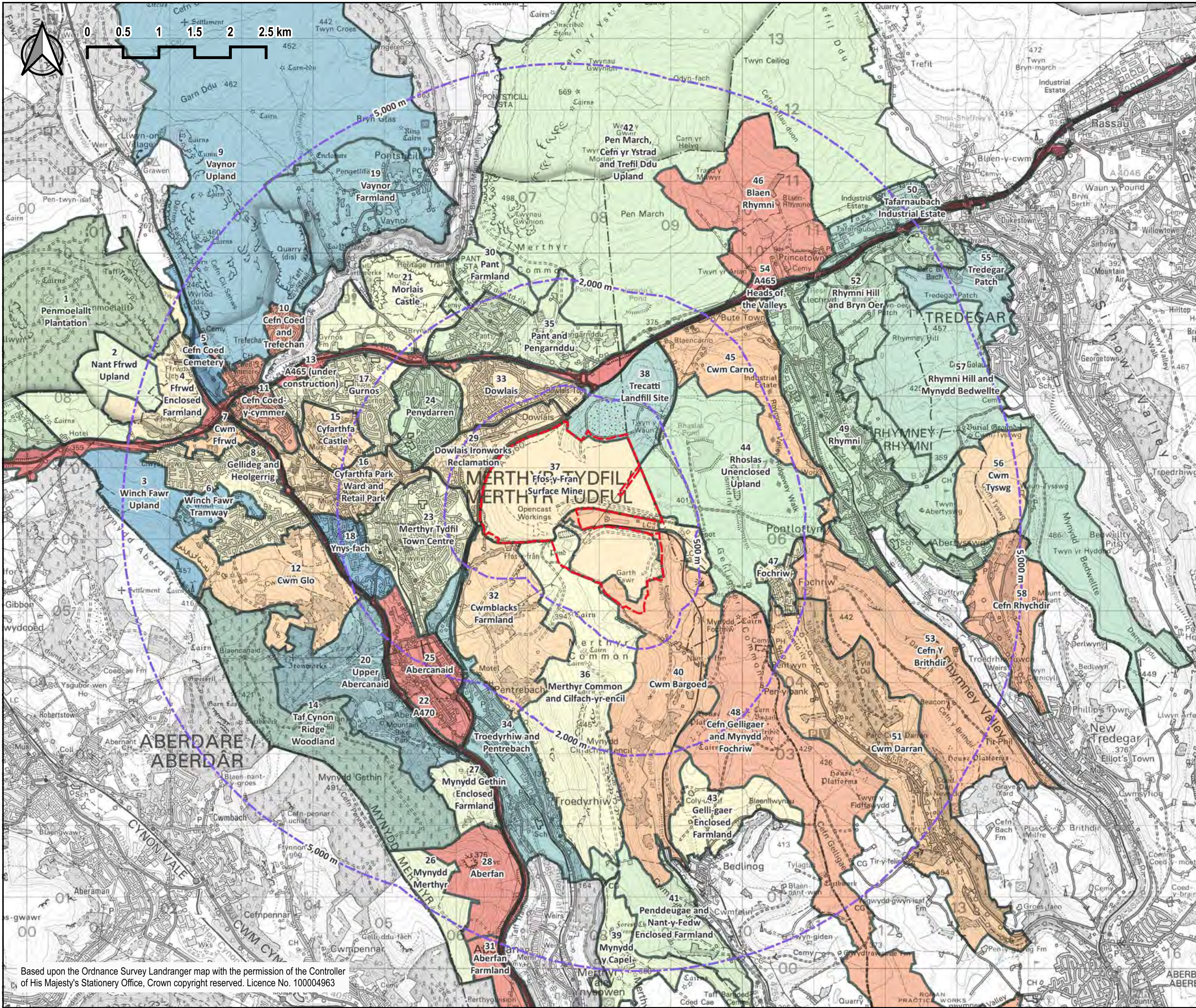
Graddfa / Scale (A3):	Dyddiad / Date:	Darparwyd gan:
1:50,000 @ A3	Nov 2024	RhE
Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:		JS
Figure 3E		01

Darparwyd gan / Prepared by:



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MERTHYR

(SOUTH WALES) LTD

Enw project / Project name:

FFOS-Y-FRAN

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

Landscape and Visual Impact
Landscape Character Areas

Eglurhad / Key:

Site boundary

Fixed distance buffer

A465 Heads of the Valleys Road Corridor

A465 Road Corridor (under construction)

A470 Road Corridor

Abercanaid

Aberfan

Aberfan Farmland

Blaen Rhymni

Cefn Coed and Trefechan

Cefn Coed-y-cymmer

Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw

Cefn Rhychdir

Cefn Y Brithdir

Cwm Bargoed

Cwm Carno

Cwm Darran

Cwm Ffrwd

Cwm Glo

Cwm Tyswg

Cwmblacks Farmland

Cyfarthfa Castle

Cyfarthfa Park Ward and Retail Park

Dowlais

Dowlais Ironworks Reclamation

Ffos-y-Fran Surface Mine

Ffrwd Enclosed Farmland

Fochriw

Gelli-gaer Enclosed Farmland

Gelli-gaer and Heolgerrig

Gurnos

Merthyr Common and Cilfach yr Encil

Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre

Morlais Castle

Mynydd Gethin Enclosed Farmland

Mynydd Merthyr

Mynydd y Capel

Nant Ffrwd Upland

Pant and Pengarnddu

Pant Farmland

Pen March, Cefn yr Ystrad and Trefil Ddu Upland

Penddeugae and Nant-y-Fedw Enclosed Farmland

Penmoelallt Plantation

Penydarren

Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland

Rhymni

Rhymni Hill and Bryn Oer

Rhymni Hill and Mynydd Bedwellte

Taf Cynon Ridge Woodland

Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate

Trecatti Landfill Site

Tredegar Patch

Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach

Upper Abercanaid

Vaynor Farmland

Vaynor Upland

Winch Fawr Tramway

Winch Fawr Upland

Ynys-fach

Graddfa / Scale (A3):

Dyddiad / Date:

Defnyddio gan:

1:50,000 @ A3

Jan 2025

RhE

Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:

Figure 4

Chwilio gan:

JS

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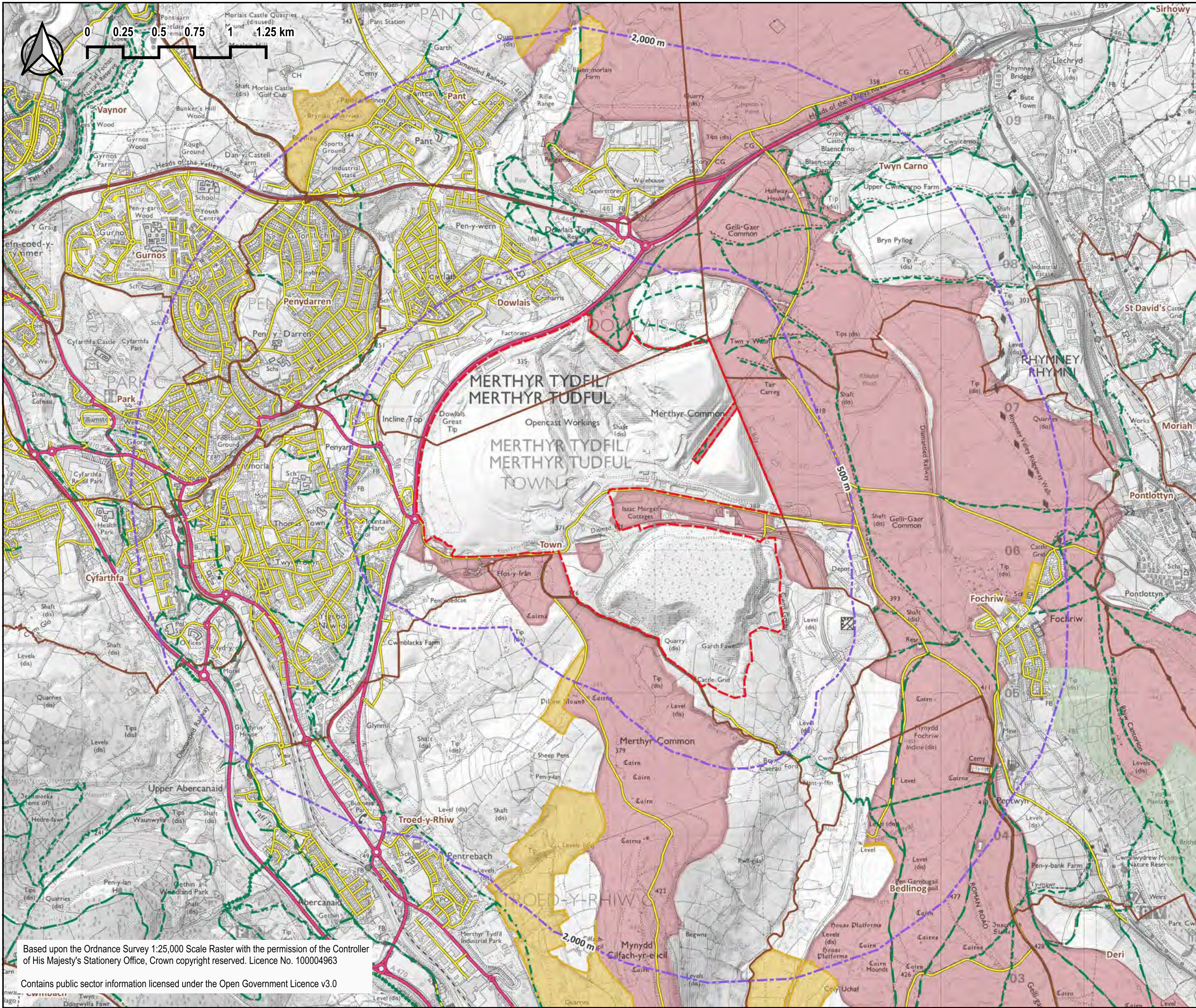
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1115 1N1

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Cleint / Client:

MERTHYR (SOUTH WALES) LTD

Enw project / Project name:

FFOS-Y-FRAN FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

Landscape and Visual Impact Transport Routes and Recreation

Eglurhad / Key:

- Site boundary
- Fixed distance buffer
- Community / Ward
- A Road
- Unclassified road
- By-way Open to All Traffic (BOAT)
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Road Used as a Public Path (RUPP)
- CRoW Open Access
Dedicated Forest
- CRoW Open Access
Open Country
- CRoW Open Access
Common Land

Graddfa / Scale (A3):	Dyddiad / Date:	Darparuwyd gan:
1:25,000 @ A3	Jan 2025	RhE
Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:		Gwiriwyd gan:
Figure 5		JS
		Cwriadwyd gan:
		01

Darparuwyd gan / Prepared by:

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Illustrative Viewpoint A

View east from old colliery tip in Pen-llwyn-deri



National Grid Reference: SO 02600 07080
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 17:10 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 100° (E)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

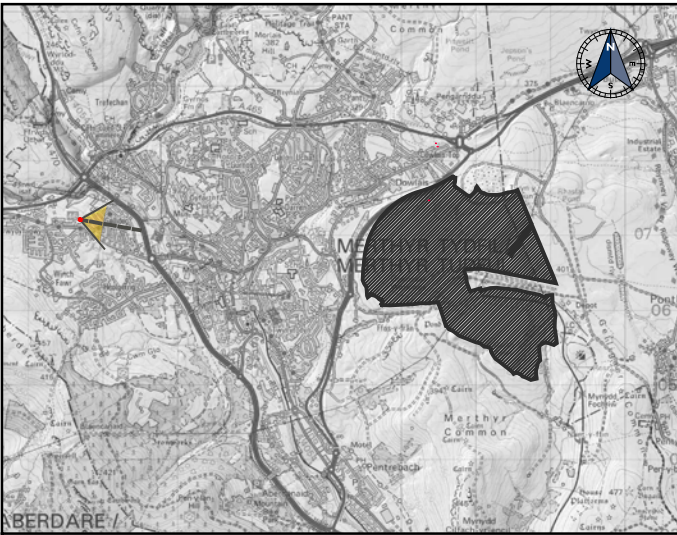
For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Pen-llwyn-deri (LCA 8 Gellideg and Heolgerrig)

Description of view:
Eastward view overlooking Swansea Road and settlement of Gellideg. Cyfarthfa Castle set amongst Castle Wood is prominent in the middle of the view with the residential area The Quar to the south of it. The horizon to the view is formed by the upland ridge from Pen March in the north, through Ffos-y-Fran overburden mounds and restored backfill to Mynydd Fochriw and Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil to the south. Prominent features include Prince Charles Hospital, Pengarnddu Business Park units and Trecatti Landfill Site. At Ffos-y-Fran, the upper mine wall at the north-east corner of the surface mine is visible, as is the sparsely vegetated north face and bare west face of OB1. The restored backfill stands out as a lighter colour compared to the overburden mounds. The overburden mounds form part of the gently undulating horizon line and broad upland ridge between the Afon Taf and Afon Rhymni valleys.

Description of change in view:
The backfill will continue to be restored reducing the amount of colliery spoil and overburden visible at the western edge of the surface mine. The visible faces of OB1 would be re-graded to make them look less engineered, then cultivated and seeded with an upland grassland mix matching in appearance the previously restored backfill further reducing the amount of bare soil visible in the view. The weathered rock at the top of the mine wall in the north-east corner of the open cast would be removed and the land graded to tie-in with the surrounding ground. When trees and shrub planting have had time to establish they would be seen as a continuation of woodland within the Bargoed Taf valley and the East Merthyr reclamation area.

Location Plan



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Orange cone
Red dot
Image field of view (80°)
Viewpoint

Illustrative Viewpoint B

View north-east from Bike Park Wales car park



National Grid Reference: SO 05100 03460
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 12:25 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 35° (NE)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

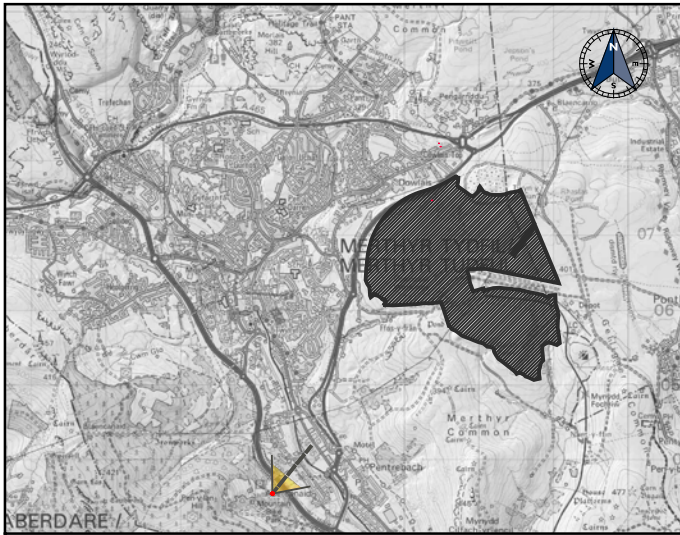
For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Car park at Bike Park Wales (LCA 20 Upper Abercanaid)

Description of view:
North-eastward from car park near to Bike Park Wales visitor centre and café. Uninterrupted views are limited by woodland to a few cleared areas. Ffos-y-fran and the bare un-vegetated face of OB1 in particular are prominent in the view across the Afon Taf valley. The woodland in the foreground interrupts the view of Merthyr Tydfil. The horizon to the view is formed by the previously restored backfill at Ffos-y-Fran and the overburden mounds through to the ridge approaching the summit of Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil. At Ffos-y-Fran, a soil storage mound and an area of backfill ready for re-profiling work are distinguishable as are the three overburden mounds. National Grid power lines are a prominent feature crossing the Afon Taf valley.

Description of change in view:
The backfill will continue to be re-profiled and then covered with soils from the storage mound. The visible faces of OB1 would be re-graded to make them look less engineered, then cultivated and seeded with an upland grassland mix matching in appearance the previously restored backfill and further reducing the amount of bare ground visible in the view.

Location Plan



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Orange cone
Red dot
Image field of view (80°)
Viewpoint

Illustrative Viewpoint C

View south-east from Mitchell Crescent Penydarren



National Grid Reference: SO 05710 08040
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 16:20 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 135° (SE)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

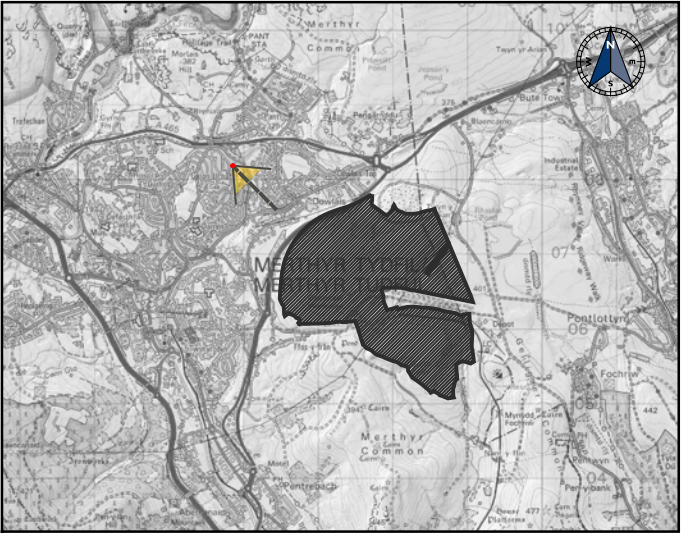
For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Mitchell Crescent Penydarren (LCA 24 Penydarren)

Description of view:
South-eastward from Mitchell Crescent overlooking Hillcrest Park. Open and uninterrupted views available from much of the residential area. At Ffos-y-fran, the tops of the mine walls at the eastern and southern side of the surface mine are distinguishable, and the bare un-vegetated western face of OB1 in particular is prominent in the view across the Merthyr Road Industrial Estate. The horizon to the view is formed by the Trecatti landfill site, OB1 and the southern mine wall, the backfill through to the ridge approaching the summit of Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil.

Description of change in view:
The backfill will continue to be re-profiled and then cultivated and re-seeded. The visible faces of OB1 would be re-graded to make their appearance more rounded, then cultivated and seeded with an upland grassland mix matching in appearance the previously restored backfill. Weathered rock at the tops of the mine walls would be removed, and the ground re-graded to tie in with its surroundings. The layers and different coloured rock strata of the eastern wall would be retained. The final profile would be one of gently undulating rounded hills with a mosaic of grassland heath and scrub woodland cover tying in with the broadleaved plantations of the East Merthyr reclamation scheme.

Location Plan



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Orange cone
Red dot
Image field of view (80°)
Viewpoint

Illustrative Viewpoint D

View south from Wern Isaf Dowlais



National Grid Reference: SO 07105 08085
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 15:30 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 180° (S)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Wern Isaf Dowlais (LCA 33 Dowlais)

Description of view:
Southward from Wern Isaf overlooking the steps connecting to Muriel Terrace. Open and uninterrupted views available from much of the residential area of Dowlais with a southward view. At Ffos-y-fran, the tops of the southern and part of the south-eastern mine walls of the surface mine are visible, and the bare un-vegetated eastern face of the backfill is prominent in the view across the Dowlais residential area. The horizon to the view is formed by the OB1, which drops down to the southern mine wall, and gradually climbs the rounded and partially restored backfill.

Description of change in view:
The backfill will continue to be re-profiled and then cultivated and re-seeded. The visible faces of OB1 would be re-graded to make their appearance more rounded, then cultivated and seeded with an upland grassland mix matching in appearance the previously restored backfill. Weathered rock at the tops of the mine walls would be removed, and the ground re-graded to tie in with its surroundings. The final profile forming the horizon to the view would be one of gently undulating rounded hills with a mosaic of grassland heath and scrub woodland cover providing a backdrop to the broadleaved plantations of the East Merthyr reclamation scheme.

Location Plan



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Orange cone
Red dot
Image field of view (80°)
Viewpoint

Illustrative Viewpoint E

View south-south-west from Treharris Playing Fields Dowlais



National Grid Reference: SO 07455 07935
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 15:05 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 202.5° (SSW)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

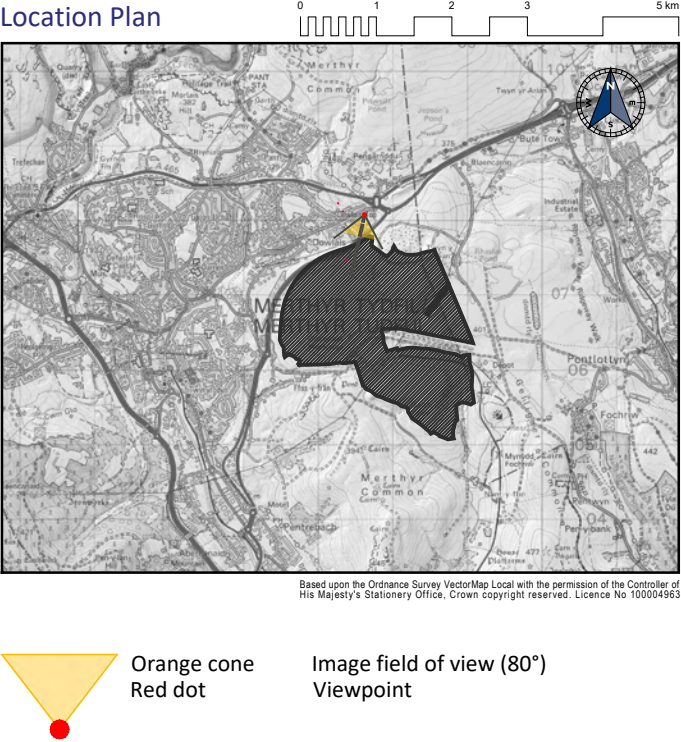
This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Treharris Dowlais (LCA 33 Dowlais)

Description of view:
South-south-westward from Treharris overlooking the playing fields and towards the A4065. Open and uninterrupted view available from much of the residential area of Treharris in Dowlais with a south to south-westward view. At Ffos-y-fran, the north and part of the west face are visible and part of the south mine wall are visible. The bare un-vegetated eastern face of the backfill ready for re-profiling is prominent in the view across the playing fields. The horizon to the view is formed by OB1, which drops down to part of the Trecatti restored landform and then to the southern mine wall, and then gradually climbs the rounded backfill to be restored.

Description of change in view:
The backfill will continue to be re-profiled and then cultivated and re-seeded. The visible faces of OB1 would be re-graded to make their appearance more rounded, then cultivated and seeded with an upland grassland mix. Weathered rock at the tops of the mine walls would be removed, and the ground re-graded to tie in with its surroundings. Machinery carrying out works during the removal of weathered rock at the top of the north-eastern mine wall would be visible, but land would be dropping away from the view and the profile visible would remain unchanged. The final profile forming the horizon to the view would be one of gently sloping rounded hills with a mosaic of grassland heath and scrub woodland cover providing a backdrop to the broadleaved plantations of the A4060 road corridor and the East Merthyr reclamation scheme.



Illustrative Viewpoint F

View west from Gelli-gaer Common



National Grid Reference: SO 09415 06375
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 13:55 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 270° (W)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

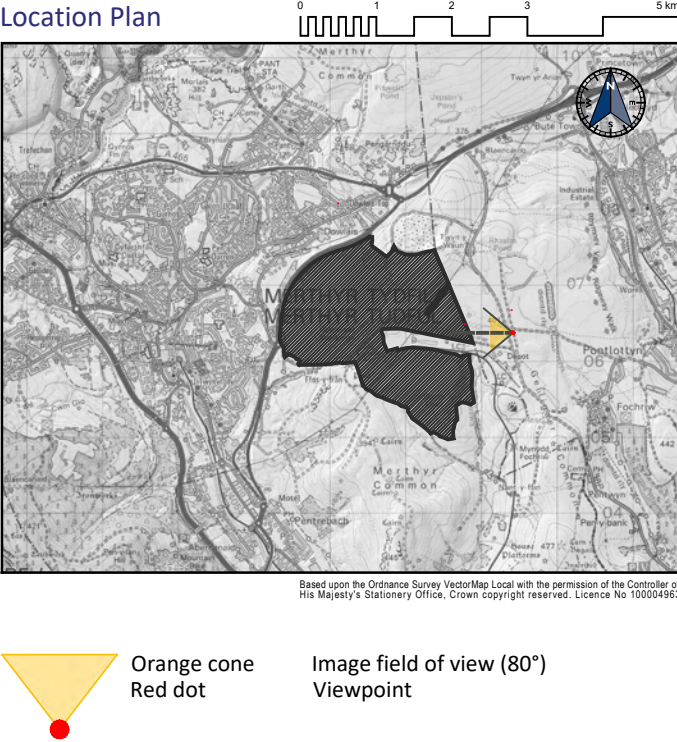
This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Gelli-gaer Common (LCA 44 Rhoslas Unenclosed Upland)

Description of view:
Westward view from car park overlooking Fochriw Road and towards Bogey Road. Open and uninterrupted view available to much of the upland common. At Ffos-y-fran, the overburden mounds of OB3 and OB2 are prominent in the view, with OB1 visible as a backdrop to OB2. The eastern faces of OB1 and OB2 are becoming established as a mosaic of grassland and heath. The slopes of OB3 will continue to be monitored to ensure establishment of vegetation. The horizon to the view is formed by the overburden mounds, with a gap in-between providing a glimpse of the Mynydd Merthyr / Mynydd Aberdar ridge and the uplands and wind farms at the head of the Rhondda valley beyond.

Description of change in view:
The visible faces of the overburden mounds will continue to be monitored to ensure that a diverse mosaic of habitat is maintained by grazing. Additional tree and shrub planting at the toes of the overburden mounds would increase the habitat diversity and integrate the landform with woodland slopes of the Bargoed valley. The final profile forming the horizon to the view would be unchanged when compared to the existing view.



Illustrative Viewpoint G

View west-north-west from slopes of Mynydd Fochriw



National Grid Reference: SO 09780 05215
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 13:05 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 292.5° (WNW)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

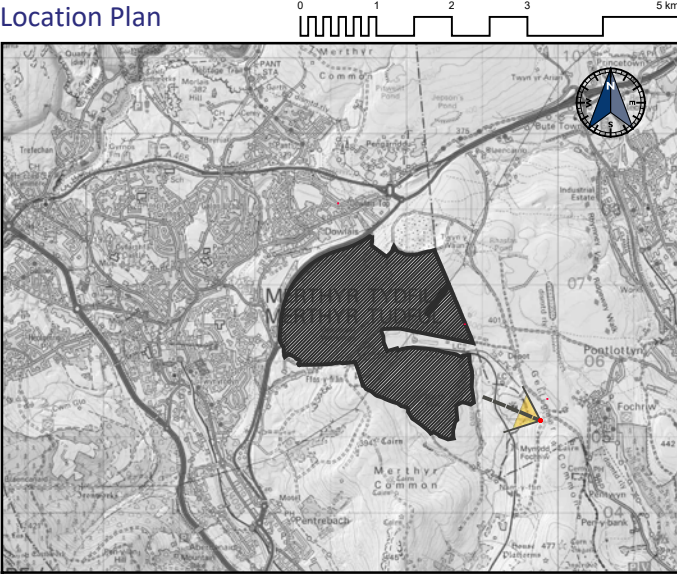
For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

Location:
Mynydd Fochriw (LCA 48 Cefn Gelligaer and Mynydd Fochriw)

Description of view:
West-north-westward view from track skirting western flank of Mynydd Fochriw. Open and uninterrupted view available across the head of Cwm Bargoed valley. At Ffos-y-fran, the overburden mounds of OB3 and OB2 are prominent in the view, with OB1 visible as a backdrop to OB2. The visible faces of OB1 and OB2 are becoming established as a mosaic of grassland and heath. The slopes of OB3 will continue to be monitored to ensure establishment of vegetation. The overburden mounds are part of the focal point to the view with the solar farm in the foreground. A gap along Bogey Road in-between OB2 and OB3 provides a view of the plant maintenance buildings and overburden material placed in preparation for re-profiling and restoring.

Description of change in view:
The visible faces of the overburden mounds will continue to be monitored to ensure that a diverse mosaic of habitat is maintained by grazing. Additional tree and shrub planting at the toes of the overburden mounds would increase the habitat diversity and integrate the landform with woodland slopes of the Bargoed valley and railway line. The final profile forming the horizon to the view would be unchanged when compared to the existing view.

Location Plan



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Orange cone
Red dot
Image field of view (80°)
Viewpoint

Illustrative Viewpoint H

View west from outskirts of Fochriw



National Grid Reference: SO 10725 06035
Date / Time: 09/10/2023, 13:35 hrs
Weather Conditions / Visibility: Partly Cloudy / Good
View Bearing: 270° (W)

Camera and Lens: Nikon D610 - 50mm lens
Horizontal Field of View: 80°
Camera Height: 1.7 m
Recommended Viewing Distance: 300 mm

Existing 80° Stitched Panoramic Image

Viewing Instructions

This is a composite image made up of 5 No. 50 mm prime lens photographs, joined together to form an overall field of view which is wider than that seen in detail by the human eye.

For correct perspective viewing, this image should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm with one eye. This image should only be assessed in the real landscape from the same viewpoint.

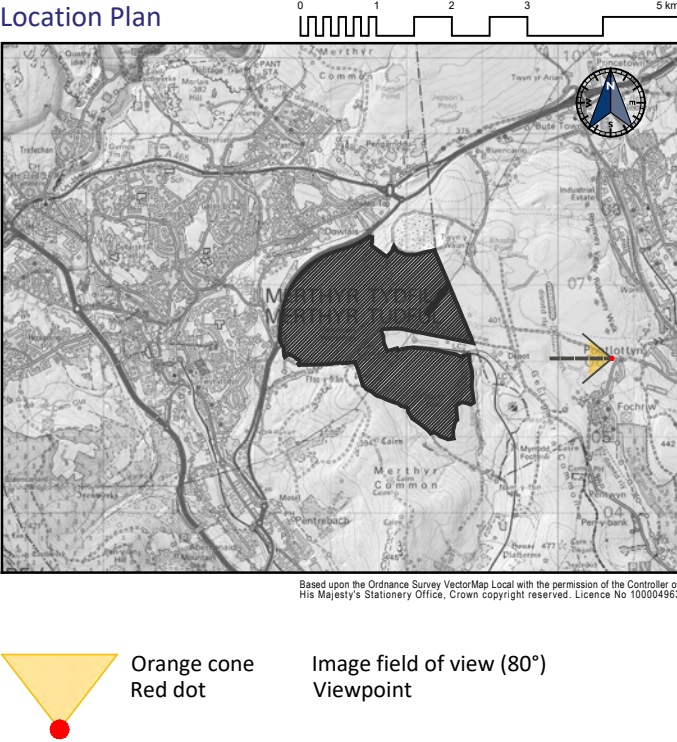
Location:
Fochriw (LCA 47 Fochriw)

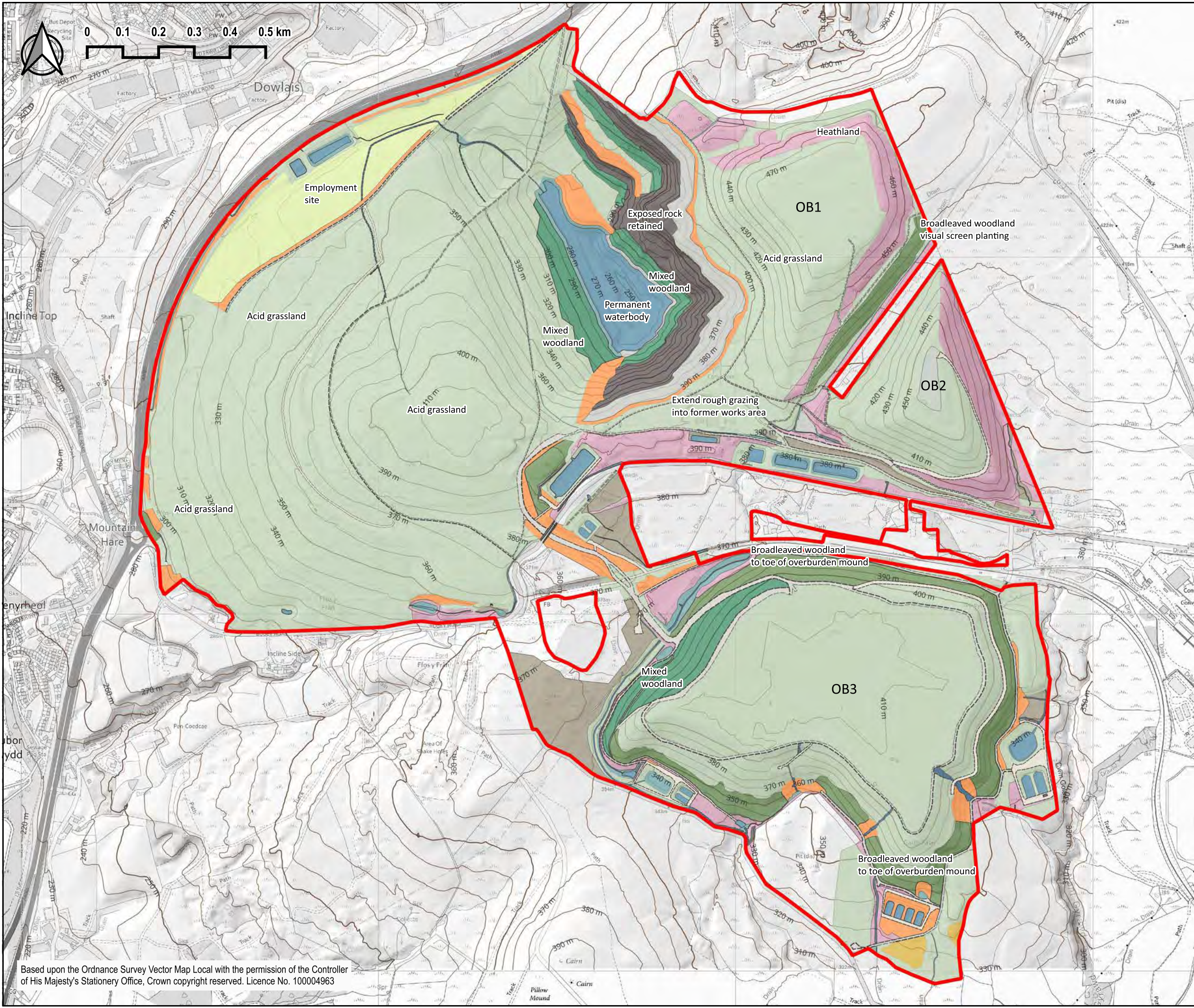
Description of view:

Westward view from outskirts of Fochriw near to the junction of Heol Y Bryn and Pontlottyn Road. Open and uninterrupted view available to residents in properties of Pontlottyn Road with a westward aspect. At Ffos-y-fran, the overburden mounds of OB1 and OB2 are visible, with OB3 screened from view by the rising ground and remains of tips associated with Tunnel Pits. The buildings at Cwm Bargoed depot are visible. The eastern faces of OB1 and OB2 are becoming established as a mosaic of grassland and heath. The horizon to the view is formed by historic tips and the overburden mounds amongst the gently undulating ground of Gelligaer Common.

Description of change in view:

The visible faces of the overburden mounds will continue to be monitored to ensure that a diverse mosaic of habitat is maintained by grazing.





Cleient / Client:

**MERTHYR
(SOUTH WALES)
LIMITED**

Enw project / Project name:

**FFOS-Y-FRAN
FINAL RESTORATION STRATEGY**

Teitl lluniad / Drawing title:

**Landscape and Visual Impact
Restoration and Aftercare**

Eglurhad / Key:

Application boundary

Proposed contour (10 m interval)

Land cover (indicative) [acres]

Improved grass

Unimproved grass

Mixed woodland

Broad-leaved woodland

Native shrub / Hedgerows

Heathland

Bog

Inland rock and scree
(natural regeneration)

Standing water

Running water

Freshwater marsh

Other built structure

Metalled roadway

Pathway

Unimproved grass
(allocated employment site)

Bare surface
(natural regeneration)

Graddfa / Scale (A3):

Dyddiad / Date:

Darlunwyd gan:

1:10,000 @ A3

Jan 2025

RhE

Rhif lluniad / Drawing number:

Darparwyd gan / Prepared by:

Figure 7



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