

LANDSCAPES WORKING FOR THE

# VALE OF GLAMORGAN



## Main Strategy

Volume 1

*Final Report*

for

Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Welsh Development Agency

January 1999



## **Acknowledgements**

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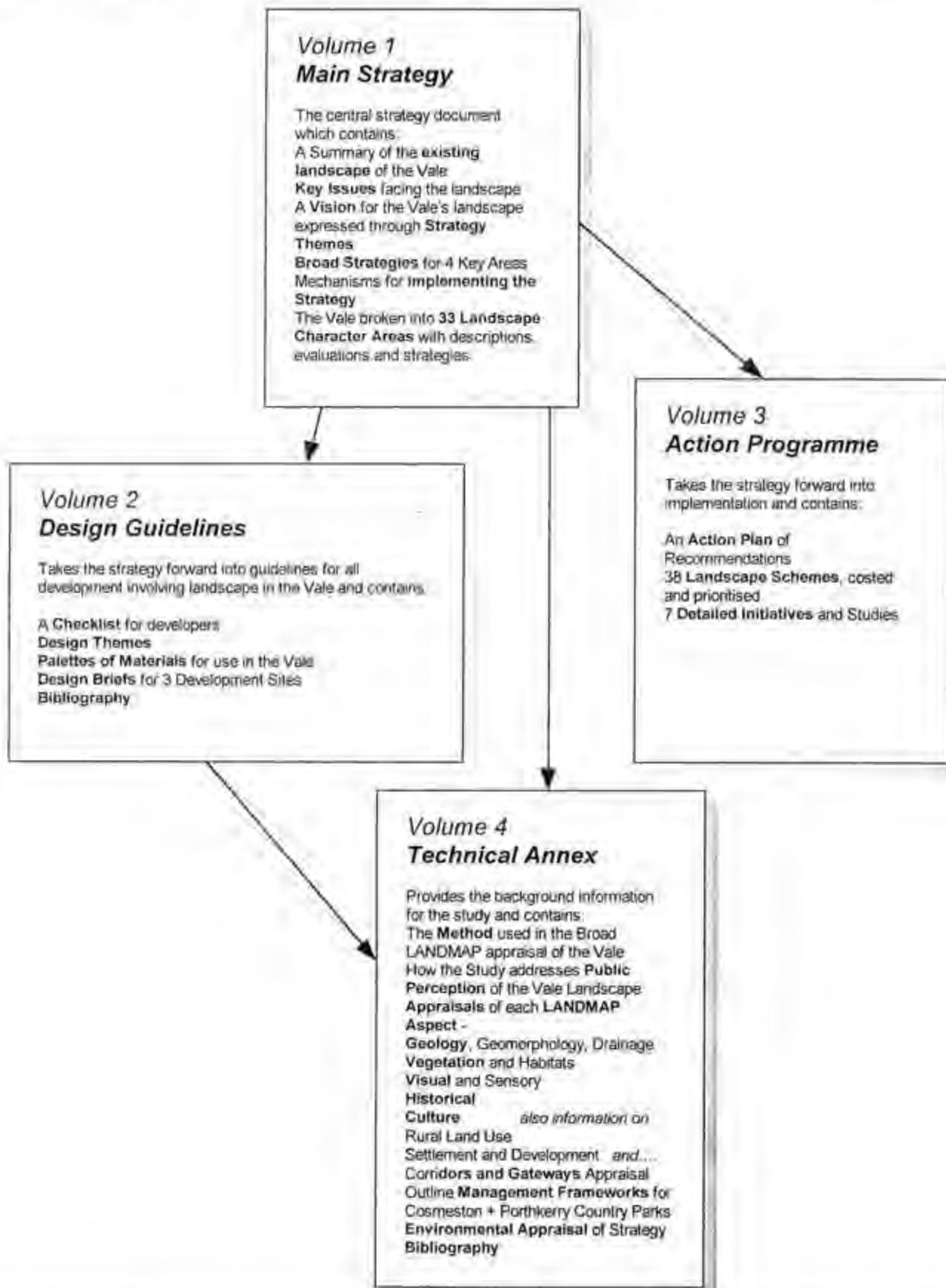
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## Guide to the Strategy Document

Each Volume of the Strategy has a specific function relevant to different people and organisations. All are interrelated. The contents of each are set out below:



## **PREFACE**

This report presents the results of a landscape assessment of the Vale of Glamorgan and puts forward a strategy for the conservation and enhancement of that landscape in four volumes. The strategy is divided into recommended themes and policies [Volume 1], Design Guidelines [Volume 2], Action Programme [Volume 3] and Technical Annex [Volume 4]. The assessment was carried out using the LANDMAP method. This is explained in the Introduction, Section 1.0, of this report and is set out in full in the Technical Annex [Volume 4 Section 2.0]. The Executive Summary, on the following pages, brings together the main points of the strategy.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**This strategy**, Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan, was commissioned by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, supported by the Welsh Development Agency [WDA], in December 1997 and has been carried out by a team led by WHITE consultants. The aim of the strategy is to ascertain a clear vision of the landscape assets of the Vale of Glamorgan and demonstrate how investment in environmental quality can contribute to a sustainable and successful economy in the study area. The strategy forms part of the Welsh Development Agency's environment programme, 'Landscapes Working for Wales'. It seeks to act as a framework for a landscape action plan and as a source of advice to the planning authority.

The strategy is divided into four volumes:

**Volume 1: The Main Strategy** sets out the main issues derived from the appraisal, and puts forward strategy themes and recommendations for the Vale as a whole. It also divides the Vale into 33 landscape character areas and sets out a strategy for each and describes more detailed proposals for the urban fringe South Eastern areas.

**Volume 2: The Design Guidelines** illustrate how the strategy can be implemented to promote local distinctiveness and sustainable development through design and management. Guidelines for different subject areas are put forward and three major development sites are addressed with design briefs.

**Volume 3: The Action Programme** sets out a prioritised Action Plan of initiatives and 38 landscape schemes to implement the strategy.

**Volume 4: The Technical Annex** contains the source material for the strategy. This includes detailed appraisals of geology, geomorphology and drainage; vegetation and habitats; visual and sensory; historical and culture. It also includes contextual information on rural land use and settlement and development. The study method is described, the public perception study input analysed and an environmental appraisal of the strategy carried out.

### The Landscape of the Vale

The Vale of Glamorgan is an attractive and productive lowland landscape on the north coast of the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel. It is hemmed in by large urban centres - Cardiff to the East and Bridgend to the West and by the M4 and South Wales Valleys to the North. People not only live and work in the Vale but use it for recreation. It boasts the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and two areas of Registered Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest. Its gentle plateau, hills and ridges are cut by valleys with steep wooded slopes and exhibit the mark of long cultivation and settlement by man. Settlement has been located since Roman times on the more fertile and better drained soils of the south. Typical characteristics include nucleated villages linked by narrow rural lanes with stone-reinforced blackthorn hedgebanks or stone walls. Streams often run alongside roads in channels and small stone sided ponds can be found in villages. Historically, the Vale is divided into the 'Border Vale' to the north and the 'Bro' to the south split by the A48 Roman Road. Now, the division is more marked between the urbanised South East Vale centred on Barry and the more tranquil rural Vale to the West and North.

### The Effects of Change

The landscape is undergoing change. Development is occurring in the South

East and is extending into the rural Vale particularly along the South coast towards and including Llantwit Major. The East Vale Coast has become degraded by development over time. Agricultural intensification has led to hedgerow removal and the presence of larger scale structures in the landscape. Cumulative smaller scale changes such as road improvements, rural housing and recreation developments, suburban fencing and lighting are beginning to significantly affect the distinctive local character of the rural Vale. However, there are many areas of high landscape quality including pockets near urban areas such as Cwrt yr Ala valley and Dyffryn Basin.

The responses in the Public Perception study reinforced the view of the value of the coastal and tranquil rural Vale but also about local landscapes close to built up areas and landscapes that could be used. Concern was voiced by the public about greenfield development and the loss of countryside.

Over the past few years in Wales it has been demonstrated by the WDA and others that there is a link between environmental quality and economic success. Investing in the environment and conserving the best existing qualities gives the economy a competitive edge. There is a need to conserve the best existing qualities of the landscape, to enhance those areas that have begun to be degraded and to carry out new development that makes a positive contribution to the landscape.

### The Key Issues

The key issues which emerge are the need to:

- Conserve the rural character, identity and tranquillity of the Vale
- Conserve historically and ecologically valuable landscapes
- Conserve and enhance all the coastal landscapes
- Enhance the urban fringe
- Raise the quality and sustainability of design and landscape management

### The Main Initiatives

*The main initiatives which need to be put in place to tackle these issues are:*

- *The production of Design Guidelines at a local and national level to ensure all development in public and private sector respects the sense of place and is sustainable – this includes housing, highways, commercial, farming and leisure development.*
- *The adoption of these guidelines and putting them into practice by key agencies.*
- *Support for the conservation of the rural landscape including woodlands, hedgerows, walls and wetlands through various means including the Tir Gofal and Woodland Grant schemes.*
- *Establishment of a Countryside Service for the whole Vale to help manage the countryside and to deal with pressures of access and recreation and their impact on rural land uses. The first priority is in the South East Vale where urban fringe pressures are having an impact on landscapes surrounding urban areas.*
- *Improved management of the coast through full funding to maintain and improve the quality of the Heritage Coast and the provision of additional funding to enhance the East Vale Coast.*
- *The collection of more information as part of a more detailed LANDMAP appraisal to assist in informing design guidelines and targetting grant initiatives such as Tir Gofal. This could include an historic landscape character appraisal.*

## The Broad Themes

The broad themes of the strategy which explore these issues and initiatives are:

- Towards Sustainable Development
- Landscape supporting Economic Development
- Protecting Tranquillity
- Reinforcing the Vale's Identity
- Conserving the Coast
- Conserving the Rural Vale
- Enhancing the Urban Fringe
- Conserving the Natural Heritage
- Conserving the Historic Heritage
- Improving Access
- Towards a Woodlands Strategy
- Improving Landscape Management

These are considered in more detail by four area strategies for key areas where particular action is required. These are:

- South East Vale Corridors and Gateways
- Eastern Coastal Fringe
- Heritage Coast
- A48 Corridor

The strategy can only be successfully achieved with the support of a large range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, the community and the private sector including major landowners. A balance needs to be struck between regulation, action, education and persuasion. It is hoped that this strategy will inform the debate and assist the conservation and enhancement of the Vale's landscape.

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# **PART A**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Description of Study Area

The Vale of Glamorgan lies on the South Wales coast bordering the Bristol Channel between the urban areas of Cardiff and Bridgend [see Figure 1]. It is bounded to the north by the M4 and thence the South Wales Valleys. It covers 335sqkm of which 70% is agricultural land. It has a population of around 119,000. This is concentrated in the urban areas of Barry and Penarth to the east and the older country towns of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major lying centrally. It is predominantly an attractive, prosperous, historic lowland landscape. Its topography of plateau, valleys and ridges is founded primarily on limestones with glacial deposits to the north. There is 20km of Heritage Coast and two landscapes of outstanding historic interest.

The Vale is an area of two parts: the tranquil rural Vale and the more urbanised area of the South East Vale and regenerating waterfront strip centred on Barry. The study examines the relationship between the two and the needs of both.

### 1.2 The Commission and the Brief

The Vale of Glamorgan Council, supported by the Welsh Development Agency, commissioned WHITE consultants in December 1997 to prepare a landscape strategy for the Vale. The strategy is to act as a framework for landscape planning, as a source of advice for the planning authority and as a basis for an implementation programme. The aim of the study is to ascertain a clear understanding of the landscape resource of the whole of the Vale and set out a strategy which will contribute to the economic and environmental development of the Vale. It is intended that the study will provide the basis for the preparation of supplementary planning guidance for the Unitary Development Plan.

### 1.3 Strategy Structure

The main strategy report [Volume 1] is divided into two parts. Part A [Sections 1.0 - 5.0] deals with the overall strategy while Part B [Section 6.0] considers assessments and strategies for the 33 landscape character areas of the Vale. The South East Vale areas are considered in more detail here. In Part A, Section 2.0 addresses the key issues facing the existing landscapes of the Vale, Section 3.0 puts forward strategy themes for the Vale as a whole, Section 4.0 concentrates on strategies for key areas and Section 5.0 examines how the strategies can be implemented. This strategy report is complemented by the Design Guidelines [Volume 2] which includes design guidelines on key topics and specific development sites, the Action Programme [Volume 3] which puts forward an Action Plan and identifies 38 landscape schemes and 7 recommended initiatives, and the Technical Annex [Volume 4], which covers the appraisal of each landscape 'aspect', the study method, an environmental appraisal of the recommendations and a bibliography.

### 1.4 Method

The study has been structured according to the LANDMAP method [Landscape Assessment and Decision Making Process] devised by the Countryside Council for Wales. This dissects the evaluation of the landscape into five separate fields of study or 'aspects' carried out by specialists – Geological, Visual, Vegetation, Historical and Culture. A landscape assessment has brought these aspects together and has also been informed by contextual information on land use, settlement and development and a public perception study [which has been carried out concurrently]. The process has been carried out during a period of development of the methodology and can be equated to a *broad* LANDMAP

*See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 2.0 for full account of method used*

assessment [as opposed to a *detailed* LANDMAP assessment]. With the exception of the visual 'aspect', this means that the assessment has been a primarily desk-based study with limited field work to ascertain the condition of specific areas. This level of assessment has allowed the production of strategy and policy recommendations, design guideline and action programme outputs required by the 'Landscapes Working for Wales' brief. The process has been a paper-based exercise not using a computer based Geographic Information System [GIS]. The intention has been to collect information to be compatible with a more detailed appraisal using GIS at a later date as the need arises. The direction of the study has been guided by a steering group of the major agencies coordinated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

In summary, the process undertaken has been:

- A briefing and orientation stage where the process and outputs of the study were defined.
- The evaluation of the landscape and the generation of 'aspect' areas.
- A landscape assessment bringing the aspect information together with contextual information and the public perception findings and the production of a suite of landscape strategies at two levels - the overall strategy for the Vale and the evaluation and strategy for 33 Landscape Character Areas. The Visual aspect was used primarily to define the boundaries of these areas.
- Output of recommended landscape policies, design guidelines and action programme.

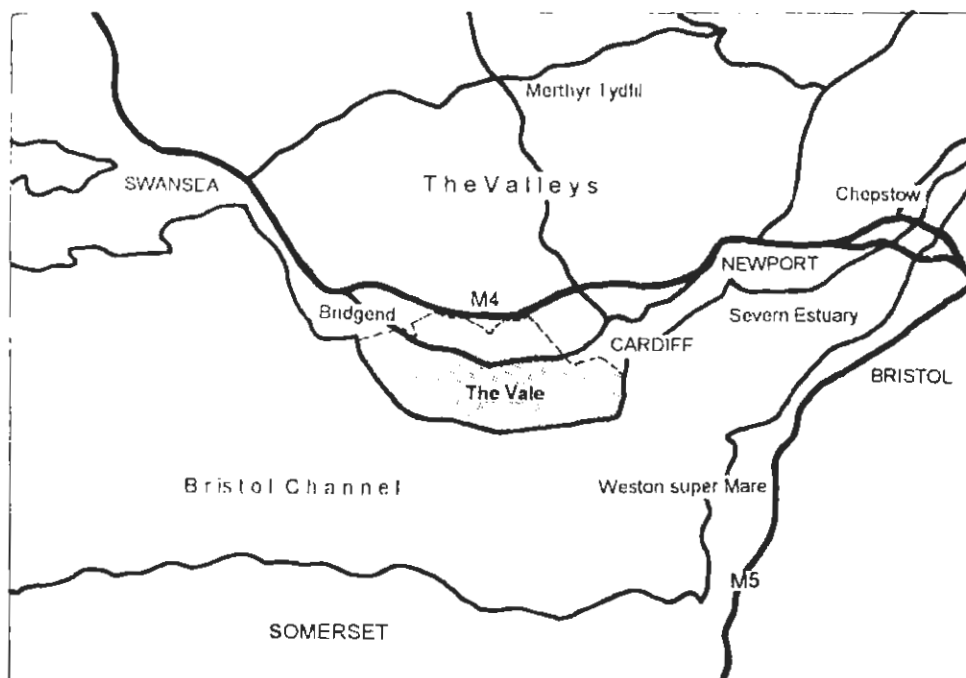


Figure 1 Location Plan

## 2.0 THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE AND KEY ISSUES

### 2.1 The Existing Landscape – an Overview

The Vale of Glamorgan is an attractive and productive lowland landscape exhibiting the mark of long cultivation and settlement by man. It is bordered by the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary which is of international nature conservation importance. The Southern Vale consists mainly of carboniferous and liassic limestones which form gentle ridge and plateau landscapes dissected by picturesque valleys in Western and central areas, and a rather more complex hill and basin system to the East. These rock types are particularly prominently displayed along the superb Glamorgan Heritage coast which runs along the less developed Western half of the Vale. To the North, glacial influence has created boulder clays and a smaller scale undulating landscape and the Ely valley. The lias and limestone areas are generally intensively managed farmland with a high proportion of arable and large field sizes. There is a more pastoral landscape to the North with strong hedgerows and woodland, and limited forestry at Hensol.

See Figure 2

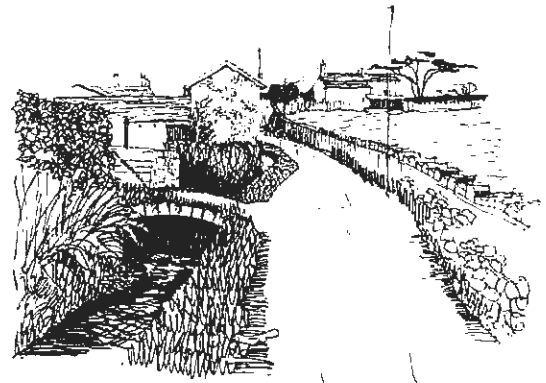
See Figure 3

Views are widely available across the plateau landscape allowing the sea to extend its influence inland. Views of the Somerset coastline and Exmoor are possible from many parts of the Vale South of the central limestone ridge on which the A48 is situated.

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 6.0 part 3.0

Woodlands are an important landscape element overall, clothing steep valley sides such as the Thaw and Ely, on ridges and enclosing Cwrt yr Ala. Hedgebanks, often with stone sides are preValent in the Southern Vale while hedges are more common to the North. Commons are rare, being confined to areas near Ogmore, Cowbridge and Mynnyd Ruthin.

Water plays an important part in the Vale landscape. In addition to the breathtaking scenery along the coast, the rivers of the Thaw, Ewenny, Ely, Alun, Kenson and Cadoxton have created intimate valley landscapes. In places, ponds have been created on river courses and village ponds are a common but valuable feature in many settlements. Water courses alongside roads are a distinctive feature of the rural Vale, sometimes with associated stone banks and bridges.



The distinctive lanes, stone walls and watercourses of the rural Vale

The Romans, the Church and particularly the Anglo-Normans have made significant marks and patterns on the landscape. Settlement has been located since Roman times on the more fertile and better drained soils of the South. Broadly, the Vale is divided by the A48 Roman Road with the 'Border Vale' to the North and the 'Bro' [Yr Fro] to the South. The Norman nucleated settlement pattern based on manor and church is preValent in the South. Rural settlements such as the country towns of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major are important historic centres.

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 7.0

The Vale is hemmed in by large urban centres - Cardiff to the East and Bridgend to the West. These are linked both by the A48 but also now by the M4 which forms most of the Northern boundary of the Vale. Urban growth is extended in the South East Vale by several settlements: Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry and Rhoose. Barry is a very separate entity from the rest of the Vale having an industrial base dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as a coal port. Development is now extending into the rural Vale through Cardiff Wales Airport, Rhoose Point [former quarries], Aberthaw Cement Works and Power Station and RAF St Athan. These form a growing locus of development towards Llantwit Major in contrast to the essentially rural character of the Vale. Rural settlements themselves have attracted further development which has, in some places,

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 6.0 part 4.0

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 10.0



Figure 2 Topography of the Vale

begun to spoil the important relationship between settlement and the surrounding landscape.

The scenic quality and tranquillity of the Vale also attracts recreational use, particularly along the coast. This has led to pressure such as parking areas, caravan sites and associated infrastructure having an impact on the landscape in places.

Descriptions of the key features of the landscape and key issues are discussed under each evaluated aspect heading in the following order:

- Visual and Sensory
- Geology, Geomorphology and Drainage
- Vegetation and Habitats
- History
- Culture

The issues raised in the contextual and additional information collected as part of the LANDMAP process are discussed under the following headings. These inform the strategy proposals.

- Rural Land Use
- Settlement and Development
- Public Perception

These are drawn from the papers from each of the aspect specialists and the public perception consultants so some repetition may occur which serves to emphasise key issues.

*See Volume 4 Technical Annex*

*See Volume 4 Technical Annex*

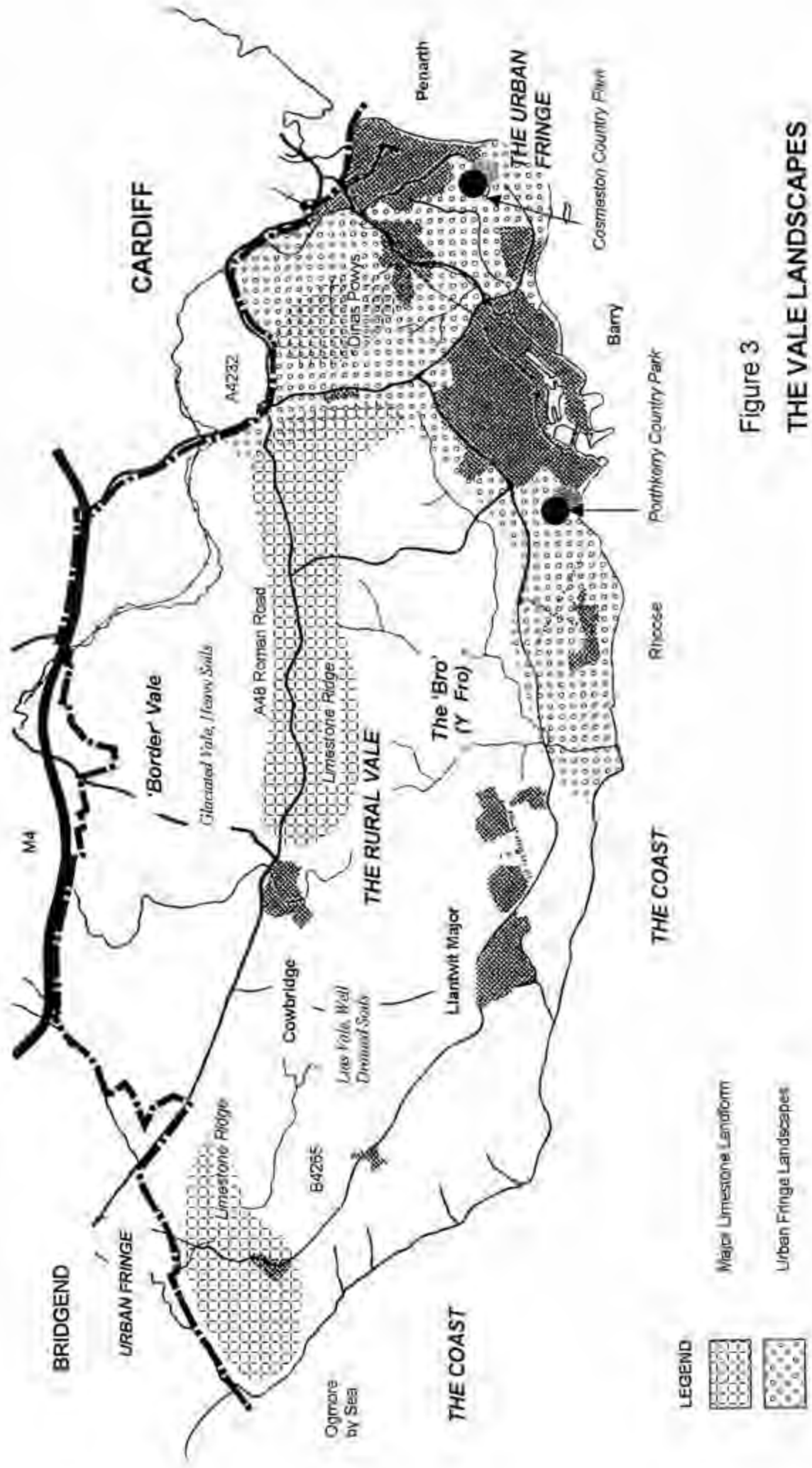


Figure 3  
THE VALE LANDSCAPES



## 2.2 Visual and Sensory

*The Vale has a superb lowland rural landscape and coast which are complemented by traditional settlement form. The area, particularly the Western Vale and Heritage coast, has a coherent character and strong sense of place. Issues include an erosion of landscape character by inappropriately designed development, 'suburban' detailing and signage in rural and coastal locations, intervisibility in the open plateau landscapes and the removal or poor maintenance of traditional features such as stone walls, hedgerbanks, hedgerows and woodland.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 6.0*

Much of the description of the visual qualities of the Vale's landscapes has been covered by the Overview in previous pages. Rather than repeat this, we now concentrate on the landscape divisions within the Vale and key issues. The range of landscape character is illustrated by the plates on the following pages.

See Plates 1-8

The lowland landscapes of the Vale rise from sea level to a high point of 137m AOD just South of the A48 in the centre of the study area. In visual terms, the landscapes of the Vale can be divided into the rural Vale, the South East developed Vale and the coast.

The rural Vale is itself divided in two by the A48 Roman Road which commands the high ground of the central limestone and lias ridge. The undulating hill and valley landscapes of the glaciated Vale lie to the North and the gentler dissected lias plateau landscape lies to the South. The Northern rural area [or Border Vale] tends to consist of pastures, many damp, smaller fields and forestry on the poorer land. The more open landscape to the South over lias supports a mixture of arable and pasture, larger field sizes and nucleated settlement dating back to Norman and sometimes Roman times.



*The Lias Vale from Southenddown*

The South East Vale is a rather more complex hill and basin system with the major 19<sup>th</sup> century settlements such as Barry and Penarth, interconnecting roads and railways bordering the major city of Cardiff.

See Plate 6

The coast itself can be divided into two parts, the undeveloped spectacular Heritage Coast with its 80m lias and limestone cliffs to the West and the rather more modest partially developed stretch to the East.

See Plate 1 and 5

The river systems of the Thaw, Kenson, Ely, Cadoxton and Alun form a richly varied component of the Vale landscapes often with steep wooded valley sides and natural watercourses.

See Plate 3

The main issues concerning the visual and sensory aspect are as follows:

- Creeping urbanisation is beginning to have an impact from Culverhouse Cross southwards including Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry and West along the B4265 to Llantwit Major. The urbanisation takes the form not only of development but of the style of fencing, signage, road detailing, lighting, street furniture, planting and landscape management practice. These erode local distinctiveness and the rural character of the Vale. Care is needed in the siting and design of development to ensure it responds to its context and site.
- The Vale plateau landscape is sensitive to development due to the potential for long views particularly between the A48 and the coast. Major coastal detractors such as Aberthaw Power Station [and its accompanying pylons], Aberthaw Cement Works and Cardiff Wales Airport BAMC Hangar are widely visible across large areas of the Vale. While it is impossible to fully screen these detractors, effective screening along adjacent roads and within the surrounding

**Creeping urbanisation**

*View over Waycock Valley to the coast*

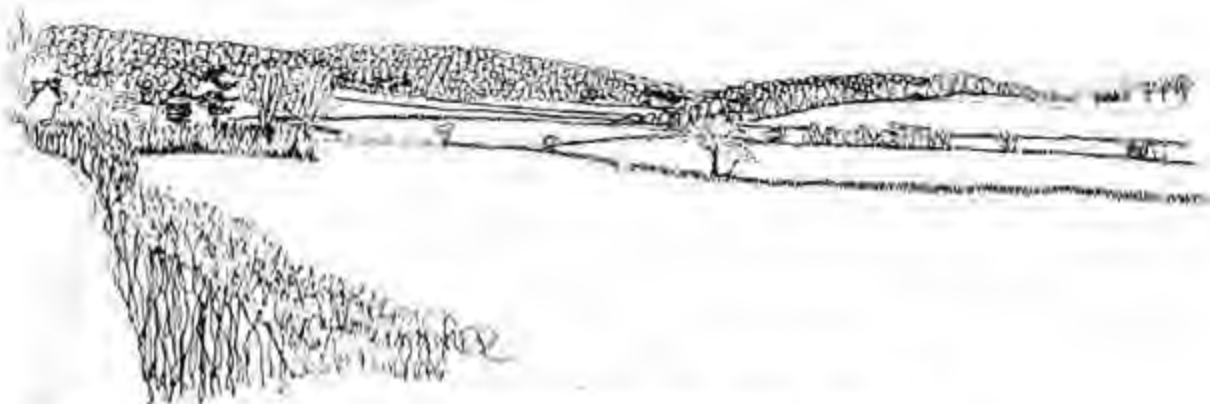




*Plate 1 The superb, undeveloped Heritage Coast – Dunraven Bay*



*Plate 2 The distinctive stone walls and watercourses in parts of the Western Vale*



*Plate 3 Important valley landscapes with wooded valley sides – Upper Thaw Valley*



*Plate 4 The Ely Valley and Bonvilston Ridge – woodland on the ridge is important  
Cypress hedges around farm buildings detract from the landscape*



*Plate 5 The developed Eastern Vale coast has special areas and superb sea views [Swanbridge]*



*Plate 6 Urban Fringe of Penarth with prominent settlement, overgrown hedgerows and overhead lines.*



*Plate 7 The modern farming landscape of the Western Vale – hedgerows replaced in parts with fences and modern buildings*



*Plate 8 BA Hangar at Cardiff Wales Airport is widely visible on the coastal plateau*

landscape could minimise nearby views. Measures are needed to minimise proliferation of development so separation is maintained and to carefully site and design development to minimise visual intrusion across the plateau. To a lesser extent Llandow Trading Estate, the Vale Business Park and RAF St Athan impinge on the Western Vale with large scale hangars, ground level infrastructure and vehicle parking.

- The whole coast has a special visual quality benefiting from the interplay of water and light, the views across the Bristol Channel to Exmoor and the stimulation of the other senses. This applies to those areas of the Eastern coast which are developed as well as the scenic Heritage Coast. However, development has had an impact on the coast between Penarth and Aberthaw including Barry and at Ogmere by Sea. Part of the problem is ageing infrastructure in popular tourist destinations and inappropriate or insensitive design. Recreation pressure causes impact on a smaller scale such as at Cwm Colhuw, Dunraven Bay, Sully Bay and Swanbridge in terms of parking, litter and vandalism. Careful design, siting and coordinated detailing and visitor management such as in the Heritage Coast could be applied to the whole coast.
- The St Nicholas and Bonvilston ridge crest which carries the A48 Roman Road is widely visible as skyline from the North and South. This skyline is important to the perception of the Vale and requires management to maintain its pattern of woodland blocks and hedgerows. In addition, the A48 corridor is beginning to suffer an erosion of its rural character between the village conservation areas through inappropriate signage, detailing etc. The ridge slopes are also visible over a wide area from the North and, critically, from the East and Cardiff. They need to be managed and protected in a similar way to the crest of the ridge.
- The urban fringe areas between Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry show signs of pressure from the urban areas. Management is often poor with overgrown hedges and land is used for horse grazing with associated paraphernalia. In addition, golf ranges and courses can change the character of the countryside by removing hedges, planting standard trees and maintaining a close sward. A balance is needed to maintain the rural character while accommodating positive land uses.
- Intensive farm management practices, particularly in the Western Vale, have led to a reduction in hedgerow cover. This is changing the character of the landscape. The layout and design of modern farm buildings is intrusive in places and coniferous hedges by farm buildings are incongruous in the landscape. Farm management could be improved by the application of Tir Gofal, particularly in the Western Vale. This is the Agri-Environment grant scheme for Wales managed by Countryside Council for Wales to improve the environment of whole farm through land management, creating permissive new access, capital works and training for farmers. New farm developments could also benefit from design guidelines.
- Broadleaf woodlands are not being managed to ensure continuous cover in many places. Woodlands on steep valley slopes such as in the Thaw valley are particularly valuable and distinctive. These important visual elements should be rigorously protected and carefully managed.
- The palette of traditional local materials of lias, limestone and rough cast render, distinctive detailing and native plant species are not being applied in large developments or small scale works except in Conservation Areas and on the Heritage Coast. This is leading to a general erosion of local distinctiveness particularly in the South East Vale. Problems include that building stone is not produced in local quarries due to operator practices and current economic considerations. Ways need to be explored to fit

**Plateau intervisibility**

**Superb coast**

See Plates 1 and 5

**Development on the coast**

**Tourism and recreation**

**St Nicholas and Bonvilston ridge crest**

See Plate 4

**Urban fringe**

See Plate 6

**Intensive farm management practices**

See Plate 7

**Woodlands**

See Plate 3

**Local distinctiveness**

See Plate 2

development to 'place' more effectively without stifling design and innovation.

- The most tranquil areas in the Vale are on the Western coast and to a lesser extent around Llancarfan and the Hensol forest areas. The least tranquil areas of countryside are around Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry and associated with the major roads and airports. However, there are large pockets close to roads and built up areas which are tranquil such as Cwrt yr Ala. There is a need to protect these tranquil areas from further erosion.
- Rural settlement edges often have a poor relationship with the surrounding countryside where new development has taken place. This includes towns such as Llantwit Major and villages such as Colwinston and Wick. Linear development can look untidy and unsightly where the pattern and materials of the older settlement is not respected e.g. Broughton. Guidelines are needed to ensure all settlements address the countryside sensitively.
- In areas where development or farm management has eroded the character of the existing landscape there is a need for new strong landscape infrastructure of woodlands and hedgerows to absorb existing development and provide a more diverse landscape. This may be appropriate in the South East Vale and parts of the West.
- The TV masts at Wenvoe and St. Hilary are present in most wide views of the Vale. Power lines detract from the valley landscapes such as in the lower Thaw and Waycock valleys. There is little possibility of changing these detractors. However, proliferation of masts and pylons should be avoided and opportunities taken for their removal when possible.
- Limestone quarries are most visible at Wenvoe and West of Bonvilston. Consideration should be given to on site landscape design and management strategies to reduce this impact over time. This will at least deal with the clutter of plant at ground level if not the higher structures.
- Commons give variety and texture to the landscape as well as being publicly accessible. These are poorly detailed in places and undergrazing is leading to changes in character.
- Disturbed land is a minor problem generally. Areas which require attention include the lower Ely valley adjacent to Cardiff, around Barry and at Rhoose.

**Tranquillity**

**Rural settlement edges**

**Strong landscape infrastructure**

*See Plate 8*

**Commons**

**Disturbed land**

## 2.3 Geology, Geomorphology and Drainage

*The bedrock of the Vale is sedimentary. This is overlain with glacial deposits to the North and fluvial deposits from the generally Southern flowing river systems. The prime geological interest is in the coastal cliffs although there are inland exposures in limestone and lias quarries which produce aggregate and cement products but not building stone. Much of the Western Vale plateau is aquifer. Rivers have been modified in places and low lying floodplains are almost all drained by ditch systems. Development on floodplains is an issue.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 4.0.*

The natural landforms of the Vale of Glamorgan have been shaped by surface processes acting on the sedimentary bedrock geology since the Upper Palaeozoic era. The 'backbone' bedrock running through the central part of the Vale of Glamorgan is Carboniferous Limestone, forming a broad belt from Barry, Wenvoe, Cowbridge and Ogmores by Sea. There are coastal exposures at Ogmores by Sea and Barry and there are inland exposures in quarries. In places, erosion has exposed limited areas of the older Old Red Sandstone (e.g. Stalling Down). The Carboniferous Limestone represents relatively resistant

rocks, associated with well-drained, alkaline soils. Old Red Sandstone rocks are also resistant, but produce acidic, well-drained soils. The higher 'islands' of limestone are surrounded by lower areas of softer, gently dipping tracts of land covering parts of the South Eastern Vale of Glamorgan. These consist of deposits of mudstones, marls and siltstones.

Carboniferous limestone is quarried primarily for aggregate e.g. Pant, Ruthin and Wenvoe. Liassic limestones are used for cement production at Aberthaw Quarry. In the past quarries were used for building stone which can be seen in walls and hedgebanks. Clays were quarried in brick-pits along the Ely.

The flat tract of land across the Southern Vale is primarily a liassic limestone peneplain, cut by scarp features resulting from erosion along faults. This rock is an aquifer. Glacial till deposits cover the Northern Vale, where there is a thick cover of boulder clay across a hummocky, poorly drained area. Clay and tufa deposits occupy lower valley slopes and bottoms. Hanging valleys, such as at Cwm Nash in the Lias of Southern Vale, indicate that there was rapid post-glacial retreat of the sea cliffs. Marine erosion has produced an extensive wave-cut platform backed by low to high cliffs around the coastline.



Wave cut platform and cliffs of Dunraven Bay.

The drainage pattern in the Vale is complex, cutting extensive valley systems such as the Thaw and Kenson into the bedrock geology. To the North East and East, the area is drained by the River Ely. To the South it is drained by the Thaw, Kenson and Cadoxton river systems. To the West, streams, including Afon Col huw, drain the Heritage Coast and the Ewenny and Alun feed into the Ogmore system. Of these catchments in the Vale, the largest is the Thaw, which covers much of the central part of the Vale from North to South and accounts for 37% of the total study area. In places, natural river courses have been modified by development or flood alleviation. These include the Ely, Cadoxton and Thaw.

Apart from rivers there are few significant water bodies in the Vale and these are almost all man-made. They include Cosmeston Lakes (in a disused quarry, now a country park) and Hensol Lake.

The main issues concerning geology, geomorphology and drainage are as follows:

- There are eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSIs] in the Vale of Glamorgan. All but two are coastal, parts of the almost continuous exposure in cliffs and coast from Ogmore to Penarth. The coastal strip requires careful conservation to maintain rock exposure, management to control the threat from leisure activities and access, and educational schemes to promote public awareness of geology.
- Second tier RIGS [Sites of Regional Geological Interest] still require documentation in the Vale of Glamorgan. Potential RIGS sites in the Vale are particularly associated with inland exposures of the Carboniferous Limestone, glacial features and the Tertiary peneplain. There is need for further investigation and documentation of a RIGS network, primarily as an educational resource.
- Limestone resources (Carboniferous Limestone and Lias Group limestones) require careful management. The topography surrounding the quarries needs protection to ensure exposure of quarry faces to the wider landscape is minimised. Sensitive restoration of disused quarries is required, often with a preferred after use of agriculture but retaining an ecological and geological resource.
- Consideration should be given to use of Carboniferous Limestone and Lias

Group limestones as building stone again.

- The Limestone geology of the area is vulnerable to contamination from landspreading practices, industrial spillages and flytipping. The main source of potable water in the Ogmere catchment comes from under the Western Vale plateau.
- There should be a general presumption against development in floodplains. The Ely, Cadoxton and Thaw Rivers have extensive low lying areas which could be vulnerable. An assessment is being carried out by the Environment Agency regarding 1 in 100 year flooding for more accurate advice to be given to the Planning Authority.
- The relationship between development and rivers is important. Generous allowance for access and for riparian vegetation should be made to ensure the river corridor is protected.

## 2.4 Vegetation and Habitats

*The Vale is very rich in nature conservation value. The most important ecological features in the Vale are the coast, limestone habitats, semi-natural woodlands, neutral grasslands, marsh and the river systems. Issues include fragmentation or removal of habitats by development and agricultural intensification.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 5.0*

The Vale of Glamorgan is remarkably rich in semi-natural vegetation and nature conservation value, despite being one of the more intensively farmed areas of the South Wales coastal fringe.

The Vale is entirely lowland, without any of the upland and sub-montane vegetation communities which are so distinctive of the South Wales hills and valleys further inland. The main ecological highlights of the Vale comprise a superb coastline with numerous important maritime and coastal habitat features, an extensive area of limestone grassland and limestone heath, numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands and an extensive, if fragmented, resource of species-rich neutral grasslands and marsh. There are also some major river systems and a few important inland lakes.



*Old Castle Down – limestone heath*

At the more general level, the Vale contains a large area of lightly improved pasture grassland, an excellent hedgerow resource and many small features of local value, such as ponds, highway verges, disused quarries and railway lines.

The main management issues concerning vegetation and habitats are as follows:

- There are potential threats to the coastal and maritime habitats from development for leisure and industry including offshore mineral extraction; unsuitable erosion-control measures; pollution and increasing recreational use and continuing agricultural intensification.
- The coast would benefit from integrated management policy to protect most sensitive areas, including the de-intensification of agriculture in the cliff-top hinterland [ie through conversion from arable to set aside, woodland/scrub or non-intensive grassland uses].
- There is continued degradation and/or loss of species-rich neutral grasslands and marshes, through development, drainage, agricultural improvement, neglect etc.

- There are opportunities for enhancement of remaining grassland and marshland through sensitive agricultural management and the restoration and enlargement of species-rich vegetation to link remaining fragments in key areas.
- There are opportunities for enhancement through conversion of replanted ancient woodlands back to native broadleaved species; also planting of new woodlands using native species in semi-natural patterns; the linking of existing isolated ancient semi-natural woodland blocks together; and the encouragement of sensitive management of woodlands through incentive schemes.
- The continued loss of hedges should be discouraged, and ideally reversed through incentive schemes.
- Undergrazing of common lands is leading to gradual deterioration through coarsening of swards and encroachment by bracken or scrub. Investment in infrastructure such as cattle grids and perimeter fencing, if possible, is required to encourage rights-holders to maintain appropriate grazing regimes.
- Small farm and field ponds are deteriorating through neglect or loss or through eutrophication by agricultural sources. The encouragement of restoration and creation of new ponds through incentive schemes is needed.
- There is a need to apply the concept of buffer strips to watercourses particularly in the intensively cultivated area of the Western plateau. This Environment Agency initiative protects and enhances river corridors and protects river banks by reserving a strip of semi-natural vegetation adjacent to the watercourse.
- There is a need to conserve and enhance lowland moor sites, in particular to protect Morfa Ystradowen from further agricultural improvement and reverse present drainage.
- There is a need to develop a detailed database of nature conservation information for the Vale through a formal Biological Records Centre and to instigate detailed studies of known and potential interests.
- There is a need to identify a series of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), giving recognition and protection in planning policy and for the encouragement of sensitive management and enhancement through incentive schemes.
- A Local Biodiversity Action Plan should be compiled for the Vale of Glamorgan, comprehensively addressing all these issues and providing a framework for action.



*Neglected field pond*

## 2.5 Historical

*The historic landscape of the Vale is of great significance within Wales. The area has been settled over a long period with evidence of a range of communities, including Romano-British, monastic and Anglo-Norman settlement, expressed in the landscape today. The key issue is the need to collect more information on this resource to inform decisions.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 7.0*

The countryside and its nucleated villages within the rural Vale are well known for their historic and attractive character, which is probably unmatched in the rest of Wales.



Historically, the Vale has been an important farming area, the fertility of which is owed to its shallow but free-draining soils, which provide excellent agricultural land.

The study area probably contains one of the highest concentrations of sites of archaeological and historic interest anywhere in Wales. They cover most type-sites and periods, in urban, urban-fringe and rural contexts, from the burial chambers of the prehistoric period to the military installations of the Second World War. These sites are supplemented by a variety of important archaeological and agricultural features, such as the communications network, field patterns, hedgerows, ancient woodland and water management systems.

The rural landscape is supplemented by a large number of communities of varying size, most of which have early and significant origins, with their important cultural and historic environments surviving today. The area contains a large number of prehistoric sites, including burial and military sites such as hill-forts. There are many important Romano-British villas and settlements in the area which are perhaps atypical of Wales as a whole. Important early medieval ('Dark Age') communities, with probable monastic origins, such as Llandough, Llancafán and Llantwit Major also exist and survive in recognisable form. These and other extant communities, and the deserted or shrunken medieval villages and castle boroughs attest to the strong regional Anglo-Norman influences of the early 12<sup>th</sup> century.



Iron Age Hill fort at Nash Point

In general terms the overall value of the historic environment of the Vale is such that the entire area was originally considered for inclusion within the draft *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*. In the event only the secluded valley of Llancafán was included in *Part 2.1: Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest* as being exemplary of the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole. In addition, the part of the Merthyr Mawr and Kenfig Burrows registered landscape East of the Ogmore and Ewenny Rivers lies within the Vale.



Llantwit Major from the West

The main issues concerning the historical aspect are as follows:

- The Vale of Glamorgan, as a distinct and archaeologically valuable area, has not benefited from modern archaeological synthesis, evaluation, or landscape characterisation. It is suggested that before more detailed historical work can be carried out with a view to detailed policy proposals, a historic landscape characterisation project, similar to those carried out for the Llyn Peninsula and the Gwent Levels could be carried out.
- The Glamorgan Heritage Coast has important historical themes and characteristics. This important dimension, however, is not adequately considered in the Plan Statement of the mid 1970s. In furtherance of the Heritage Coast's objectives (see Para 2.1 (3)) it is suggested that a heritage audit of the archaeological resource within the area and consideration of their protection, enhancement and intelligible interpretation be undertaken for future public benefit.
- There is a need to gain a better understanding of the heritage of the settlements of the Vale. The County Treasure Survey should be updated with local involvement. The Historic Settlement project methodology used in Monmouthshire may be an alternative and could be explored. Such a survey could benefit the community by providing a heritage audit, providing information for community projects to give residents a better awareness of their settlement's past, giving communities a better 'sense of place' and aiding the protection of the historic environment through the planning process.

Vale of Glamorgan  
Borough Council, 1975

## 2.6 Culture

*The landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan defines a strong and distinct cultural identity as Bro Morgannwg. This landscape draws cultural influences from the lowlands of England and the uplands of Wales and yet is distinct from both. More detailed study would be desirable particularly referring to sources using the Welsh language to increase understanding of the cultural identity of the area which recent development appears to be eroding.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 8.0*

The Vale of Glamorgan is an important historic and cultural landscape. Its physical form expresses various eras of cultural evolution. In some areas the gradual evolution of the landscape in which traces of the past have been retained and cultural value has accrued has been eradicated by 20<sup>th</sup> Century development. Some of this development has replaced a richly layered cultural landscape with a single layer thus reducing cultural value.

The landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan defines a strong and distinct cultural identity as *Bro Morgannwg* separate from the *Blaenau*, or the less fertile uplands to the North. The landscape shows cultural influences from the lowlands of England and the uplands of Wales and yet is distinct from both. This element of the Vale's cultural value is explained in more detail in the Historical Aspect.

The visual arts are not historically important in Wales. Most significant paintings of the Vale of Glamorgan date from the 1740's onwards and are related to the picturesque movement and later the Romantic period. The early travellers and artists were rarely Welsh and imported an idea of scenic beauty from England. Consequently their art can not be seen as an indication of the cultural values of the residents of the Vale at the time.

Today, the scenic ideal which became popular in the Romantic period is widespread. Visits to galleries and tourist shops in the Vale shows that the landscape elements that first attracted the travellers two centuries ago still fascinates us today. Postcards and amateur art still reinforce the picturesque scenic ideal.

Until the present century, with the exception of the early Middle Ages, the Vale of Glamorgan had been a Welsh speaking district. Most of the literature of the area to the beginning of this century is in Welsh. Much of the Welsh literary tradition was oral. Poems and tales were committed to memory and passed down from generation. Consequently much has been lost forever.

As with the visual arts, the landscape of the Vale does not appear to have been important in Welsh Literature until the Romantic period. This produced Edward Williams or Iolo Morgannwg who felt the same romantic influences that affected English, German and French poets of his day.

There is a large body of Folklore associated with the Vale of Glamorgan. Key texts of the subject include Marie Trevelyan, 'Folklore and Folk Stories amongst the Welsh', TC Evans, 'The Folklore of Wales', Rice Merrick 'A book of Glamorganshire Antiquities'. From this literature it has been difficult to identify stories, myths and legends that indicate important cultural associations with the landscape.

The main issues concerning the cultural aspect are as follows:

- The culture aspect has been assessed at a broad level. While this is

*Cowbridge, by HW Borl*



*after Gasteau, 1830*



*Nash Point Lighthouses, J Quilwate after Gasteau, 1850*

useful background material which broadens the historical perspective it does not aid the planning process in terms of design guidelines or at an area or site development level. It has potential to improve understanding of sense of place and therefore aid distinctiveness in design. It can also provide information for interpretation. Much of the Vale's culture is accessible only through the Welsh language. A full LANDMAP assessment by a Welsh speaking Culture specialist could provide this information.

- Within the Vale the key landscape elements that need to be protected in order that cultural value is not diminished and continues to evolve are:
  - The gentle rural character of the inland landscape as defined by topography, field boundaries, vegetation, settlement and archaeological remains.
  - The open, exposed relatively undeveloped coast.
  - Settlement pattern, variety of eras of built form and relationship to landscape setting
  - Areas of 'picturesque' landscape.
  - Common land

## 2.7 Rural Land Use

*Farming continues to be the dominant land use in the Vale generally benefiting from a good climate, good soils and gentle topography. Forestry is not a major land use and woodlands are generally privately owned. In many cases they are not managed. New farm infrastructure and methods are changing the landscape and further modifications are likely to occur in the less productive areas due to economic necessity.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 9.0*

The appraisal of Rural Land Use provides contextual information which informs the overall landscape strategy.

Agriculture has always been the most important land use in the Vale. Its moist, mild climate, generally good soils and gentle topography have allowed mixed farming to prosper over much of the area. A significant proportion of land is Grade 2. The coastal belt remains important for cereal growing while further inland stock rearing predominates. In comparison with the South Wales Coalfield, the area is undemanding to farm. On the whole, farms have remained medium sized and owner-occupied, if not part of the larger estates of the area. Technical advances have been quite extensive in the last 50 years which have been reflected in landscape patterns [such as hedgerow removal] and in farm labour needs. Recent years have seen an increase in sheep and beef cattle while dairying has decreased.



*Modern agricultural buildings in the Western Vale*

Common land is present and forms an important recreational resource at Ogmere Down and Stalling Down as well as being of high nature conservation value.

Woodland cover increases across the Vale from West to East, being an important element in the Eastern half. Areas of woodland do not generally exceed 50 Ha in size except for the single area of typical Forestry Commission plantation at Hensol. As well as woodlands there are many copses and hedgerow trees adding to the sylvan appearance of the landscape. The major areas of woodland are on the steep valley sides. There is also a variety of

scattered farm woodlands. However, the majority of these woodlands are not managed appropriately despite Forestry Authority and Coed Cymru support in the area.

Other rural land uses are of minor extent and include country parks, golf courses, coastal recreation and specific visitor attractions.

The main issues concerning Rural Land Use are as follows.

- Development pressure is apparent around the South East Vale, by the M4, around rural settlements and from Bridgend. However, the Vale continues to be a primarily rural area with agriculture as the major land use
- The Vale is relatively rich in Grade 2 and 3A ALC land which is generally protected against development.
- Grade 3B and 4 ALC land forms an integral pattern with the higher grade land and changes to its use will affect adjacent land.
- Appropriate new uses, including commercial woodland, will need to be found for land in less productive areas. The lower grade agricultural land to the North of the Vale is most likely to be subject to change of this nature.
- Countryside access causes some problems particularly in urban fringe and coastal areas.
- Woodlands are in need of management to conserve the resource in terms of continuous cover, diversity, productivity and access.
- There is scope for additional woodland particularly in the Western Vale, although in windier plateau areas this may be less productive.
- Farm buildings, accesses and plantings are sometimes insensitive to their landscape context.
- Commons suffer from undergrazing and lack of investment in infrastructure possibly due to their small size.
- Tir Gofal [the Agri-Environment grant scheme for Wales] has potential to conserve and enhance the landscape in parts of the Vale.

## 2.8 Settlement and Development

*Development, particularly in the South East Vale, is changing the character of Vale as a whole and is not generally contributing to local distinctiveness. Sustainable design principles, if rigorously applied, could contribute to the creation of a new local sense of place.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 10.0*

Like Rural Land Use, the appraisal of Settlement and Development is contextual information which informs the overall landscape strategy.

Today there are effectively two Vales; the Vale of quiet rural tranquillity, and the Vale of economic and industrial 'progress' where a new mode of life is expressed by large industrial, tourism and residential developments. The latter 'Vale' is having a profound influence on the 'rural' Vale most obviously in the Coastal Strip between Penarth, Barry and Llantwit Major. In this area the agricultural qualities have been replaced or overwhelmed by the scale of residential and industrial development.

In the same way that villages represented a way of living, other changes in the Vale represent the modern mode of life. Developments such as Culverhouse Cross and the proposed Pencoedre development, which are car-dependent, new commuter housing in villages, traffic calming, tourism and recreation developments create a new sense of place that reflects the changed role of the countryside of the Vale. Many of these changes have been damaging to the highly valued rurality of the Vale of Glamorgan.



East Barry looking North to the Pencoedre Woods development area

The strong sense of place that has developed in the Vale of Glamorgan arose as a result of local people using local materials in response to local environmental conditions. There is a tendency to view sense of place as a static entity that is derived from historic settlements and development patterns. This is not the case. Sense of place evolves with culture.

The main issues concerning Settlement and Development are as follows:

- Although the landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan still has a largely rural character it now fulfils a variety of functions unrelated to agriculture. In areas of change, modern, sustainable development should be encouraged that is both sympathetic to location and meets modern needs.
- In some areas of the Vale, notably the East Vale coastal strip, rural quality has been lost due to the scale of development that has occurred. A new vision for these areas should be considered that takes into account the landscape's function as a setting for large scale development.
- In the Vale of Glamorgan many developments have been detrimental to the area's distinctive sense of place. This has been because they have not needed to respond to specific local environmental conditions because of modern technology and the trend towards globalisation. However the recent concept of sustainability and Local Agenda 21 dictates that new development should be sympathetic to the carrying capacity of the receiving environment and minimise adverse environmental effects. Sustainable design principles, if rigorously applied, could contribute to the creation of a new local sense of place.

## 2.9 Public Perception

*The public perception study supported many of the LANDMAP appraisal findings. The coast and the tranquil rural Vale were highly valued and the latter was perceived to be under threat. Responses also indicated that local landscapes were valued, well managed landscapes were liked and landscapes that were usable and accessible were appreciated more than those that were inaccessible.*

*For a fuller account of this aspect see Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 3.0*

The main conclusions derived from the public perception study confirmed much of what aspect specialists had identified but added some additional considerations to the strategy. The key findings of the study were as follows:

- The undeveloped Coast was perceived to be the most valuable landscape.
- Familiar, local landscapes were valued.
- Open spaces in Barry were regarded as very important and in need of enhancement.
- The retention of the rural quality of the Vale was seen to be very important.

- The retention of the rural quality of the Vale was seen to be very important.
- The tranquillity of the rural Vale was valued.
- Development was seen to be threatening the countryside and there was a desire to limit this.
- Landscapes that could be used or accessed were perceived to be of greater value than landscapes that could not. This was supported by the comments on the coast and country park.
- Well managed farm landscapes were liked.
- Colour and variety in the landscape was appreciated.
- Woodlands were the most valued element in the landscape.
- More involvement of the public and landowners was needed in landscape policy making.

## 3.0 A VISION AND STRATEGY THEMES FOR THE VALE

### 3.1 Introduction

A Vision for the Vale's landscape needs to be based on conservation of the best landscapes and enhancement of those areas which are degraded. The Vale has landscapes of high quality that are both economic and natural assets and resources. Overall themes have emerged. Some respond to the planning, global, economic and development context (3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.12, 3.14). The others primarily arise from the intrinsic quality of the landscape resource identified through the LANDMAP assessment. The themes are each briefly described and followed by recommendations for initiatives, programmes and implementation. These recommendations are summarised and prioritised in the Action Plan in Volume 3 Action Programme. They are also subject to an Environmental Appraisal as used by the Unitary Development Plan to ensure that they are in line with best practice. This is located in Section 13.0 Volume 4 Technical Annex.

Volume 3 Section 2.0

Themes that are applicable to the whole of the Vale are described in this section. Four specific area strategies are considered in Section 4.0. The detailed assessments and strategies for each of the 33 landscape character areas are set out in Part B Section 6.0. Recommendations.

The Themes are as follows:

- 3.2 Planning and Legislative Framework
- 3.3 Towards Sustainable Development
- 3.4 Landscape supporting Economic Development
- 3.5 Protecting Tranquillity
- 3.6 Reinforcing the Vale's Identity
- 3.7 Conserving the Coast
- 3.8 Conserving the Rural Vale
- 3.9 Enhancing the Urban Fringe
- 3.10 Conserving the Natural Heritage
- 3.11 Conserving the Historic Heritage
- 3.12 Improving Access
- 3.13 Towards a Woodlands Strategy
- 3.14 Improving Landscape Management

### 3.2 Planning and Legislative Framework

*The main proposals for this theme are that the strategy should form the basis of supplementary planning guidance, the landscape appraisal should provide a basis for Special Landscape Areas to be designated, comprehensive design guidance is needed throughout the Vale, nature conservation would be supported by identification of SNGIs and recognition of the value of the wider landscape outside designated sites. Finally, local community involvement is important in environmental initiatives.*

The main planning documents providing a framework for the strategy are Planning Guidance [Wales] Planning Policy [1996] and The Vale of Glamorgan Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011 Deposit Draft 1998 [UDP]. The Countryside Strategy Draft Report [May 1997] raises key issues and puts forward an action programme. These are informed by 'Sustainable Development: The UK Strategy' 1994 and 'Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan' 1994. In addition, the Welsh Development Agency document 'Landscapes Working for Wales' 1996 has provided guidance

on the role of landscape in supporting economic development and put forward overall themes for application at a local level. The Countryside Council for Wales policy document 'The Welsh Landscape' 1996 also provides overall objectives on landscape issues. It promotes the LANDMAP process as a means of classification, evaluation and strategy formulation. Other relevant documents include the Environment Agency's draft Ely and Vale of Glamorgan and Ogmere LEAPs and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Management Plan [1975].

The following Unitary Development Plan policies have relevance to this landscape strategy.

### **Local Countryside Designations**

The UDP refers to this study to provide the landscape assessment basis for supplementary planning guidance on Special Landscape Areas. The landscape evaluation has identified 33 Landscape Character Areas. This has provided assessment of visual, ecological, geological, historical and cultural aspects for each area. The Area Strategies provide descriptions and evaluations of quality. It is expected that these, backed up by the Technical Annex, will provide a firm foundation for designation.

*See Section 6.0*

*It is recommended that:*

➔ [3.2.1] *The landscape assessment forms the basis for future designation.*

### **Green Belt**

Work has already begun to provide a context for debate about the merits of Green Belt designation. Because of its impact, policy will be decided with other local planning authorities and a sub-regional study conducted to determine development needs and ways of managing change over the next 30 years. The designation may well be useful in protecting urban fringe areas including Cwrt yr Ala, Leckwith, the Ely Valley, the A48 ridge and ridge slopes and eastern coast. However, it should be ensured that, whatever the protective mechanism, these landscapes are well managed for productive farming, landscape and wildlife interest and appropriate recreation.

### **Green Wedges**

Green wedge policy is an anti-coalescence mechanism intended to protect vulnerable land and the settings of urban areas. As with green belts, this policy does not promote positive landscape management in these areas. The main concern of this strategy is to ensure that, through other mechanisms, these landscapes are well managed for productive farming, landscape and wildlife interest and appropriate recreation. Particular emphasis is needed to strengthen woodland and hedgerow cover to help screen adjacent developed areas.

### **Good Design**

The UDP puts great emphasis on the protection and conservation of the Vale's environment and has a policy addressing the design of new developments. Design is a material consideration and Welsh Office planning policy states that authorities should provide clear indications of design expectations. New development needs to complement the Vale's landscapes and townscapes. A consistently high standard of design quality is essential for all the Vale, not just selected development or conservation areas. The existing supplementary planning guidance, area guidance for Barry and design briefs could be complemented by additional guidance.

*Planning Guidance [Wales]:  
Planning Policy [1996] item  
38*



*It is recommended that:*

➡ [3.2.2] An overall Vale of Glamorgan Design Framework is drafted as an SPG which sets out:

- The Vale's design philosophy
- Design objectives combining sustainable development, urban and landscape design principles
- Checklists for developers for the site appraisal and design process.

*This overarching document should be complemented by an enlarged range of topic based guidance, area [town, neighbourhood, community] and site based guidance to give a comprehensive layered approach.*

### **Minerals**

Current inland mineral extraction is limited to carboniferous and liassic limestone for aggregate and cement manufacture. This defines the scope of planning policy. Local building stone is currently not extracted from quarries because of operators reluctance to use quarries for two different products and the perceived uncertainty of the market for stone. Though some progress has been made to explore the potential for building stone this has not yielded positive results. The use of natural stone would help reinforce the Vale's local distinctiveness if used selectively in new development and could help protect secondary sources such as existing barns and walls from demolition. The most acceptable environmental option would be to win stone from existing quarries rather than from new or reopened operations elsewhere.

*It is recommended that:*

➡ [3.2.3] The council should continue to explore the potential for production of building stone from existing quarries.

### **Allotments**

Allotments form part of the open space of towns which is so valued by local communities. They perform a valuable function in producing good, cheap food and a providing healthy recreation in built up areas. As density is an important element in creating sustainable communities, space is at a premium for food production. Therefore the importance of allotments is likely to increase over time. The UDP seeks to protect the provision of allotments.

*It is recommended that:*

➡ [3.2.4] Allotments are protected and positively promoted to encourage wider use.

### **Nature Conservation**

The Vale's biodiversity is of particular value but is under pressure from development and intensive agricultural practice. National planning policy states that appropriate weight should be given to international, national and local designations of ecological value. UDP policies do address protection for sites of international and national importance and local sites of nature conservation significance. At present only nature reserves have been listed to form the background to this policy. No other list of sites of county or local value has been compiled. Sites of Nature Conservation Interest should be identified to enlarge the third tier of protection. The study has collected existing information on sites of interest for this process to be carried out. Further systematic investigation is needed to enlarge the database over time to form the basis of a Biodiversity Action Plan.

*It is recommended that:*

➔[3.2.5] *SNCI's are identified and issued as supplementary planning guidance*

National policy seeks to ensure that policies contribute to the conservation of abundance and diversity of wildlife and its habitats and recognises the importance of non-designated areas and features which provide wildlife corridors. There is potential for this concept to be reflected in the UDP to provide protection to the wider landscape between areas of high conservation interest.

*Planning Guidance [Wales]:  
Planning Policy [1996] item  
102 and 104*

*It is recommended that*

➔ [3.2.6] *The nature conservation value of the wider landscape is recognised through design and management guidance.*

*See recommendation 3.14.1*

### **Local Agenda 21**

Local Agenda 21 initiatives can have benefit for landscape management and design guidance at a local level. Community led appraisals could complement existing initiatives by involving local communities and encouraging a shared responsibility for the environment.

*It is recommended that:*

➔ [3.2.7] *The Council continues to explore opportunities for local involvement in environmental initiatives.*

### **Overall Policy Status of the Study**

This strategy document provides detailed information and guidance on landscape issues.

*It is recommended that:*

➔[3.2.8] *This strategy forms the basis for the preparation of supplementary planning guidance for the Vale.*

## **3.3 Towards Sustainable Development**

*The main thrust of this theme is that all future development in the Vale should take place in line with sustainable development principles considering landtake, energy, materials, flora and fauna, water, soils and waste management.*

The Unitary Development Plan states that one of its aims is 'to attempt to ensure that all proposed development within the Vale of Glamorgan respects the need to work towards sustainable development'. It refers to the current national policy framework including 'Sustainable Development: The UK Strategy' 1994 and 'Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan' 1994. This framework derives from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit which generated the following key texts:

*The Vale of Glamorgan  
Unitary Development Plan  
1996-2011 Deposit Draft  
1998 Item 2.1.5*

- Agenda 21, a plan linking development with the environment
- The Rio declaration on environment and development
- A convention on Biodiversity
- A statement of the principles of sustainable forestry

These form an important framework for the delivery of sustainable development objectives in the Vale. Three principles are of particular importance:

- There is an intimate relationship between economic performance and

environmental quality. This recognises that economic activity has implications for maintenance of environmental quality, and that environmental conservation measures will similarly affect economic activity;

- The precautionary principle for development decisions. This is based on the view that maintenance of environmental quality is fundamental to achieving sustainable development objectives.
- The forward looking, social dimension of sustainable development. This is an important principle which requires protection of the current stock of Environmental resources for the benefit of subsequent generations. It recognises the fundamental importance of public involvement to achieve consensus in environmental planning decision making.

Sustainability is a valuable analytical and integrating concept as a practical framework for environmental planning. It can provide a mechanism for consideration of priorities for economic activity and environmental conservation.

*It is recommended that:*

➔ [3.3.1] *The strategy supports the adoption of principles of sustainable development as a fundamental influence on development and delivery of policies for environmental conservation and development. All future development should take place with due consideration of its sustainability.*

The key concept of sustainable development is minimisation of consumption of non-renewable resources. Landscape design and management have a contribution to make to sustainable development in terms of the following resources:

- Land
- Energy
- Materials
- Flora and Fauna
- Water
- Soils
- Waste Management

*It is recommended that:*

➔ [3.3.2] **Landtake** for development should be minimised by efficient use of land and building at densities appropriate to location. The quality of design of development is particularly critical in higher density developments. The area taken for purely decorative planting with little nature conservation value should also be minimised.

➔ [3.3.3] **Energy** use should be minimised in making materials for building, transporting them, constructing a development and running/using the development. Buildings should be designed for longevity and flexibility of use and/or be of energy efficient construction. Developments should be located and designed so need for access by car is minimised and walking, cycling and public transport is encouraged. This reinforces the notion of development related to public transport routes and location of high density development on these routes. Opportunities for renewable energy should be explored including wind energy and biomass. Agencies, such as the Council, WDA and CCW, should lead the way in adopting and promoting energy efficiency through the location of their offices and developments wherever practicable.

**Link between economic performance and environmental quality**

**Precautionary principle**

**Consensus**

**Sustainability as an integrating concept**

See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG1

**Efficient Use of Land**

**Design for longevity and flexibility**

**Location**

➔[3.3.4] **Materials** should be extracted and manufactured locally where practicable to minimise transport energy consumption. This also reinforces the sense of place. They should be from sustainable sources. Ways to reduce consumption of non-renewable materials should be explored as well as the potential for reuse and recycling. Again agencies, such as the Council and the WDA, should lead the way in adopting and promoting this approach. Coed Cymru is a good example of good practice. Local officers give advice to landowners on managing, harvesting, processing and selling hardwoods in existing local woodlands. This initiative should continue to be supported.

Recycling

Coed Cymru

➔[3.3.5] **Flora and fauna** of the Vale should be recorded and evaluated to fully understand the resource and should be conserved and enhanced as part of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. New landscapes should enhance and link existing habitats and create new ones with adequately sized areas of woodland, grassland, water bodies etc. Plants of local provenance and at least of native species should be used. The use of purely decorative species with little nature conservation value should be minimised.

Biodiversity  
See Section 3.10

➔[3.3.6] **Water** resources within the aquifer, rivers and other water bodies should be protected and managed to ensure a clean and reliable supply on a regional basis is maintained. LEAPs prepared by the Environment Agency seek to work towards this. Development should avoid aquifers and floodplains. Water 'captured' on site should be used on site where possible.

Water conservation

➔[3.3.7] **Soil** is an important resource and should be conserved. The most energy efficient and appropriate solution is careful conservation of soil on development sites for reuse and the treatment and improvement of existing substrates on disturbed sites. Existing soils are more likely to support local flora successfully than imported soil. In an agricultural context, crop management and cultivation techniques should aid soil conservation.

Soil conservation

➔[3.3.8] **Waste** production should be minimised by reducing packaging where possible, re-using materials and recycling. Waste should be carefully dealt with as close to the point of issue as possible with minimum impact on the environment.

Waste management

### 3.4 Landscape Supporting Economic Development

The main proposals for this theme are integrating landscape appraisal into the design process for all developments, preparing detailed design guidance including briefs and requiring developers to prepare design statements in line with the guidance, carrying out environmental improvements to road and rail corridors and using the Volume 2 Design Guidelines as a basis for future design guidance.

Over the past few years in Wales it has been demonstrated by the WDA and others that there is a link between environmental quality and economic success. Investing in the environment and conserving the best existing qualities gives the economy a competitive edge. There is only one chance to ensure that development integrates into and enhances the landscape. If this is not taken, the overall environmental quality of a locality can be affected, with potential knock-on effects for future development quality and expectations for other uses such as leisure and recreation.

The Vale is rich in high quality landscape close to the M4. This resource should be nurtured. New landscapes, as an integral part of development, must reflect and reinforce the Vale's character and offer high standards of design and management in accordance with best practice. This does not mean that innovation in design is stifled, rather that it has a framework to work within that gives it sensitivity to the site.

Landscapes Working for  
Wales WDA 1996  
**Environment and economy  
link**



Development of Cardiff Wales  
Airport

In implementing new developments the following issues should be taken into consideration:

- Developments must be responsive to their context in visual, climatic, ecological and historical terms including the orientation of development, the need to screen obtrusive structures, and must respond to existing landscape features and plant species adjacent to the site. The visual impact of development on the surrounding area must be carefully considered.
- On site, features of natural, historical and/or functional value [eg woodland or hedgerow shelter belts] should be retained wherever possible as a backbone for landscape infrastructure.
- Opportunities should be taken to enhance the ecological value of an area by offering a richer diversity of habitats such as wetlands, woodlands, meadows and hedges

The following recommendations are made:

- [3.4.1] Apply high design standards for developments, integrating thorough landscape appraisal in the design process and encouraging innovation in design.
- [3.4.2] Use the Design Guidelines in Volume 2 as the basis for future more detailed Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- [3.4.3] Prepare detailed design and development briefs for major sites on the basis of a thorough environmental appraisal.
- [3.4.4] Require developers to produce a design statement responding to design guidance showing how the design relates to the site and context.

See recommendation 3.2.1

See recommendation 3.6.4

The environmental quality of road and rail corridors into the Vale are crucial to the perception of the area. The South East Vale corridors and gateways and A48 corridor should be tackled and are examined in more detail in Sections 4.2 and 4.4. These should be enhanced where possible at key sites such as roundabouts and stations to project a positive image.

See Section 4.2 South East Vale corridors and gateways and Section 4.4 A48 corridor

The following recommendations are made:

- [3.4.5] Improve road and rail corridors at key sites in accordance with the strategies in 4.2 and 4.4 and in Volume 3 Action Programme:
- [3.4.6] Carry out road improvements in line with recommendations in Design Guidelines Volume 2 DG6 and 7.

See Volume 3 Action Programme sites 1-20 and 34-36.

### 3.5 Protecting Tranquillity

*The tranquillity of the Vale is a valuable asset which, once lost, cannot be recreated. It is therefore important to retain and protect tranquil areas including those in close proximity to urban areas.*

In contrast to the development areas, the Vale offers a refuge from the hurly burly of city life to many working in Cardiff, Newport or Bridgend. People live in the Vale or spend leisure time there to 'recharge their batteries'. The Vale achieves this through rural peace and quiet and restfulness on the eye. This quality can be expressed by the word tranquillity. It is an increasingly rare and particularly valuable quality because once lost it is almost impossible to regain. Once development or infrastructure is in place it is unlikely to be removed. In the case of

**Tranquillity is a finite resource**



Cwrt yr Aie

trouising it is permanent. There is therefore a strong need to retain the remaining tranquillity of the Vale as one of its key finite resources.

The appraisal process has assessed the degree of tranquillity using a method developed for broad brush assessment. This has looked at the effect of roads, aircraft noise, settlement pattern and takes into consideration detractors such as power stations and overhead power lines. The most tranquil areas are shown to be the western Lias plateau and Heritage Coast, around Llancarfan and around Hensol Forest. However, the method has not taken account of topography or ease of access and does not assess tranquillity at a fine grain. Areas such as Cwrt yr Ala and the Dyffryn basin, though close to built up areas, are tranquil and are very valuable as a result. It should be ensured that any major works should be confined to areas which are already disturbed.

The following recommendation is suggested:

- ◆ [3.5.1] Give tranquil areas particular protection from development including major infrastructure works.

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 6.0

**Value of tranquil areas close to settlements**

### 3.6 Reinforcing the Vale's Identity

*The Vale's landscapes have a strong sense of place and distinctive detailing and materials. This is being eroded by development using nationally available materials and building types. It is recommended that further study should be undertaken to fully understand the historic resource of the Vale, design guidance should emphasise and explain local identity, the local community should be enabled to carry out local assessments and local materials and makers should be used and encouraged.*

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 6.0

The subtle range of character across the Vale is primarily dependent on the geology and dominant era of development. In the southern rural Vale or Bro, nucleated villages are linked by narrow rural lanes with stone-reinforced blackthorn hedgebanks or stone walls. Streams often run alongside roads in channels and through settlements necessitating small bridges to access properties. In the centre of some villages there are small ponds often with formal stone sides. The primary traditional hard materials used for buildings and walls are blue Lias stone, the coarser Carboniferous Limestone, roughcast render, often limewashed, and slate roofs. To the North, in the glaciated Border Vale, stone is used less for enclosure. Hawthorn hedgerows and broadleaf woodland are more prevalent. To the South East, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development dominates settlements and associated materials of brick, tiles, smooth render and concrete are more in evidence. Sandstone is also occasionally used.



A Vale farmhouse

The scale and rate of change, and the use of nationally available materials and standard building types [particularly houses], are rapidly eroding the South East Vale's distinctiveness and the effect is beginning to spread westwards into the rural Vale. This overall trend needs to be reversed. Typical examples of standard detailing include the use of timber fencing in back gardens which often face main roads and palisade fencing to fronts. Non-native decorative shrubs carpet large areas even in rural locations and reinforce an 'anywhere' feel to the development they are intended to enhance.



Inappropriate boundary treatment

No building stone is now produced in the Vale. Carboniferous and Liasic Limestone are still quarried but only for crushed aggregate and cement manufacture respectively. There is a need to investigate if an operator would be able to economically extract and process building stone within

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 4.0

the Vale. The opening of a defunct quarry for this purpose may be contentious. However, existing quarries, particularly Aberthaw [Lias], have large reserves and may be appropriate.

There are few local producers of other products relevant to external works and buildings in the Vale such as hardwoods, street furniture and artworks. Craftsmen, artists, manufacturers and maintenance providing local supplies could benefit the local economy and widen the skills base. Public art has a valuable role to play in creating a new sense of place and reflecting existing identity.

The broad LANDMAP appraisal used in this study has given broad indications of local character. The grain of this information is still relatively coarse. A more detailed LANDMAP assessment could help fill in detail about local distinctiveness. This could be further enhanced by an historic landscape characterisation study [see Section 3.11] and by community appraisals including the County Treasures Initiative.

The Vale conservation area guidelines are useful in conserving conservation areas. The key principles on which these are based should extend to everywhere in the Vale. However, response to place should not exclude innovation or creative design. There are many examples of good new design which add to a sense of place.

The following recommendations are suggested:

- ➔ [3.6.1] Undertake an historic landscape appraisal and more detailed LANDMAP assessments as the need arises to add to existing information.
- ➔ [3.6.2] Encourage and support community led appraisals [of villages etc] where there is local interest.
- ➔ [3.6.3] Prepare Design Guidance at all levels to guide developers so they can take local distinctiveness into account. Area and site design briefs should particularly define the key characteristics of an area.
- ➔ [3.6.4] Require developers to produce a design statement responding to design guidance showing how the design relates to the site and context.
- ➔ [3.6.5] Consider further investigation into the potential for the extraction of building stone from local quarries.
- ➔ [3.6.6] Avoid imitation stone materials. Natural stone should be used where possible [in key locations] and cheaper materials such as rough cast render elsewhere.
- ➔ [3.6.7] Use native species planting on all sites with appropriate species on the coast.
- ➔ [3.6.8] Encourage local makers and suppliers of environmental products within the study area with grants and small craft unit construction etc
- ➔ [3.6.9] There should be a review of street furniture to consider a specifically tailored design/family of designs which is responsive to the Vale's character and local materials. Complementary designs for rural and urban areas commissioned from artists could be considered.
- ➔ [3.6.10] Prepare a Public Art Strategy to provide specific guidance for key sites and assess opportunities for funding, sponsorship and implementation with particular regard to Percent for Art in new developments and integration of art into the landscape.

**Few local products**

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 6.0  
See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 7.0



Development responding to place- Ty Hafren, Sully Bay

See recommendation 3.11.1

See recommendation 3.2.1 and 3.2.2

See recommendation 3.4.4

See recommendation 3.2.3

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG19, 20, 21

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG22, 23, 24

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG19, 20, 21

### 3.7 Conserving the Coast

*The main proposals for this theme are that a coastal management plan for the **whole** coast is needed, a continuous coastal path along the length of the coastline is desirable, the Heritage Coast needs continued properly resourced conservation and the East Vale coast needs major enhancement and protection from further development.*

The coast is the most dramatic expression of natural processes in the Vale. Perhaps because of this the undeveloped Heritage Coast is the most highly valued landscape in the area. The developed coast east of Aberthaw Power Station (East Vale Coast) is degraded and is perceived to be of considerably lower value. However, **both** have important geological and ecological features [12 SSSI's], great archaeological interest and both benefit from superb views across the Bristol Channel/Severn Estuary. There needs to be an integrated approach to both which conserves the west and enhances the eastern coastal strips. The specific proposals for each coastal area are discussed in some detail in the area strategies sections 4.3 [Eastern Coastal Fringe] and 4.4 [Heritage Coast] and related Figures 8 and 9.

*The following recommendations are made:*

- ➔ [3.7.1] Produce a Coastal Management Plan for the whole coast with clear objectives and programmes. This should be derived from a cross-disciplinary, holistic approach focussing on conservation, improvements and access.
- ➔ [3.7.2] Resource Glamorgan Heritage Coast to enable it to carry out its remit adequately and consider extending some management functions to the whole coast.
- ➔ [3.7.3] Create a continuous coastal path from Penarth Head/Cardiff Bay Barrage to Ogmore by Sea. Optimise linkage from the coastal path inland particularly into settlements and up river valleys especially the Thaw.
- ➔ [3.7.4] Apply the Heritage Coast policies on conservation to the hinterland sloping towards the sea outside the boundary.
- ➔ [3.7.5] Maintain the Heritage Coast as a remote zone as far as possible with conservation considerations given more weight than recreation.
- ➔ [3.7.6] Enhance degraded Heritage Coast recreation areas including Cwm Col huw and Ogmore by Sea using appropriate management plans.
- ➔ [3.7.7] Restrict new development on the East Vale Coast to that which has an overriding need to be located on the coast. Keep this development to within the existing built up areas if at all possible.
- ➔ [3.7.8] Maintain and enhance green buffers between the settlements on the East Vale Coast between Penarth and Sully, Sully and Barry and around Rhooose. These areas need positive management to strengthen the landscape infrastructure to absorb the existing development.
- ➔ [3.7.9] Enhance the prominent headlands in Barry with major landscape treatment sensitive to their wide visibility and contribution to the seascape.
- ➔ [3.7.10] Take opportunities to enhance and rationalise all existing leisure developments and caravan parks along the coast to integrate them with the landscape and allow coastal access.

See Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 4.0 and 5.0



The Heritage Coast

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG2, 3, 4

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG3

See recommendation 3.12.2

See Section 6.0 Landscape Character Area 2

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG3

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG3

See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG2

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG4



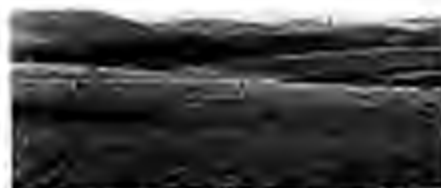
### 3.8 Conserving the Rural Vale

*The main proposals of this theme are that a Countryside Service should be set up for the rural Vale, rural highway design guidelines should be prepared, Tir Gofal should be used proactively, hedgerows protection should be better resourced and farm related design guidelines should be applied.*

Agricultural land makes up 70% of the Vale. Much of it is highly productive and contributes to the Vale's economy. Along with the Heritage Coast it embodies the essential image of what the Vale is. Lying between the urban areas of Cardiff and Bridgend, the area is still under development pressure and has absorbed new housing attached to existing settlements over the years. Changing farming practices, including mechanisation, have also altered the landscape character particularly in the plateau areas. However, the rate of change is not entirely clear and the collection of base data followed by monitoring is necessary.

See Section 2.7

Changes have tended to be small scale but cumulative in effect. As an example, rural roads, under pressure from traffic serving development or as shortcuts, have been improved in places. These improvements have included road widening/straightening, visibility splays and kerb installation. These are all urban details and have removed hedgebanks, stone walls etc which not only express essential rural character and have ecological and historic value but also act as traffic calming features in their own right. Farm buildings and accesses have also been changed to meet the needs of modern day farming. Quick growing conifer hedges have been planted to act as screens for new units or for shelter but in themselves are inappropriate to the rural scene.



Larger field sizes in parts of the Northern Vale

In places, barns and stone walls are removed for reclaimed building stone. While this may be appropriate sometimes and provides a sympathetic material if used in the Vale, this results in a gradual degradation of landscape character by removal of small but characteristic historic features.

Intensive agriculture has led to hedgerows being removed and replaced by fences, and pasture and wetlands being improved. This has led to the reduction and fragmentation of habitats. Broadleaf woodlands have been neglected in parts of the Vale. They are dealt with in more detail in Section 3.13

See Section 2.4

*The following recommendations are made:*

*Generally:*

- [3.8.1] Support agriculture as an important component of the Vale economy.
- [3.8.2] Conserve the intrinsic character of the Vale's rural landscape including the field pattern, trees, hedgerows, stone walls, use of appropriate materials and plants, and sensitive detailing of roads and settlements.
- [3.8.3] Encourage the conservation of semi-natural vegetation and linkage between habitats including grasslands, woodlands, commons and riparian corridors.

See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG13,15,16

**Mechanisms:**

- ➔ [3.8.4] Develop a Vale Countryside Service with a Western Vale base at Dunraven. This could have responsibility for negotiating and improving access, nature conservation value and woodland/hedgerow management.
- ➔ [3.8.5] Prepare highway design guidelines to balance road safety with the conservation and enhancement of rural character. All subsequent road improvements in rural Vale should be carried out in accordance with these.
- ➔ [3.8.6] Target the Tir Gofal and Woodland Grant schemes to areas where landscape has particular value but is beginning to degrade.
- ➔ [3.8.7] Resource the Hedgerow Regulations team for a proactive role encouraging hedgerow conservation, reinstatement and renovation.
- ➔ [3.8.8] Use the farm and farm access guidelines as a basis for guidance.

See Section 5.6  
See Volume 2 Design  
Guideline DG16

See Volume 2 Design  
Guideline DG6,7,15,  
CILiterms Conference (1997)

See Sections 5.3 and 5.4

See Volume 2 Design  
Guideline DG14,15

### 3.9 Enhancing the Urban Fringe

*The main proposals of this theme are that a Countryside Service should be set up for the South East Vale, woodlands and hedgerows should be managed where possible to create a strong landscape infrastructure to absorb development, urban fringe and rural design guidelines should be applied, Tir Gofal should be used proactively, development should be strictly curbed to protect vulnerable areas between settlement and environmental education should continue to be improved.*

The urban fringe in the Vale is a landscape vulnerable to change and is under pressure from development, recreation and vandalism. The Vale has not only to contend with the effects of its own urban areas but that of Cardiff. However, as the public perception study found, these fringe landscapes are important for their value to the local community.

The fringe suffers from hope value where landowners want to obtain planning permission for development and therefore let land management deteriorate. Hedgerows are left to grow without maintenance or are replaced with poorly maintained fences. Woodlands are unmanaged. Horse grazing, while often supporting a small scale hedged field pattern, can lead to a deterioration in pasture quality where poorly managed.

Small scale incursions, such as poorly designed houses or horse related development, reduce the quality of these areas. Larger developments such as schools and infrastructure such as sewage treatment plants are often located on the settlement edge such as at Dinas Powys. Litter and dumping are common problems in country lanes and laybys. Access is poorly detailed in places and is often insufficient for the adjacent communities. Circular footpath and brideway routes are limited.

Many villages and village cores in the urban fringe are conservation areas. They and their settings are vulnerable to development because they are sought after places to live. These settings are often critical to the quality and value of these areas because of historical connections and allowing views in and out of the area.

The two country parks at Cosmeston and Porthkerry are located on the edge of Penarth and Barry respectively. They are destinations in their own right and are under pressure, particularly Cosmeston. They could serve as hubs for wider countryside access as well as educational and recreational

#### **Vulnerability to change**

See Figure 4



*The Penarth/Dinas Powys urban fringe*

#### **Limited access**

#### **Role of Country Parks**

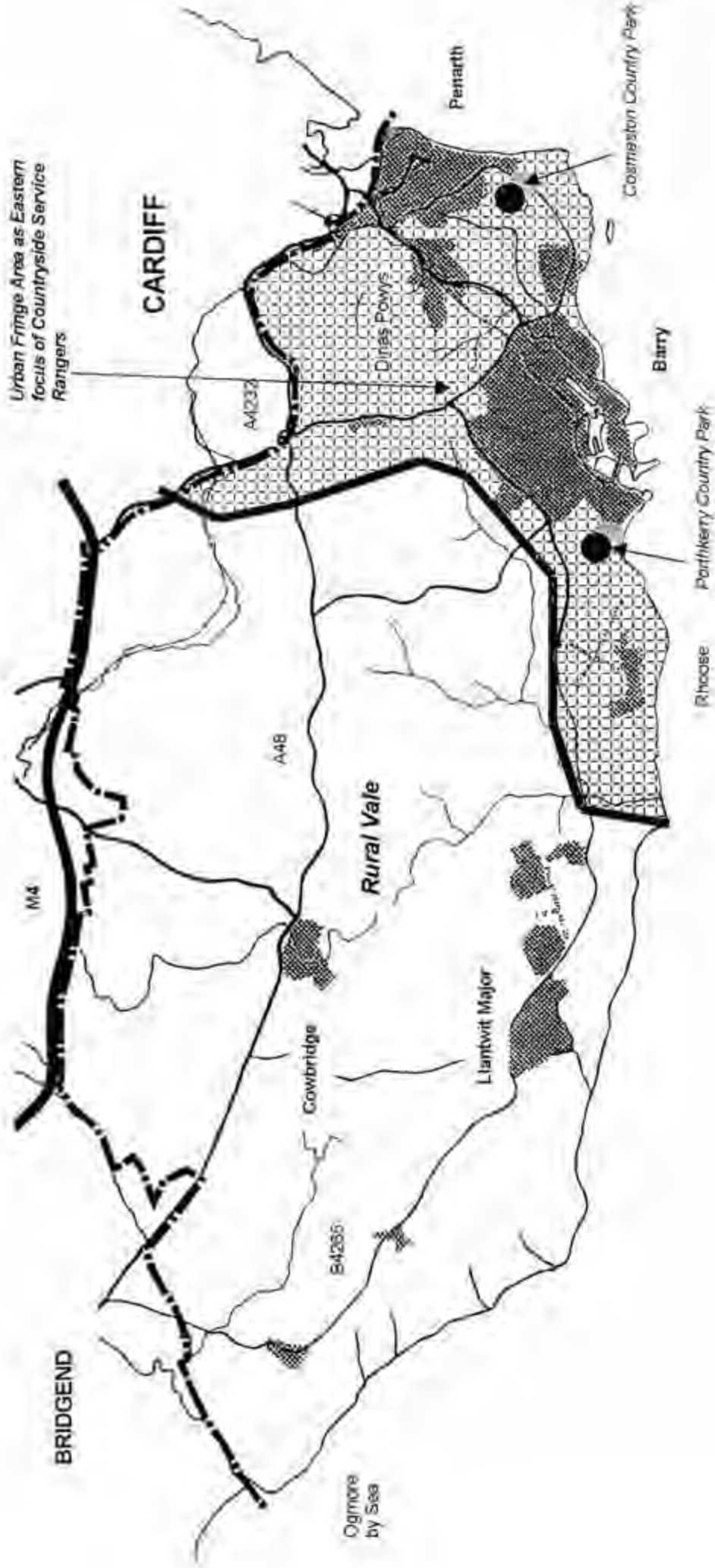


Figure 4  
URBAN FRINGE

facilities.

Urban detailing on roads, such as lighting and kerbs, often penetrates into the countryside and between settlements like between Penarth and Sully. Commercial signage can also detract from rural qualities.

*The following recommendations are made:*

➤ [3.9.1] *Develop a Vale Countryside Service with a South Eastern Vale base at Cosmeston Country Park. This would have responsibility for negotiating and improving access, nature conservation value and woodland/hedgerow management in the pressured countryside between the larger settlements in the Vale and around Cardiff.*

➤ [3.9.2] *Seek management agreements on farms and other types of landholding in the urban fringe in order to improve woodland and hedgerow management, enhance nature conservation value and manage access. Opportunities for creation of a robust landscape structure to contain existing development and to provide a strong framework for future development should be taken. Use of the Woodland Grant Scheme and Tir Gofal may fulfil this objective informed by a full LANDMAP study.*

➤ [3.9.3] *Undertake management frameworks for Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Parks.*

➤ [3.9.4] *Continue to improve education on countryside matters to encourage responsible use of the countryside. The country parks and potential countryside service have an important role here.*

➤ [3.9.5] *Apply strict design guidelines on any development in the urban fringe to conform to urban edge and rural design guidelines.*

➤ [3.9.6] *Apply strict curbs on development in vulnerable areas between settlement so hope value is not encouraged and positive rural land use management is carried out.*

#### Detailing

See Section 5.6  
See Figure 4

See Design Guidelines  
DG16,17  
See Section 5.3 and 5.4

See Technical Annex  
Volume 4 Section 12.0

See Design Guidelines  
DG12,13

### 3.10 Conserving the Vale's Natural Heritage

*The main proposals of this theme are to draw up a local biodiversity action plan, compile a biological database, encourage Tir Gofal take up, conserve the coastal, river and wetland resources, address the management of commons and improve nature conservation education.*

The Vale is remarkably rich in semi-natural vegetation and nature conservation value. It has important maritime and coastal habitats, major river systems, limestone grasslands and heath, many ancient woodlands and species rich grasslands and marsh. Between these habitats there is a matrix of farmland with hedgerows, lightly improved pasture and small-scale features such as verges and ponds, all of which have ecological value. The variety of species may in some part be due to the southern Vale not having been glaciated.

Being a lowland intensively farmed area there is pressure on the ecological resource from land improvement such as drainage. There is also recreational pressure, particularly on the coast, and development pressure, particularly in the South East Vale.

The geology of the area is best expressed on the coast where wave cut platforms lie below magnificent cliffs rising upto 50m in places. The limestones and conglomerates offer rich fossil beds. Carboniferous

See Section 2.4 and Volume  
4 Technical Annex Section  
5.0



Heritage Coast woodland and nature reserve

See Section 2.3 and Volume  
4 Technical Annex Section  
4.0

limestone is quarried in the limestone ridge belt from Old Castle Down to Wenvoe while liassic limestone is extracted on the coast at Aberthaw. Mineral extraction of sands and gravels off shore has potential to cause increased erosion and disruption of habitats on the coast.

The rivers and watercourses of the Vale are an important ecological resource acting as habitats and wildlife corridors. In places they have been modified for drainage or rerouted and culverted beneath development.

The Habitats Directive charges local authorities and agencies to conserve the landscape as an ecological resource reducing fragmentation of isolated sites of interest. This could be applied by encouraging sensitive agricultural management restoring grasslands, marshland and improving woodland and hedgerow management.

*The following recommendations are made:*

- [3.10.1] Draw up a local biodiversity action plan to coordinate action on nature conservation and protect and enhance existing designated sites.
- [3.10.2] Compile a detailed database in a formal Biological Records Centre See Section 5.5
- [3.10.3] Identify Sites of Nature Conservation Importance throughout the Vale.
- [3.10.4] Encourage the take up of Tir Gofal and Woodland Grant schemes. See Section 5.3 and 5.4
- [3.10.5] Conserve the coastal heritage by integrated management. Encourage relaxation of cliff top agriculture to less intensive uses. Take a cross disciplinary, holistic approach to coastal defence and infrastructure balancing natural processes with functional and safety requirements. See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG2.3.4
- [3.10.6] Enhance the ecological value of the river corridors by carrying out river surveys and subsequently restoring natural courses and edge treatments where possible, encouraging buffer strips and improving water quality. Avoid development on floodplains. Encourage restoration/creation of ponds and protection from eutrophication. See Section 5.3 and 5.4
- [3.10.7] Establish partnerships with Commoners Associations and devise management plans for commons to direct investment in infrastructure, reverse undergrazing and restore vegetation pattern See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG18
- [3.10.8] Protect the lowland moor of Morfa Ystradowen from further agricultural improvement and consider reinstatement of the water table regime. The Tir Gofal approach may be appropriate here. See Section 6.0 Landscape Character Area 14
- [3.10.9] Prepare an educational resource of landscapes of the Vale for schools and colleges

### 3.11 Conserving the Vale's Historic Heritage

*The main proposals of this theme are that an historic landscape characterisation and settlement study should be carried out, that designations should be reviewed following this and that historical information should be taken into consideration to improve design of developments.*

The wealth of historic features in the Vale covers sites from Prehistory to

World War II. It is one of the area's key strengths. The iron age hill forts on the coast, the A48 Roman Road, early medieval monastic communities, shrunken medieval villages and castle boroughs, fine parks and gardens have all left their mark on the landscape. However, the historical documentation of the Vale is far from complete. Between the recognisable listed features, the whole landscape consists of a palimpsest, or layers of history, some apparent, some erased or covered. To a certain extent, the many small features in this wider landscape are as important as the larger features and give a sense of place or 'Bro' to an area.



Landscape of early monastic community at Monkash

A key objective is therefore to collect more information on the history of the area to

- Attach value to landscapes
- Focus resources for protection, conservation or enhancement
- Reinforce local identity
- Inform designs for development
- Inform planning decisions
- Educate and aid interpretation

The following recommendations are made

- ◆ [3.11.1] Consider an Historic Landscape Characterisation study to fully explore the heritage resource of the Vale and its significance to landscape. See Section 2.5 and 5.5
- ◆ [3.11.2] Consider a heritage audit of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. This could be informed by the County Treasures Initiative being considered by the Council. See Section 2.5
- ◆ [3.11.3] Consider a programme to collect historic information on Vale's built heritage resource through an historic settlement study. Again this could be informed by the County Treasures Initiative being considered by the Council. See Section 2.5
- ◆ [3.11.4] Liaise with Cadw to consider review of the boundaries of current Registered Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales [at Llancaiwan and Merthyr Mawr] after the above studies have been completed.
- ◆ [3.11.5] Protect existing sites of value and ensure developers are aware of historic value of an area and reflect this in their layout and design including appropriate research, site investigation and recording. See recommendations 3.2.2, 3.6.3

### 3.12 Improving Access

The main proposals of this theme are that access in open space linking town and countryside should be improved, a continuous coastal trail should be created, dismantled railways should be used for strategic footpaths and cycleways, and the Country Parks could be used as hubs for access

Access directly influences peoples' perception of the landscape and it can add to or detract from landscape quality through wear and tear particularly in the urban fringe and around recreation sites. The Vale's superb landscape is enjoyed by the public yet, as a primarily agricultural area, there are restrictions on access and few opportunities for new routes to be created. There is no long distance recreation route or strategic continuous linkage both along the coast and inland. There is a need for the urban

population to enjoy the countryside and to be conveniently connected via green ways which penetrate into towns such as Barry. This desire was clearly expressed in the public perception study.

Access has a role to play in sustainable development by making it easier to travel between and within settlements without the need for car journeys. The Vale of Glamorgan Cycling Strategy seeks to develop cycling as a form of transport in its own right as well as for leisure and recreational purposes.

Access should be balanced with conservation of the landscape. This is particularly true of parts of the Heritage Coast where protection may be paramount. Access must also take into account the needs of landowners and occupiers and needs to be controlled to avoid damage and intrusion. A Countryside Service could take on the responsibility of negotiating access and management with landowners.

The coast is the most popular recreational landscape in the Vale. There is a need to conveniently connect Ogmere by Sea in the West with Penarth Head and the Cardiff Bay barrage in the East. There are several gaps at present which need to be bridged, the most problematic of which is Barry Docks. All existing stretches of path should be brought up to a safe and well detailed standard and interim well signposted alternative loops around obstructions put in place. The settlements of Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry, Rhose, and Llantwit Major should be linked to the path.

There are two dismantled railways which run through the Vale. These are not utilised at present and are becoming absorbed into the farmers land. They offer strategic opportunities of linking the coastal path inland to Llantrisant and to West Cardiff.

Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Parks are strategically located to offer hubs for facilities such as parking, information, toilets and refreshments. They could be safely linked into the coast and inland access network. Facilities at Cwm Col huw, Dunraven Bay and Ogmere by Sea support the coastal route and could also provide additional information points.

The following recommendations are made and are shown on Figure 5:

- [3.12.1] Manage and improve access from towns into the countryside as a major objective of a Countryside Service.
- [3.12.2] Create a coastal trail [a seascape trail] linking Ogmere by Sea to the Cardiff Bay barrage
- [3.12.3] Create combined footpath/cycleway/bridlepath on the dismantled railways
- [3.12.4] Create a strong green access corridor through Barry linking Porthkerry with the east of the town. This should be designed with safety in mind incorporating road crossings
- [3.12.5] Reinforce the use of the Country Parks as hubs for access

Vale of Glamorgan (1997)



Current East Vale coastal access



Heritage Coast – parking and coastal path

Dismantled railways

Access hubs

See Section 5.6

See recommendation 3.7.3

See Section 5.6 and Volume 4 Technical Annex Section 12.0

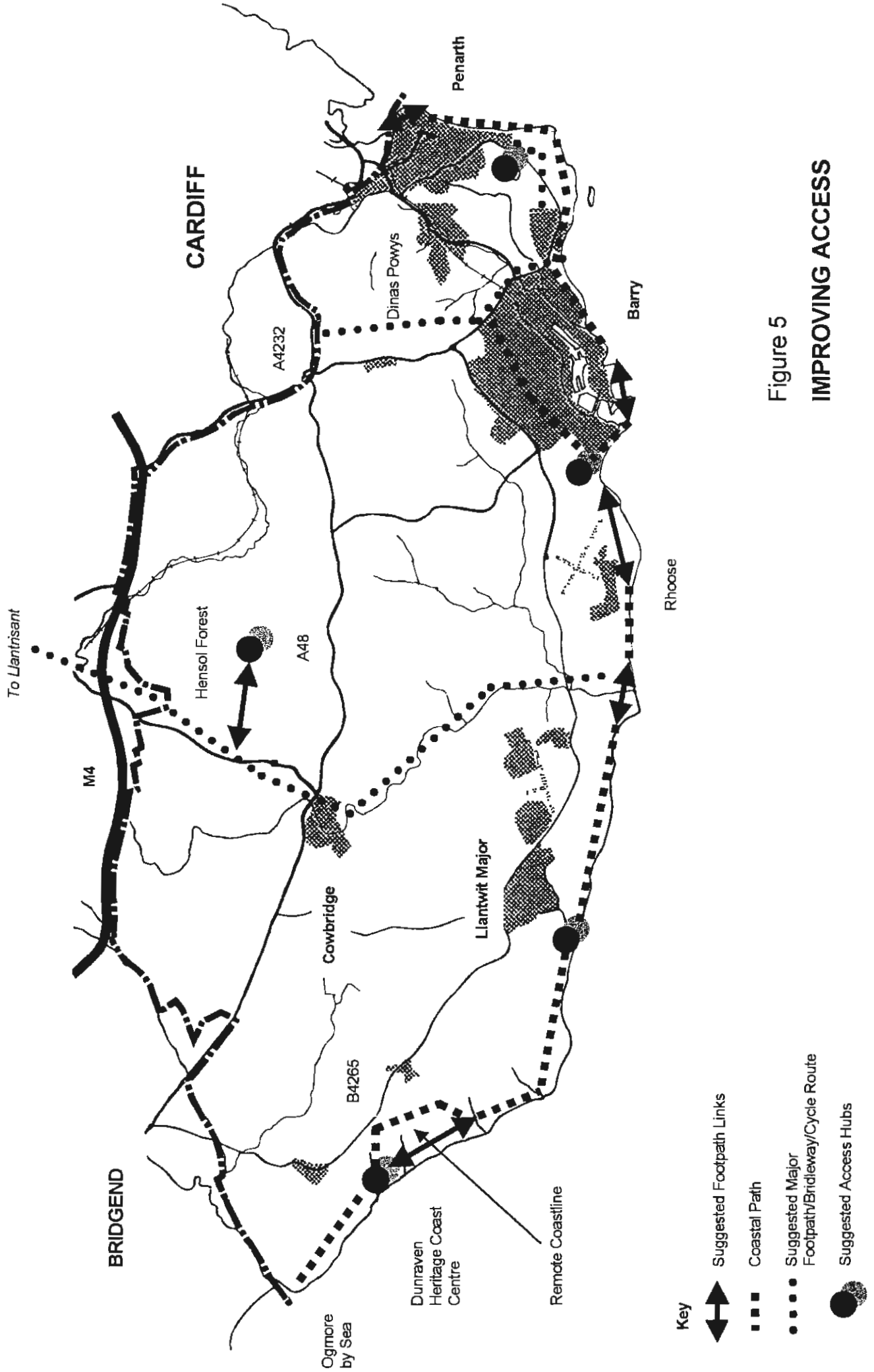


Figure 5  
**IMPROVING ACCESS**



### 3.13 Towards a Woodland Strategy

*The main proposals of this theme are that woodland conservation is important throughout the Vale though new woodland creation should be focussed in the urban fringe, and in the South and West. Coed Cymru should be resourced to allow a proactive role and Hensol should, over time, become a broadleaf forest.*

The woodlands of the Vale can be divided into semi-natural woodlands and plantations. Many of these plantations are located on ancient woodland sites and retain good species diversity. The majority of woodlands are east of, and including, the Thaw valley. Most are found on steep slopes or poorer land. The main species are ash and oak, though sycamore is found in coastal areas, alder is found on wetter sites and sweet chestnut is coppiced in parts. The woodlands make an important contribution to the landscape visually and ecologically. For instance, an essential component of the Thaw valley's attractiveness is the wooded steep valley sides. However, many woodlands could benefit from better management.



*Woodland in the Thaw valley*

Most woodlands are privately owned. Forest Enterprise runs coniferous plantations include Hensol, Coed Caerdydd [including Pencoedtre], north of Barry and Tair Onen Nursery, north of the A48. The Woodland Trust has acquired Cwm George and Case Hill Wood, north of Dinas Powys. The Vale of Glamorgan Council owns Leckwith Woods.

To aid private owners, the Forestry Authority and the Coed Cymru officer, working within the Council, promote woodland grants. A local market for farm timber is growing slowly and includes the use of hardwoods for flooring and furniture.

*Coed Cymru*

Overall, there needs to be a balance between producing an economic crop [to give incentive to landowners to manage woodlands] and visual, ecological and access considerations. The key to this is the principle of natural regeneration and, in many cases, continuous cover to minimise running costs and optimise woodlands' contribution to the landscape.

The Iias plateau to the south and west is exposed and has limited woodland cover. Development west of Barry is therefore visible over a wide area. Broadleaf woodland planting would be desirable to provide screening and shelter in places. This could consist of a mix of copses and tree belts linked into existing valley woodlands. This would provide a more robust landscape structure providing visual and ecological benefits. Care would need to be taken over location to minimise damage to existing landscape features.

The South East Vale urban fringe is under considerable development pressure. Planting woodland in some areas would help absorb development and should be an integral part of all major proposals. Areas of ecological value such as unimproved grassland and wetlands should be avoided for planting.

*The following recommendations are made and are shown on Figure 6:*

- [3.13.1] Prepare a Woodland Strategy aiming to conserve woodland throughout the Vale and focus planting of new woodland in the urban fringe and the South and West Vale.
- [3.13.2] Support Coed Cymru to act in a proactive capacity to continue targeting woodlands in particular need.

*See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG16*

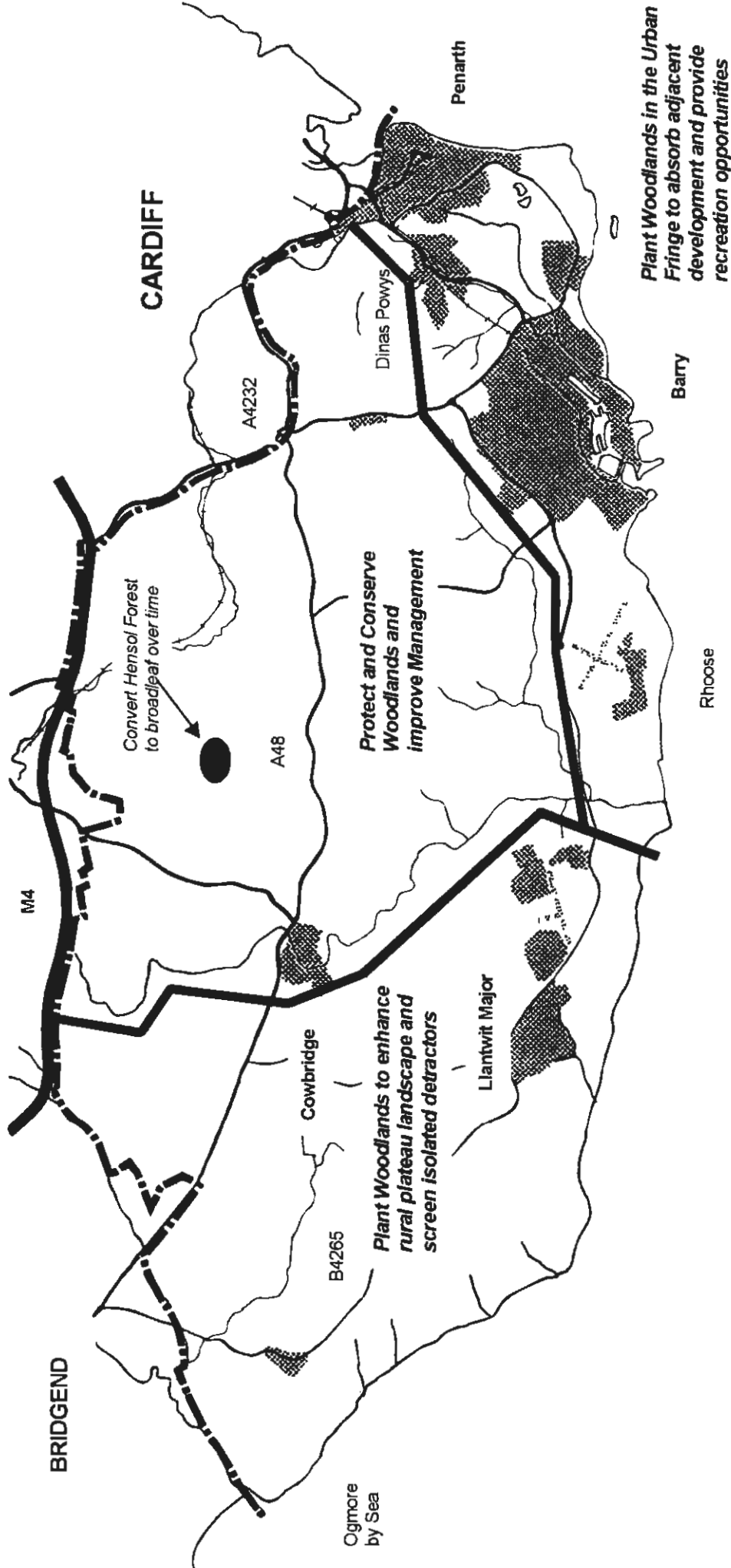


Figure 6  
**WOODLAND STRATEGY**

➤ [3.13.3] *The local authority as land owner should lead the way with regard to best practice in management of its woodland estate and use of its products.*

➤ [3.13.4] *Broadleaf or mixed woodland should gradually replace coniferous forest over time at Hensol Forest. As the function of the area turns more towards recreation and conservation the Council could consider partnership with Forest Enterprise to upgrade facilities.*

### 3.14 Improving Landscape Management

*The main proposals of this theme are that the Council should develop guidelines for improved landscape management which it should apply itself and also encourage other landowners and developers to apply.*

Newly designed landscapes are created at a relatively slow rate and often have limited impact. The management of existing landscapes has very much more impact on the way the landscape looks and modifies new landscapes over time. Management regimes have to be sustainable. Resources are limited for maintenance with year on year cuts in local authority revenue budgets. While farmers are looking to maximise yields, managers of estates in the public or private sectors are often looking to minimise maintenance inputs. There is a need for a low input way of working which benefits the environment. Managed landscapes which have great visual and ecological significance are roads, railways, schools, public housing, parks, health services, television services and land owned by statutory services land such as Hyder, Transco and the National Grid.

The objectives in terms of improving the landscape are to integrate estate land with the wider landscape and to maximise native species biodiversity. A review of management practice and audit of features of value in all these sites would be desirable, and may identify cost savings in some cases.

Factors to be taken into consideration would include:

- Features of value such as hedgerows, woodland, water bodies and the relationship with adjacent features.
- Views in and out and detractors on site
- Areas required for active use
- Fertiliser and Pesticide input
- Comparative costs of grass cutting and management for nature conservation
- Potential for measures to improve surface water management instead of use of main drainage
- Replacement of coniferous or decorative planting with native broadleaf species and natural regeneration measures

*The following recommendations are made:*

➤ [3.14.1] *The Council should develop guidelines for landscape management to improve the visual quality and nature conservation value of land. This could be distributed to major landowners to encourage them to review their land management practices. The Council should lead the way by adopting these principles on its own estate. Tir Gofal principles could be integrated into the guidance.*

➤ [3.14.2] *The proposed Countryside Service could play a key role in advising on and implementing best management practice.*

**Management regimes have to be sustainable**



*Grass mowing of sward with low species diversity*

*See recommendation 3.2.2*

*See Section 5.6*

## 4.0 STRATEGY THEMES FOR KEY AREAS

### 4.1 Introduction

Four area strategies are considered in this section. These look at important areas where the landscape is under particular pressure or undergoing change and give a strategic overview for action. The areas are:

- 4.2 South East Vale Corridors and Gateways
- 4.3 Eastern Coastal Fringe
- 4.4 Heritage Coast
- 4.5 A48 Corridor

The major themes explored in Section 3.0 are reflected in these strategies. Figures 7 to 10 show how the themes are applied in these areas. Specific sites and areas for action are considered for the South East Vale landscape character area strategies in Section 6.0.

## 4.2 South East Vale Corridors And Gateways

The environmental quality of road and rail corridors are important to the image of the Vale. A detailed analysis in the Technical Annex indicates that the key gateways needing treatment are in the South East Vale. This section summarises the main points and is illustrated in Figure 7. The corridors and gateways to the Vale should be improved by:

- enhancing key gateways to give an immediate positive impression of the Vale's character and differentiate it from Cardiff.
- careful improvement and detailing of roads to reflect the Vale's character.
- ensuring new developments address the road in a positive way with generous landscape buffers
- screening large scale detractors by use of roadside vegetation to limit long views where appropriate.
- recognising that the landscape through which the roads and railway pass offers a positive image of the Vale and reinforces its attractiveness to inward investors and to residents alike.
- enhancing the distinctive rural character of the Vale where possible by maintaining a distinct edge between development and the countryside and preventing coalescence of settlements.

The key gateway from the M4 is presently at Culverhouse Cross for the A48 and A4050 roads. A landscape study by Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff County Council staff addresses the particular needs of the area. It omits the development site and the landfill site to the south east both of which need sensitive treatment. The Cogan roundabout and adjacent dualled road is the main gateway from Cardiff and requires upgrading in an appropriate character. The railway stations on the Cardiff to Barry line would benefit from landscape improvements.

The major roads through the Vale have an important economic function and have to operate safely. Within these constraints they should reflect the essentially rural character of the Vale wherever possible between settlements and certainly west of Barry. The Countryside Commission gives guidance on the issue. The minimum use of lighting and kerbs, the use of hedge and tree planting and low key management regimes should be adopted where possible and certainly on all secondary and minor roads. There is a real opportunity to review landscape management practice to benefit the landscape and to be more economical. Minor improvements to areas such as laybys may be appropriate in places and would reflect recommendations made in the 1991 Derek Lovejoy Partnership study.

Proposed roads such as the Airport Link Road offer an opportunity for a more positive view of the Vale's landscape away from the existing built up areas but clearly do have an impact on that landscape. Careful siting, design and mitigation is required to minimise this impact. Care is also required to minimise the potential for inappropriate development associated with these roads which would cause additional impact on the landscape. Views to existing detractors such as the Alps and Wenvoe Quarry will occur with this road. These need advance screening.

Proposed developments adjacent to the main roads while offering positive opportunities need to address both the road and the surrounding landscapes sensitively to avoid negative visual impact. Substantial landscape buffers and infrastructure are required to reflect the rural edge locations. The key developments are at Pencoedtre and Cardiff Wales Airport Business Park both of which would benefit from detailed design briefs and landscape masterplans.

Screening large scale detractors such as the BA hangar and Aberthaw Power

*Technical Annex Volume 4 Section 11.0.*

**Enhance key gateways**

**Improve road detailing**

**Screen large scale detractors**

**Enhance rural character**

**Gateways**  
*Vale of Glamorgan, 1996*

*Volume 3 Action Programme site no.19*

**Major roads**  
*See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG6,7 Roads in the Countryside [CCP459], Countryside Commission*

*See Section 3.14*

**Proposed roads**

**Proposed development**

*See Volume 2 Design Briefs DG26,27*

**Detractors**

Station is impossible by planting adjacent. Planting on roads with significant views of the detractors is more appropriate and effective. Hedgerow tree and avenue planting or management of natural regeneration may be suitable. Additional advance planting to screen the potential future extension of Aberthaw Quarry would also contribute to a more robust landscape infrastructure.

See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG5






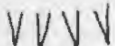



The landscape of the Vale with its ridges and gentle valleys is in marked contrast to Cardiff and should be enhanced and cared for positively as a backcloth to the built up areas and new development. Policies and grants to reinforce hedgerows and manage woodlands should be focussed on prominent areas. The ridge east of Culverhouse Cross is particularly prominent and should be enhanced to regain its rural character. The landfill sites are unsightly and should be completed as soon as possible with appropriate landscape restoration. Views across the rural Vale particularly from the north west of Barry are positive and should be retained and enhanced.






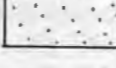

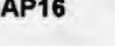
See Section 6.0 Landscape Character Area 18

See Section 6.0 Landscape Character Area 24

The main roads form the boundary of development in some cases and should help reinforce this with substantial planting. Particular care is needed on the design of edges of settlement and how they address the road.

**LEGEND**

-  Major Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Proposed Road
-  Railway
-  Key Gateway Sites
-  Significant slopes requiring conservation and sensitive treatment and management
-  Proposed high quality commercial or industrial development. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 8
-  Proposed housing development. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 26
-  Quarry - upgrade landscape treatment where possible. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 9

-  Quarry extension area
-  Landfill Site - upgrade landscape treatment where possible. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 10
-  Existing Tip requiring landscape treatment
-  Existing Caravan Parks/Leisure Facilities requiring improvement. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 4
-  Existing Urban Area/Settlement
-  Landscape requiring improved landscape structure. See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG 12, 16, 17
-  Existing countryside access
-  AP16 See Volume 3 Action Programme Site No. 16



See A48 Strategy Figure 10

See Heritage Coast Figure 9 | See Eastern Coastal Fringe Figure 8

**Figure 7**  
**AREA STRATEGY:**  
**SOUTH EAST VALE CORRIDORS**  
**AND GATEWAYS**

### 4.3 Eastern Coastal Fringe

The Eastern coastal fringe is an asset to the Vale and is in need of upgrading. It should be managed and designed to:

- recognise the high landscape value of the coastline and to raise the standard of adjacent landscape and development
- enhance and conserve the natural and historic features along the coast
- retain the green undeveloped hinterland to separate built up areas along the coast to act as an appropriate setting
- minimise the impact of development on the coast through careful siting of new buildings and sensitively designed landscape infrastructure
- enable access without interruption along the coast with linked access inland and high quality detailing and signage throughout
- reclaim or improve existing unsightly features

The coast between Aberthaw and Penarth has been significantly modified by industrial, mineral, residential and leisure development. Yet the coast has superb views across the Severn Estuary/Bristol Channel towards Somerset, has several shoreline SSSI's and has localised areas of scenic quality. The majority of Vale residents live in this area. It is a natural magnet for visitors and locals to spend leisure time. Overall, the coast here should be treated in a way to bring it up in terms of detailing and design to complement the Heritage Coast. Expectations of development should be raised to recognise the value of coastal frontage and every opportunity should be taken to enhance its environmental quality as this will also enhance economic value.

Almost all the coast is either SSSI or potential SNCI in terms of ecological or geological value. There are several remains of forts at strategically important points. Particular features such as Sully Island, promontories, cliffs and coastal woodland need conservation and positive management for enhancement. This is a particular issue where there is visitor pressure or development allocation.

The agricultural areas between Penarth and Sully and between Barry and Rhose and Aberthaw are important green backcloths to the coast. They also separate the settlements and give them distinct identity. This landscape needs to absorb the visual impact of adjacent development and therefore needs a robust, large scale landscape infrastructure. To achieve this there should be management of existing woodland and tree belts and establishment of substantial new woodlands where fields are rationalised. Hedgerows should be strengthened where possible. The roadside hedgerows are particularly important and trees, either in hedges or as rural avenues should be encouraged.

New development should be extremely sensitive to the coastal location. Buildings should be set as far back from the shoreline as possible to minimise visual impact when viewed along the coast. There should be a high quality landscape buffer between the buildings and the sea incorporating public access as appropriate. In many areas coastal exposure will limit the effectiveness of planting for screening so siting, orientation and use of landform will be most important. The design of buildings and external detailing should reflect the coastal location and this sensitivity should be combined with an innovative approach. Opportunities should also be taken to upgrade caravan and leisure parks with particular attention to the coastal frontage.

Uninterrupted access for pedestrians along the coast should be the long term objective to optimise its recreational potential and to link this stretch of coast to the Heritage Coast. This access should be linked with paths into Barry, Penarth and Rhose to maximise convenience and minimise the need for car travel. Safe access to the Country Parks is essential. All public open space and facilities adjacent to the coast should be upgraded where funding allows.

See Section 3.7

**High Landscape Value**

**Superb views**

See Section 3.4  
*Landscape Supporting Economic Development*

See Volume 4 Technical Annex Sections 4.0 and 5.0

**Green backcloth**

See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG16

**New development**  
See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG2

**Access**  
See Section 3.12

See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG4




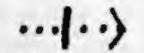

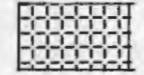

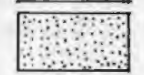

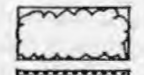



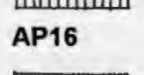

The major obstacles to continuity are the operational Barry Docks and Aberthaw Power Station. Crossing these areas will be difficult to achieve, but the objective should remain to take opportunities as they arise and in the long term. Detailing should be of a high standard and should reflect the Heritage Coast approach of consistency and robustness.

*See Volume 2 Design  
Guideline DG3*

Reclamation of existing large scale detractors would greatly enhance this area. The Aberthaw Power Station flue ash tip is large, unsightly and visible over a wide area, particularly inland. A design and management plan with appropriate contouring and phased completion for landscape treatment would be highly desirable. The Rhose Point development proposals could greatly enhance the disused quarry workings. The redevelopment of Barry Island presents a great opportunity to create a sensitive scheme appropriate to the headland's prominence.

*See Volume 2 Design  
Guideline DG5*

**LEGEND**

-  Existing Coastal Path/Existing countryside access
-  Existing Barrier to Access
-  Proposed Links
-  Proposed high quality mixed development. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 8
-  Existing Caravan Parks/Leisure Facilities requiring improvement. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 4
-  Existing Park requiring Improvement
-  Prominent Headlands/Island visible along the Coast
-  Important Coastal Woodlands or Tree cover
-  Existing Urban Area/Settlement
-  SSSI's requiring protection and sensitive management
-  Landscape requiring improved landscape structure. See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG 12, 16, 17
-  Proposed Public Open Space
- AP16**  
 See Volume 3 Action Programme Site No. 16  
Proposed housing development. See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 26

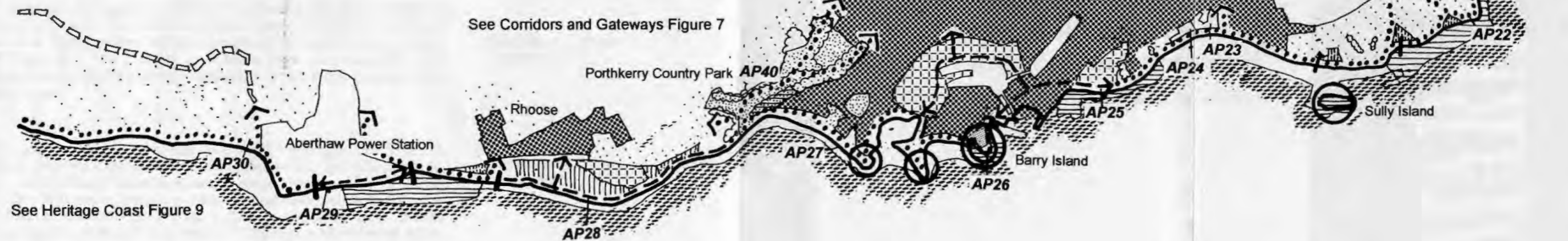


Figure 8  
AREA STRATEGY:  
EASTERN COASTAL FRINGE

## 4.4 Heritage Coast

The landscape of the Heritage Coast and its hinterland, from Aberthaw to the Ogmore river should be managed and designed to:

- ensure that integrated coastal management continues and develops with high quality management, planning and design in all aspects for all the Heritage Coast area;
- conserve and enhance the natural resources of the coastal scenery, including its geological and biological processes as being of over-riding importance;
- recognise and interpret the historic and cultural importance of the area and safeguard this legacy;
- enhance the perception of wildness, remoteness, beauty and tranquillity through long-term planning for conservation and through high quality, sensitive design. This aspect is of greater importance than ease of access and provision of visitor facilities.

The objectives of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast [GHC] Plan Statement (1975) remain relevant today. However, the GHC project continues to suffer from under resourcing. This complex issue needs to be addressed by considering new pro-active relationships with major concerns such as Hyder and Aberthaw Power Station. Packages of funding and support need to be assured in order to achieve best results from long-term projects and on-going management. The Tir Gofal scheme might assist in the achievement of these objectives if a planned and coordinated approach to its application is promoted.

***Integrated management to safeguard resource***

*(see Figure 9)*

The coastal landscape is of national importance in conservation terms, especially its geological formations with extensive parts of the cliffs and foreshore being designated as SSSIs. The whole coastline, and SSSIs in particular, needs to be protected from excessive wear and tear by visitors and from heavy-handed engineering solutions to erosion and safety issues. The natural process of coastal erosion should be a prime consideration of any design along the coast. Therefore design solutions must work with the erosion rather than attempt to halt the process.

***Geological and biological processes are paramount***

Areas of semi-natural vegetation are fairly fragmented and are concentrated along the coastal strip. This includes coastal grasslands grazed by sheep, woodland in sheltered valleys, wetland around springs and streams, shingle and cliff vegetation. The diversity of habitats must be perpetuated and opportunities for increasing and improving areas in nature conservation terms should be sought.

*See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG 17*

Intensive agriculture has in most places brought crops right up to the cliff edge. By identifying a coastal strip, concentrated efforts could be made to promote a sympathetic agricultural management regime. The Tir Gofal scheme intends to use incentives and agreements with landowners for the benefit of nature conservation and for access on the whole farm. Efforts should be made by Heritage Coast staff to encourage a high take-up within this coastal strip.

*See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG3*

Further inland the lack of trees and substantial hedges devalue the landscape in visual and nature conservation terms. The use of small belts of trees in prominent places and new or expanded hedges in key locations would add to the visual and nature conservation value of the plateau landscape. The distinctive limestone walls in the

*See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG24*

western parts of the area should also be conserved and restored. These improvements could also be achieved with assistance from Tir Gofal.

Attention needs to be given to the heritage resource in overall management of the Heritage Coast. This includes in particular the prehistoric coastal earthworks which are gradually being lost to the sea, and the monastic-based settlements and landscape patterns further inland that straddle the Heritage Coast boundary. A heritage audit is needed and opportunities should be taken to improve interpretation to add to the appreciation of the area as a whole. In places there may be a need to redress the balance between historic and other interests, for instance where there is erosion by visitors or where vegetation threatens to damage archaeological remains.

*Historic and cultural importance*

*See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG3*

The coast is the major natural visitor attraction of the Vale and gives the popular and cherished image to the area. However some of the major visitor "honeypots" tend to have poorly designed facilities and appear under-maintained with unwelcoming signs and litter in evidence. The existing hierarchy of public facilities and access for enjoyment of the coast may need to be reinforced or redefined to be appropriate to current and future conservation requirements and visitor needs. Efforts should be concentrated in providing improved facilities and interpretation at a few appropriate key places while keeping others low key, and even restrictive if necessary. This should be done by restricted parking and signing, channelled and hierarchical access to cliffs and beaches.

*See Volume 2 Design Guidelines DG3, 21, 24*

In places heavily used pedestrian access and paths are poor, with unclear signing, lack of links between sections, inadequate surfaces and construction. These either need to be improved or access restricted as appropriate. Although in general detailing is good, the high standard of design and maintenance should be consistent with special attention being paid to the eastern part of the Heritage Coast.

*See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG21*

The most important area for improvement is around Llantwit Major and Cwm Col-huw. Here the clashes between conservation, development and access are highlighted. A long-term solution can only be achieved by considering the area as a whole including farming interests and water treatment.

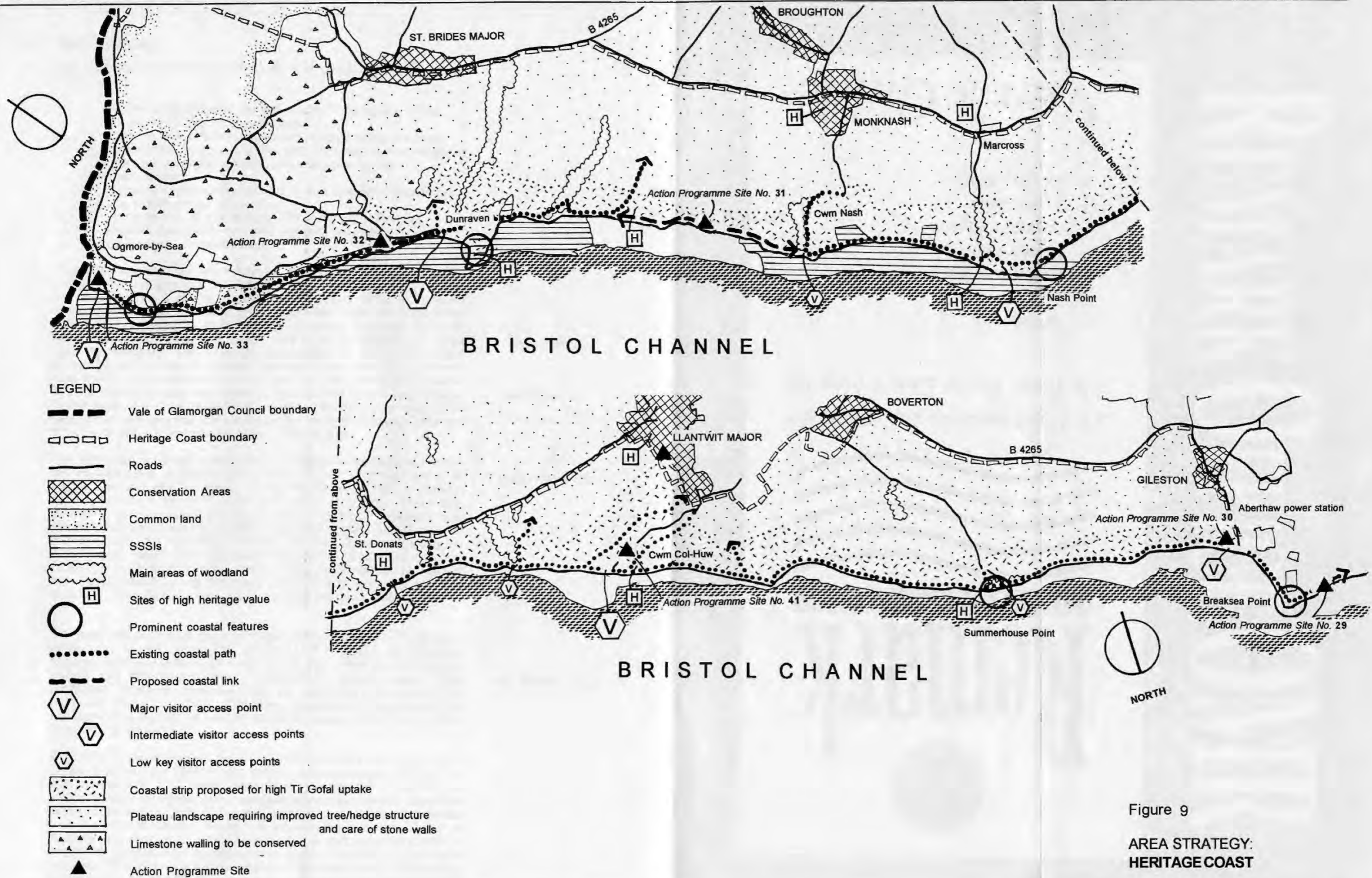


Figure 9

AREA STRATEGY:  
HERITAGE COAST

## 4.5 A48 Corridor

The main A48 and land to either side of it should be managed and designed to:

- recognise the role that the views from the road play in the perception of the Vale as a whole;
- enhance and conserve traditional features within the road corridor that contribute to the rural character by an integrated approach to highway/landscape management and improvement;
- encourage high quality design of new roadside developments and enhancement of existing;
- conserve the various features of the historic landscape;
- improve road safety by traffic calming, provision for cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians.

The A48 traverses the entire Vale of Glamorgan, from the Ogmore Valley to the junction with the A4232 at Culverhouse Cross. This road has always been a strategic route and continues to be the primary artery for Cowbridge and much of the rural Vale. There are many minor road junctions along its route serving numerous villages, the roads being used for commuting to Cardiff and to the Bridgend area. Views from it, therefore, are a major contributory factor to the public perception of the Vale as a whole. There are many fine views from the road itself in all directions, south across the Vale and Bristol Channel to Somerset, north and north-west to the hills, and up the Thaw Valley. These need to be considered and enhanced when any developments take place, ensuring that the views are not spoilt or obscured, and that the variety of open and closed views is maintained.

*Fine views*

*(see Figure 10)*

The A48 ridge is highly visible from many parts of the Vale as it forms the backdrop and skyline for large areas to both north and south. In places the road with its street lighting can be seen from a distance especially where there is little tree cover alongside. There are, therefore, places along the route where additional roadside tree planting would enhance both views to the road corridor and from it, for example, along the Cowbridge bypass. The need for lighting along the entire length should be re-assessed with a view to reducing it except where it is necessary for safety reasons. The impact on distant views of new developments along the ridge, any works to junctions and new accesses must be taken into account at their planning stage.

*Highly visible ridge*

The road passes through good farmland, with many areas of woodland particularly to the north. The gradual loss of traditional roadside features, such as hedges and walls, due to insensitive management of verges and boundaries, and to engineering works, needs to be prevented. In places, roadside trees are becoming over-mature and there are few young trees. There are, therefore, requirements for additional tree planting in various places to replace older trees before they need to be felled.

*See Volume 2 Design Guideline DG7*

A variety of developments have occurred alongside the main road, including recent golf courses and several pub/restaurants. Most of the pub/restaurants are very conspicuous and have poorly or inappropriately designed and managed surrounds. Various suburban elements along rural parts of the road, such as cherry trees, also detract from the rural character. While it is appreciated that these types of development need to be easily seen from the road, encouragement is needed to upgrade their frontages to be more in keeping with the rural location. This includes the screening of parking areas, planting of native trees and shrubs, the subtler use of colour and well-designed

signage. It is likely that further proposals for leisure-related and other developments within easy access of the main road will arise. A proliferation of such developments could rapidly erode the rural character of the area if careful consideration is not given to the cumulative effects. Special control over roadside developments would be beneficial to ensure that they are "well-mannered". This includes the design of entrances, parking, signs, facades, screen planting, ornamental planting, etc.

See Section 3.6

There are proposals to extend the Ewenny Industrial Estate at Waterton which will be seen from the A48 and surrounding land. This will bring the urban edge further into the Vale and strong buffer planting will be required, some of which could be within the Vale of Glamorgan.

There is a quarry within view of the road and several small but highly visible areas of neglect alongside the road. These need attention and can relatively readily be tidied-up and screened.

See Volume 2 Design  
Guideline DG9

The Roman origins of the road are most apparent around Cowbridge where parts of the route are conspicuous by their straight alignment. The recently-designated Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest around Llancaiach reaches north to the A48 and there are remains of various earthworks along the edges of the ridge. East of Cowbridge the road crosses common land and the villages of St. Nicholas and Bonvilston are Conservation Areas. This all indicates that there is much of historic value in the area worthy of conservation and any development should be sensitive to this.

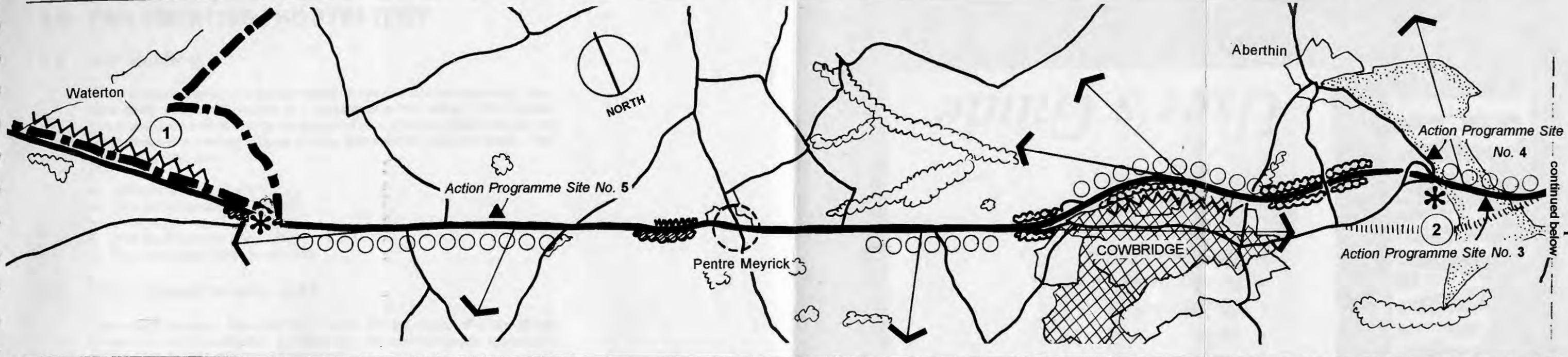
**Historic value**

The villages of Pentre Meyrick, Bonvilston and St. Nicholas straddle the road and fast through traffic is a source of danger, pollution and noise. There is poor visibility at some road junctions, both within the villages and, for instance, at Sycamore Cross. Consideration needs to be given traffic calming and safe crossing points in key areas to improve safety without further eroding the character and fabric of the villages and reducing the effects of severance. Although there are footpaths in the verges along much of the road some of these are in poor condition and there is a lack of facilities specifically for cyclists. By signing some footpaths and, in places, by providing new and improved paths, the route could become safer and pleasanter for cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians. Although safety must be of prime importance, low-key and soft engineering solutions to road improvements should be adopted as most appropriate in this rural situation.

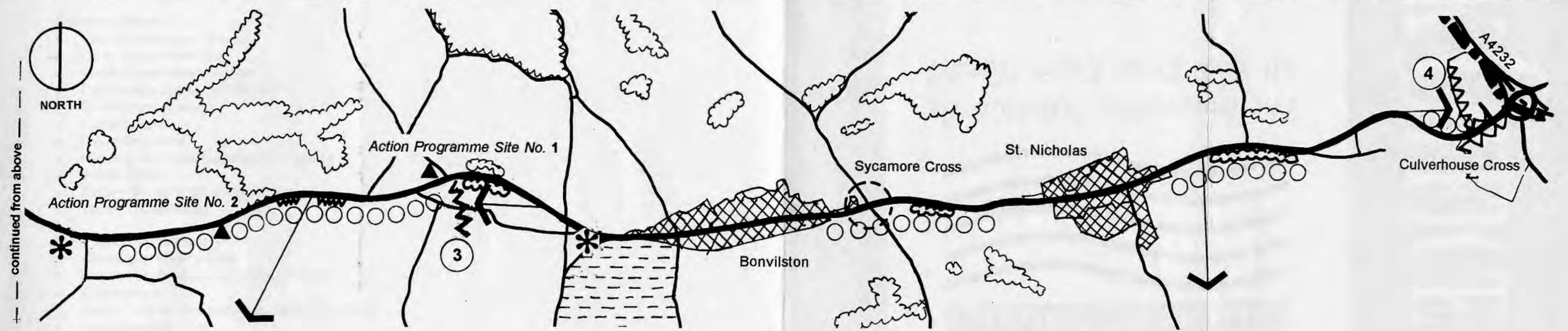
**Safety Issues**

The preparation and implementation of an integrated Highways/Landscape Management and Improvements Plan for the A48, its verges and boundaries is required to ensure that future pressures do not spoil this high profile part of the Vale. This would include areas for conservation, improvements and restrictions on development as well as hedge management and replacement, wall repair and replacement, tree replacement and regeneration, screen planting, verge management, paths, signs and lighting rationalisation, and address the safety for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclist as well as vehicles.

See Volume 2 Design  
Guidelines DG21, 24



continued below



LEGEND

- Vale of Glamorgan Council boundary
- Minor roads
- Conservation Areas
- Common land
- Llancarfan Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- Views out
- Sections of road seen from distance

- Prominent pub/restaurants - detractors
- Detractors
- Junctions with poor visibility
- 'Suburban trees' in need of replacement
- New/improved hedges required
- New roadside tree planting - Action Programme Site 6
- Action Programme Sites

- ① Possible extension of industry (B.C.B.C). Advanced roadside screen planting required in conjunction with B.C.B.C.
- ② Prominent sections of Roman Road to be retained and managed to conserve and enhance archaeological and visual interest
- ③ Pant-y-Ffynnon Quarry - ancillary buildings seen from road. Screen planting needed
- ④ Culverhouse Cross - designed/managed as proposed in *Culverhouse Cross - A Design Study 1997*

Figure 10  
AREA STRATEGY:  
A48CORRIDOR



## 5.0 IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

### 5.1 Introduction

The previous sections have concentrated on *what* should be done on a Vale-wide basis and *why*. Section 6.0 concentrates on *where*. This section concentrates on *who* should be involved and *how*. Specific actions are set out in the Action Programme Volume 3 along with sites for implementation. This section is divided into:

- Who should be involved?
- How can everyone contribute?
- Who pays?
- The need for more information
- A Countryside Service for the Vale

### 5.2 Who should be involved?

The strategy can only be successfully achieved with the support of a large range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, the community and the private sector. The key organisations will include:

#### Statutory Bodies:

- Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Other Local Authorities
- Welsh Development Agency
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Authority
- Forest Enterprise
- Farming and Rural Conservation Agency
- Welsh Office
- Cadw – Welsh Historic Monuments
- Wales Tourist Board

#### Non- Statutory bodies:

- Glamorgan Wildlife Trust
- Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust
- Coed Cymru
- British Trust for Nature Conservation Volunteers
- The Woodland Trust
- Princes Trust Bro
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Arena Network/Wales Environment Centre

#### Major Landowners:

- Large Estates [eg Penllyn]
- Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Railtrack
- Associated British Ports
- Ministry of Defence
- RMC [quarries]
- Health Trusts
- Dow Corning
- The Woodland Trust
- Statutory Services including:  
National Power, Powergen, Hyder, Transco

**The Community:**

- Vale Citizens Forum
- Countryside Strategy Forum
- Farmers Union of Wales
- NFU Wales
- Country Landowners Association
- The Ramblers Association
- Other community fora and organisations

### 5.3 How can everyone contribute?

The major organisations can contribute to the strategy implementation by managing their land interests, commissioning new work and providing grants consistent with strategy objectives.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council as an integrated Unitary Authority can ensure that each department including highways, tourism, leisure, education, social services and housing as well as economic development and planning are all aware of the strategy and support it with complementary actions. Examples of this would be a review of landscape management of all highways and education programmes based on the landscape resource of the Vale.

As planning authority the Vale can control development using the strategy as the basis for supplementary planning guidance and produce further design guidelines on process and content of planning applications to guide private development.

The Vale can also encourage the take up of grants in targeted areas. This particularly applies to Tir Gofal where the administering agencies, Countryside Council for Wales and FRCA cannot promote the scheme in areas of need.

Non-statutory bodies can work towards the aims of the strategy through implementation projects and dealing with the community and private sector.

Landowners can contribute by liaising with the Council and reviewing landscape management and producing and implementing plans with adequate resources. They can also negotiate to allow access onto their land in certain key areas.

The community are an essential element to the sustainable implementation of the strategy. The aims need to be clearly presented to all to gain support and to show what funding is available for local initiatives. From this, local communities can decide what they want to do to improve their 'patch'. An example of local action is the CASH scheme where local environmental schemes are implemented. There is a need for feedback on issues and specific problems so these can be dealt with.

### 5.4 Who pays?

Funding comes from capital and maintenance budgets and from grant sources. These may be available to fund new projects and maintain the existing landscape. Table 1 shows what sources are available and how they could be used to support the strategy.

### 5.5 The Need for more Information

The LANDMAP appraisal at a broad level has flagged up the need for more information to be gathered to inform detailed action. A particular programme needing this is Tir Gofal. A more detailed GIS based LANDMAP study should be carried out focussing on the South East Vale and related Waterfront strip. Two particular areas of work are needed beforehand to inform the LANDMAP

**Table 1 Funding Sources**

| <i>Funding</i>  | <i>Description</i>   | <i>Contribution to Strategy</i>  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Capital Schemes and Maintenance</b>  |  |  |
| Vale of Glamorgan Capital Budgets   | Budgets for new works  | Use to match grants from other agencies to carry out environmental improvements to important sites such as gateways and corridors and focus funding on high quality landscape infrastructure works on council owned development sites and roads.   |
| Vale of Glamorgan Maintenance Budgets   | Revenue budgets for ongoing management and maintenance   | Review maintenance practices on roads and estate land and use resources more effectively to encourage low input maintenance practices which support nature conservation and visual diversity.  |
| Welsh Development Agency Environment Programme  | Support for environmental improvements of upto 80% of costs  | Use to carry out environmental improvements to important sites such as gateways and corridors  |
| Welsh Development Agency Land Reclamation Programme   | Support for land reclamation of upto 80% of costs  | Use to support reclamation projects including derelict land such as docks and quarries for new uses including open space provision, access and recreation.   |
| Welsh Development Agency urban and property grants  | Support for urban and development projects of upto 80% of costs  | Use for urban regeneration, town centre improvements and development sites to ensure sensitive design, provision of open space and access, and a high standard of landscape infrastructure   |
| European Regional Development Funding (ERDF)  | Administered by Welsh Office for eligible region to support range of projects defined by EU                                    | Use for large scale projects contributing to environmental quality.  |
| Welsh Tourist Board   | Tourism related projects making a direct contribution to local employment  | Use by supporting projects of high environmental quality and sensitivity particularly to improve east coast or support the economy of the rural Vale   |
| Environment Agency  | River and flood defence work   | Use to restore natural river courses, enhance nature conservation value, create sensitively designed recreation areas and improve safe access linking to strategic routes where possible.  |
| Cadw  | Funding for heritage works   | Use to protect valuable sites under threat of change or deterioration and improve interpretation and access management   |
| Heritage Lottery  | Funding for Urban Parks and Historic Gardens   | Use for existing sites of historic and cultural value such as Dyffryn Gardens and parks in Barry to protect value of landscape heritage and to reinforce the quality of publicly accessible open space system  |
| <b>Grants</b>   |  |  |
| Woodland Grant Scheme - Forestry Authority/Coed Cymru Officers in Vale of Glamorgan Council | Funding for woodland creation or to encourage good management and regeneration of existing woodlands                           | Use proactively to target funds at existing woodlands which are deteriorating most rapidly and/or make the greatest contribution to the landscape such as ridge top and steep valley side woodlands and urban fringes woodlands. Also to create woodlands in exposed plateau landscapes of Western Vale. Link with Tir Gofal to target improvements. |
| Tir Gofal – Countryside Council for Wales with FRCA   | Grants on 10 year agreement to improve whole farm management, create access, create habitats and provide training for farmers. | CCW's role is reactive, responding to applications. Vale of Glamorgan officers and other agencies will need to encourage farmers to submit in targeted areas. These should include areas of high nature conservation value such as wetland, heath, 'unimproved' hedge systems but also the Vale coast for habitat creation and deintensification.    |
| Countryside Council for Wales   | Grants for Jigso, nature conservation, access and environmental education  | Use to promote best practice in community involvement and implement small scale works in line with natural heritage and access strategies  |
| Vale of Glamorgan   | Small grants to Community Councils eg CASH   | Use for sensitive improvements using local and voluntary labour and local materials including greens, access, lighting, watercourses.  |
| National Lotteries Charities Board  | Small grants for community groups  | Encourage local communities to take up grants to draw up schemes to improve their local environment  |
| Heritage Lottery Fund   | Small grants for community groups  | Encourage local communities to take up grants to draw up schemes to improve their local heritage including rural villages unprotected by conservation area status  |
| Prince's Trust Bro  | Small grants and advice for community groups   | Encourage local communities, particularly in deprived areas, to obtain advice from PTB and take up grants to draw up schemes to improve their local environment  |
| Keep Wales Tidy   | Small grants and advice for community groups   | Encourage local communities, particularly in areas adjacent rivers with litter problems, to obtain advice from KWT and take up grants to draw up strategies to improve their local environment   |
| Arena Network - Wales Environment Centre  | Environment programme to support businesses  | Encourage businesses with poor environmental practice to take up advice and grants from Arena Network. Target areas on edge of settlement and impinging on countryside and coast   |
| Welsh Tourist Board   | Tourism grants   | Use for supporting the economy of the rural Vale and encouraging rural diversification   |

process. A Historic Landscape Character Study for the Vale is needed to give information on the historic resource including landscape issues such as field patterns. An appropriate system and centre for Biological Recording is needed to inform the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and for monitoring. All information should be compiled to be compatible with, and possibly to become part of, national datasets.

## 5.6 A Countryside Service for the Vale

A Countryside Service for the Vale would be of benefit by becoming the focus in the Council for countryside implementation and liaison. The justification for a service is:

- The countryside of the rural and coastal Vale is a positive resource which offers countryside recreation and access for locals and people from the surrounding urban areas. This requires positive management intervention to ensure the area's essential qualities are maintained.
- The landscape of the South East Vale suffers from limited countryside recreation and access out of urban areas. There is conflict between landowners and visitors, and poor land management practices in parts. A Countryside Service could improve the quality of life for urban dwellers by improving access, providing education and resolving areas of conflict to the benefit of landowners in these local landscapes. This would have a knock-on effect in terms of better land management and a positive image for the urban fringe landscape.
- The country parks at Cosmeston and Porthkerry are strategically located adjacent to urban areas. They offer complementary resources which could be better resourced and linked into the wider landscape and to each other. They could act as twin foci for a Countryside Service in the South East Vale.
- The established Glamorgan Heritage Coast centre at Dunraven is well placed to act as the Western focus for a Countryside Service.

The Countryside Strategy and Landscape Strategy, informed by a Local Biodiversity Action Plan, would form the basis for action.

Voluntary countryside wardens and groups should be encouraged to be involved in implementing strategy in projects, monitoring and collecting information. These would complement Glamorgan Wildlife Trust and BTCV teams.

Increased resources should be channelled to the Heritage Coast to support the excellent work there but additional funds should be focussed on the South East Vale to set up a Countryside Service with a review of need carried out periodically.

# **PART B**

## 6.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

The Vale is divided into 33 Landscape Character Areas [see Figure 11]. These are combined aspect areas based primarily on visual assessment character area boundaries. Each is evaluated under all LANDMAP aspect headings. Those in the rural and western coastal Vale have descriptions and strategies set out in outline while those in the South East Vale are considered in more depth with associated maps and action programmes. More detailed information on each area is available in and cross referenced to the Technical Annex Volume 4.

The landscape character areas are numbered starting from the South West to South East. There is no ranking involved.

- 1 Coastal Strip - West of Aberthaw Power Station
- 2 Coastal Hinterland - West of Aberthaw Power Station
- 3 Ogmore/Ewenny Valley
- 4 Ogmore and Old Castle Down
- 5 Alun Valley
- 6 North West Vale
- 7 Colwinston Lias Plateau
- 8 Llandow Trading Estate
- 9 RAF St Athan
- 10 Thaw Valley - Lower
- 11 Thaw Valley - Middle
- 12 Cowbridge Eastern Environs and Stalling Down
- 13 Thaw Valley - Upper
- 14 Hensol/Border Vale
- 15 Hensol Forest
- 16 Central Slopes and Valleys
- 17 Llancaiach and Lower Waycock Valleys
- 18 Rhose Environs
- 19 Cardiff Wales Airport and Environs
- 20 Coastal Strip - East of Aberthaw Power Station
- 21 Porthkerry Country Park
- 22 Dyffryn Area
- 23 St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Crest
- 24 St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Slopes
- 25 Ely Valley
- 26 Cwrt yr Ala Valley
- 27 Southern Ely Valley Slopes (Leckwith)
- 28 Cosmeston Country Park and Glamorganshire Golf Course
- 29 Wenvoe Environs
- 30 Cog Moors
- 31 Sully Ridge
- 32 Lavernock Hinterland
- 33 Penarth and Dinas Powys Urban Fringe

## Landscape Character Area No. 1 Coastal Strip - West of Aberthaw Power Station



### Description:

Narrow strip of coast from low tide mark to inland extent of coastal related facilities/infrastructure. Including beach, wavecut platforms, cliffs, cliff paths, car parks etc. A superb resource with views across Bristol Channel. Outstanding in nearly all aspects especially geological, nature conservation, visual, historical and cultural. The area is under visitor pressure especially at honey pots of Ogmore by Sea, Dunraven Bay, Cwm Colhuw. In public perception study this area was the most highly valued landscape resource in Vale therefore needing greatest protection.

### Justification:

The coast edge has distinctive qualities and particularly intense problems of visitor management/countryside access which set it apart from its direct hinterland.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Continue protection of Heritage Coast and restrict development. Review and increase management input to care for area addressing litter, erosion and localised damage. Provide detailing in keeping with rural location possibly supported by Tir Gofal.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Conserve natural rock features including 3 SSSI's. Provide interpretation. Ensure stream and coastal pollution control and pick litter regularly on beaches.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Integrated coastal management required balancing ecological, recreational and economic needs including protection of coastal SSSI's, addressing anti-erosion measures and offshore mineral extraction. Use Tir Gofal to create coastal buffer zone and reduce intensification.

**Historical:** Continue protection of Heritage Coast and restrict development to ensure protection of nationally significant prehistoric and monastic sites. Need for archaeological heritage audit and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Respect Cwm Colhuw's significance associated with Llantwit Major and maintain the highly valued landscape qualities of the coastline.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            | 27          |      |        |       |
| Geology           | 7           |      |        |       |
| Vegetation        | 1           |      |        |       |
| Historical        | 3,4         | 2    |        |       |
| Cultural          | 10,13       | 11   |        |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 10,11 |
| Woodland                   | 14    |
| Settlement and Development | 15    |

#### Cross References:

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.4  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,2,3,4,7,13,14,15,16,17,  
 21,22,24  
 Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos. 30,31,32,33,41

**Landscape Character Area No. 2  
Coastal Hinterland - West of Aberthaw Power Station**



**Description:**

Coastal influenced lias plateau sloping towards the sea with mixed productive farmland, woodland in incised valleys. Settlement nucleated in small settlements with vernacular stone buildings and walls. Outstanding in its visual qualities, historical significance in parts including monastic grange at Monkash/Marcross, cultural significance and agricultural productivity.

**Justification:**

Whole area has intermittent views of sea/Somerset and strong sense of place. Though not as pressured as coast itself it plays an important role as setting and includes settlements which accommodate residents and leisure facilities such as Southerndown.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Continue protection of Heritage Coast within existing boundaries and apply to additional area. This should include restriction/control of development. Review and increase management input to care for area and provide detailing in keeping with rural location possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Introduce interpretation in places.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Protect aquifer with appropriate land management.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Protect areas of interest by designation. Reduce fragmentation by management of hedges, grassland, roadsides, woodlands, streams [e.g. buffer strips].

*Historical:* Continue protection of Heritage Coast and restrict development. Need for archaeological heritage audit and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

*Cultural:* Maintain landscape qualities of area as backcloth to coastline.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |          |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High     | Modest | Other |
| Visual            | 26          |          |        |       |
| Geology           |             |          | 3,4    |       |
| Vegetation        |             | in parts | 24,25  |       |
| Historical        | 3,4         | 2        |        |       |
| Cultural          | 10,13       | 11       |        |       |

**Contextual Information**

*Rural Land Use:*

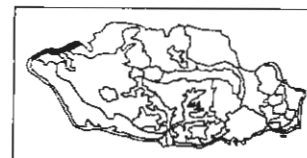
|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 11 |
| Woodland                   | 14 |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.4  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,2,3,4,7,13,14,15,16,17,  
 21,22,24  
 Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos. 16,37



### Landscape Character Area No.3 Ogmore/Ewenny Valley



**Description:**

Ewenny river valley eastern slopes running to confluence with River Ogmore and to the sea. Gentle valley lies slopes to the north rising to steep slopes of limestone outcrop clothed in woodland and semi-natural vegetation to south. Outstanding historical and cultural features including Ewenny Priory and the ruined Ogmore Castle lying adjacent to the river. The latter lies within the Merthyr Mawr Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance. Outstanding in visual terms around the castle and towards the sea. The valley is affected by Bridgend towards the north.

**Justification:**

The river forms the integrating strand for the area and provides the historical boundary to the Vale though the character changes from north to south.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Restriction of further development. Protect and manage woodlands [e.g. Kings Wood]. Review and increase management input to care for area and provide detailing in keeping with rural location possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Maintain open uncluttered approach to coast. Introduce interpretation in places.  
*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Preserve natural river course and blown sand south of river. Maintain water quality.  
*Vegetation and Habitats:* Consider SNCI's adjacent to river. Encourage land management in line with Tir Gofal. Avoid canalisation/hard engineering of river. Maintain water quality.  
*Historical:* Consider extending Merthyr Mawr Registered Historic Landscape to include Ewenny Priory.  
*Cultural:* Keep visitor facilities low key and provide interpretation to Ewenny Priory.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4:*  
 [Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            | 27          |      | 32     |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 11     |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 9    |        |       |
| Historical        | 1           |      |        |       |
| Cultural          | 12          |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Agriculture                | 14       |
| Woodland                   | 17       |
| Settlement and Development | 10,12,16 |

**Cross References:**  
 Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.4  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,7,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,  
 17,20,21,22,23

## Landscape Character Area No. 4 Ogmore and Old Castle Down



### Description:

Elevated carboniferous limestone outcrop split by Pant St. Brides with extensive semi-natural vegetation of limestone and acid heath, gorse and bracken. A golf course also lies to the south. A limestone quarry cuts into Ogmore Down. Wide views are possible and a sense of wildness pervades. Outstanding in terms of vegetation cover and visual and sensory perception.

### Justification:

Distinctive landform and vegetation separate this area from its surroundings. A comprehensive management scheme could be prepared for this area. Limestone quarrying is an issue.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Consider as Local Countryside Designation [LCD]. Consider management plan to conserve intrinsic qualities. Restrict development of quarries so not widely visible.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Restrict development of quarries to minimise environmental impact. Land management to protect aquifer.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Extend protection of habitats- consider as SNCI's. Grazing regimes on grasslands and commons to be carefully managed to ensure conservation.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Protect and restrict development.

**Cultural:** Increase awareness of cultural associations.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4:*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            | 30          |      |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      |        |       |
| Vegetation        | 2           |      |        |       |
| Historical        | 2           | 7    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 15    |
| Woodland                   | -     |
| Settlement and Development | 12,16 |

#### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,9,13,14,15,16,17,18,  
20,22,23

**Landscape Character Area No. 5  
Alun Valley**



**Description:**

Incised narrow valley of the River Alun, east of Old Castle Down, cutting through limestone outcrop with 50m valley sides running from gentle lias plateau. Valley sides clothed with woodland or other semi-natural vegetation which encroaches onto the plateau. Disused quarry a geological SSSI. Mineral railway runs down the valley.

Geology and Vegetation in parts are outstanding.

**Justification:**

A distinct sheltered valley with woodland which contrasts with surrounding farmland and common.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Consider as Local Countryside Designation [LCD] because of visual quality. Protect and manage woodlands. Encourage management plan by owners.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Preserve natural river course where remains. Maintain water quality. Preserve old quarry faces.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Extend protection of habitats - consider as SNCI's. Grazing regimes on grasslands and commons to be carefully managed to ensure conservation. Continue woodland management. Grazing in woodland is an issue – overspill from common.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Landscape with many layers requiring subtle interpretation

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 31   |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 11     |       |
| Vegetation        | 2           |      |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | -  |
| Woodland                   | 16 |
| Settlement and Development | 16 |

**Cross References:**  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,9,13,14,15,16,  
17,20,21,22,23

## Landscape Character Area No. 6 North West Vale



### Description:

Gentle upper slopes of Ewenny Valley and tributary valley of Nant Ganna and St Mary Hill Down dominated by Bridgend in valley below to the west or M4 to north. Pasture with some arable, limited tree cover and scattered settlement with Treoes and Llangan main village settlements. Mynydd Ruthin common with light bracken, neutral grassland and scrub cover. Golf Course to north.

### Justification:

Rural edge of the Vale adjacent to and visually affected by development of Bridgend and M4. Fairly consistent landcover with exceptions of St Mary Hill Down and Mynydd Ruthin.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Restrict development in rural area. Encourage planting of woodlands possibly supported by Woodland Grant scheme. Encourage hedgerow retention and management. Rural settlement and farm building guidelines needed.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Restrict development of quarries to minimise environmental impact.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Protect areas of interest by designation. Reduce fragmentation by management of hedges, grassland, roadsides, woodlands, streams [e.g. buffer strips]. Mynydd Ruthin – improve management by reintroducing grazing, limit bracken areas, limit vehicular access.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Protect historic buildings/conservation areas/village cores and their settings. Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |       |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High  | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |       | 33     |       |
| Geology           |             |       | 3,5    |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 11    | 24,25  |       |
| Historical        |             | 10,11 |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |       | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

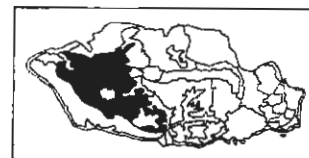
#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 13,14 |
| Woodland                   | 15    |
| Settlement and Development | 10    |

#### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,5,6,7,9,12,13,14,15,16,  
17,18,20,22,23  
Action Programme Volume 3:  
Site Nos. 6

**Landscape Character Area No. 7  
Colwinston Lias Plateau**



**Description:**

Gently undulating Lias plateau primarily in Alun/Ewenny catchment but bounded by Thaw valley to the east. Productive, primarily arable, land enclosed by fences and trimmed hedges. Limited tree cover except adjacent to watercourses and settlement. Some nucleated settlements exist at Colwinston and Wick and scattered farm buildings, often with new additions, are visible. Area surrounds Llandow Industrial Estate. High value in historical and cultural terms.

**Justification:**

Distinctive lias plateau landform with productive farmland.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Restrict development because high intervisibility in rural area and role as western setting for Cowbridge. Encourage appropriate rural detailing of hedgerows and protection and ongoing management and planting of woodlands [for shelter] possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Rural settlement and farm building guidelines needed.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Protect aquifer with appropriate land management.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Protect areas of interest by designation. Reduce fragmentation by management of hedges, grassland, roadsides, woodlands, streams [e.g. buffer strips].

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review. Protect linear feature and setting of Roman Road.

**Cultural:** Protect historic buildings/conservation areas/village cores and their settings. Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 28     |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 3,4    |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 24,25  |       |
| Historical        |             | 7,10 |        |       |
| Cultural          | 7           |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

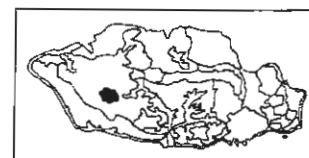
|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 12,13 |
| Woodland                   | 15    |
| Settlement and Development | 10    |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,5,6,7,9,12,13,14,15,16,  
17,18,20,22,23

Action Programme Volume 3:  
Site Nos. 5

**Landscape Character Area No. 8**  
**Llandow Trading Estate**



**Description:**

Formerly a Second World War airfield on gentle rise of rural Lias Plateau, now a Trading and an Industrial estate located on B4270. Hangars are located on the periphery now used mainly for storage and are visually prominent. New units and vehicle storage built centrally and to the north [Industrial Estate] partly screened by hedgerows. Go Kart track located behind bunds. Open grass areas and arable land interspersed with buildings.

**Justification:**

Incongruous group of buildings and structures set in rural Vale.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Landscape strategy for area looking at encouraging tree and hedgerow cover to screen detractors at ground level, rural road design guidance, commercial area design guidance.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Protect aquifer with appropriate development controls and land management.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Develop management strategy to optimise nature conservation value.

*Historical:* WW2 site needs consideration as of some historic value and key features should be retained.

*Cultural:* Subtle interpretation of features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      |        | 29    |
| Geology           |             |      | 4      |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25     |       |
| Historical        |             |      | 7      |       |
| Cultural          |             |      |        | -     |

**Contextual Information**

*Rural Land Use:*

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 12 |
| Woodland                   | 13 |
| Settlement and Development | 13 |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG 1,6,8,20,22,23  
 Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos. 34,35,36

**Landscape Character Area No. 9  
RAF St Athan**



**Description:**

Operational RAF airfield located on lias plateau with associated hangars, military structures, housing and security fencing. Visually prominent in rural landscape.

**Justification:**

Single function area under MoD control.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Landscape strategy for area looking at encouraging tree and hedgerow cover to screen detractors at ground level, rural road design guidance, commercial area design guidance.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Protect aquifer with appropriate development controls and land management.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Develop management strategy to optimise nature conservation value.

*Historical:* Little interest. Possible WW2 value.

*Cultural:* Subtle interpretation of features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      |        | 25    |
| Geology           |             |      | 4      |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25     |       |
| Historical        |             |      | 5      |       |
| Cultural          |             |      |        | -     |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

Agriculture

Woodland

Settlement and Development 11

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG 1,6,8,12,17,20,22,23

## Landscape Character Area No. 10 Thaw Valley - Lower



### Description:

Valley cut through Lias plateau running from Aberthaw Cement Works to Gigman Mill. Includes steep broadleaf wooded valley sides upto 50m and flat poorly drained valley bottom with pasture, marshy in places. Valley is wide to the north at confluence with Nant Tre Gof and narrows to south. The estuary is affected by development of Power Station. Settlement is perched on plateau edge off floodplain. Valley is of high value for most aspects including visual and vegetation. Pylons/Power lines are major detractors.

### Justification:

Valley forms a distinct stretch affected by pylons and development which differs from coast to south and more enclosed and undisturbed middle reaches to the north.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Consider Local Countryside Designation [LCD] in area north of Power Station. Restrict further development. Encourage appropriate rural detailing of hedgerows and protection and ongoing management of woodlands possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Remove pylons over time.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural river course and improve modified stretches and protect floodplain from development.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Suitable land management of areas around riparian corridors [including buffer zones] and woodlands using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants. Ensure no further loss of habitats in Estuary and improve existing. Maintain/improve high water quality of river. Consider further designation of areas.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Protect historic buildings and their settings and consider footpath link to Aberthaw.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 22   |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 10     |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 12   |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             | 7    |        |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 7  |
| Woodland                   | 12 |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

#### Cross References:

Volume 1 Area Strategy 4.3  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,2,3,5,6,7,8,11,12,13,14,  
15,16,17,20,22,23,24  
Action Programme Volume 3:  
Site Nos. 29



**Landscape Character Area No. 11  
Thaw Valley - Middle**



**Description:**

Small steep sided enclosed valley and tributary valley cut 40-50m into Lias plateau with sinuous natural river course for much of it's length. Broadleaf wooded valley sides for much of length with pastoral landscape on other slopes and valley bottom. Settlement is of high historic value and includes Cowbridge and Llanblethian to the north and Old Beaupre and Llanmihangel [conservation area] to the south. Open space finger into Cowbridge is an important element of area. High value in most aspects.

**Justification:**

Valley forms a distinct intimate, enclosed stretch between the Lower Thaw Valley to south and Cowbridge centre to the north.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Restrict further development including in Cowbridge open space river corridor to protect as setting to Cowbridge and other settlements. Encourage appropriate rural detailing of hedgerows and walls and protection and ongoing management of woodlands possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Consider Local Countryside Designation [LCD].

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural river course and associated floodplain.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Suitable land management of areas around riparian corridors [including buffer zones] and woodlands using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants. Maintain/improve high water quality of river. Consider further designation of areas.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Protect historic buildings and their settings and consider footpath link to Aberthaw.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 23   |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 10     |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 12   |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             | 7    |        |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 7  |
| Woodland                   | 12 |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

**Cross References:**  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,13,14,15,16,17,20,  
22,23,

**Landscape Character Area No. 12  
Cowbridge Eastern Environs and Stalling Down**



**Description:**

Important historic focus of the Vale on the Roman Road approaching Cowbridge and Thaw Valley and the sandstone outcrop of St Hilary Down/Stalling Down at the end of the limestone ridge. Close relationship between settlement and the landscape. Semi-natural vegetation on St. Hilary and Stalling Down. Outstanding in Historical, Cultural and Settlement and Development aspects. Suffers from detractor of A48 road and viaduct.

**Justification:**

Strong historical connections between common, valley and settlement focussed on Roman Road suggest that the topographically distinct areas should be considered together.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Restrict further development on prominent ridges and slopes. Prepare management/strategy plan for Stalling and St. Hilary Downs to control access and tidy parking areas and conserve vegetation cover. Improve mast and environs design and associated planting. Consider LCD. Rural road design guidelines.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Protect distinctive landform.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Encourage controlled grazing of commons, implement bracken control, consider designation [SNCI]. Maintain features of value such as hedgerows, stone walls, roadside verges.

*Historical:* Protect linear feature and setting of Roman Road and also of Llanquian Castle. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review. Provide interpretation of 'Portway' [the Roman Road] and rest of important area.

*Cultural:* Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 34   | 14     |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 3      |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 24,26  |       |
| Historical        | 8           | 7,10 |        |       |
| Cultural          | 9[Adjacent] |      |        | 1     |

**Contextual Information**

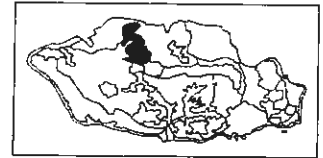
**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 6,9 |
| Woodland                   | 12  |
| Settlement and Development | 17  |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,6,7,10,11,12,14,15,16,  
17,18,20,22,23,  
Action Programme Volume 3:  
Site Nos. 3,4,38

## Landscape Character Area No. 13 Thaw Valley - Upper



### Description:

Upper reaches of Thaw with associated tributary valleys and slopes. Distinctive steep-sided valley slopes particularly to west upto 60m high covered in semi-natural broadleaf woodland. River course is modified with associated drainage ditches in flat low-lying Newton Moors. Area borders on M4 to north and A48 to south with subsequent disturbance. Incremental expansion from Cowbridge and around settlements to east have an impact on the area. High value in most aspects.

### Justification:

Valley forms a distinct stretch between the source and Cowbridge.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Restrict further development. Protect and manage woodlands. Encourage appropriate rural detailing of hedgerows and walls possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Consider LCD. Design guidelines necessary for Cowbridge and rural settlements.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural river course and associated floodplain.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Suitable land management of areas around riparian corridors [including buffer zones] and woodlands using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants. Maintain/improve high water quality of river. Consider further designation of areas.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study of 'Bro' and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 24   |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 10     |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 12   |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 11   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

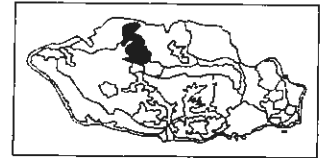
#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 7  |
| Woodland                   | 12 |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,13,14,15,16,17,20,  
22,23,

## Landscape Character Area No. 13 Thaw Valley - Upper



### Description:

Upper reaches of Thaw with associated tributary valleys and slopes. Distinctive steep-sided valley slopes particularly to west upto 60m high covered in semi-natural broadleaf woodland. River course is modified with associated drainage ditches in flat low-lying Newton Moors. Area borders on M4 to north and A48 to south with subsequent disturbance. Incremental expansion from Cowbridge and around settlements to east have an impact on the area. High value in most aspects.

### Justification:

Valley forms a distinct stretch between the source and Cowbridge.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Restrict further development. Protect and manage woodlands. Encourage appropriate rural detailing of hedgerows and walls possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Consider LCD. Design guidelines necessary for Cowbridge and rural settlements.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural river course and associated floodplain.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Suitable land management of areas around riparian corridors [including buffer zones] and woodlands using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants. Maintain/improve high water quality of river. Consider further designation of areas.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study of 'Bro' and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

**Cultural:** Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 24   |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 10     |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 12   |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 11   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 7  |
| Woodland                   | 12 |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,13,14,15,16,17,20,  
22,23,

**Landscape Character Area No. 14  
Hensol/Border Vale**



**Description:**

Undulating landscape of small hills, ridges and small damp valleys culminating in elevation at Hensol Forest [Landscape Character Area No. 15]. Area drains to Thaw in west and Ely to east. Scattered woodland, primarily pastoral landscape with strong hedgerow cover. Main settlements are at Ystradowen, Welsh St. Donats and Hensol. Area is classified as Border Vale as part of the Welshry north of A48 Roman Road. An area of lowland moor is located at Morfa Ystradowen.

**Justification:**

Distinct area north of A48 and between Ely and Thaw river valleys.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Protect and manage woodlands and hedgerow cover including riparian vegetation. Apply rural settlement guidelines and rural road design guidelines.  
**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Monitor development of Forest Wood Quarry. Glacial topography is likely to be included in RIGS classification.  
**Vegetation and Habitats:** Consider designation [SNCI] for Morfa Ystradowen and Talygarn Farm [part outside Vale]. Retain and manage peat bog habitat. Consider Tir Gofal for farm management in places. Maintain features of value such as woodlands, hedgerows, streams, roadside verges.  
**Historical:** Poorly understood 'Welshry' landscape with need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study.  
**Cultural:** Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |       |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High  | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |       | 19     |       |
| Geology           |             |       | 8      |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 13,14 | 27     |       |
| Historical        |             | 9,11  |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |       | 1      |       |

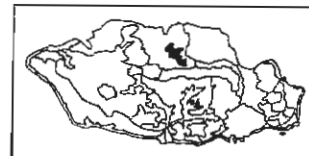
**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 6     |
| Woodland                   | 10,11 |
| Settlement and Development | 10    |

**Cross References:**  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,7,11,13,14,15,16,17,20,  
 22,23,

## Landscape Character Area No. 15 Hensol Forest



**Description:**

Forestry Commission coniferous plantation on high ground also used for informal recreation. Topography is small scale hummocky end moraine. A small lake, Pysgodlyn Mawr, acts as the recreational focus and is used for fishing. Is an SSSI of national importance with rare species with sedge swamp and acid bog. Car parks/trails worn, litter problems.

**Justification:**

Distinct vegetation type of coniferous forest enclosing outstanding lake/bog habitat.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Replace some coniferous forest over time with broadleaves in areas of public access and on edges. Upgrade design and detailing of car parks, accesses, picnic areas, lake edge and signage.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Consider glacial topography including boulder clay for RIGS designation.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Protect water sources for Pysgodlyn Mawr SSSI and improve surroundings to water body removing conifers supporting wetland habitats and introducing broadleaves in parts. Discourage access to parts of lake/wet areas. Consider designation [SNCI] for forest.

*Historical:* Poorly understood 'Welshry' landscape with need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study.

*Cultural:* Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 20     |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 8      |       |
| Vegetation        | 3           | 23   |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 9    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | -  |
| Woodland                   | 9  |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,14,15,16,17,20,22,23,

## Landscape Character Area No. 16 Central Slopes and Valleys



**Description:**

South facing slopes of limestone ridge [Landscape Character Area 23], Nant Tre Gof valley and southerly extending ridge fingers. Well kept farmland and substantial broadleaf woodland blocks with scattered settlement of farmhouses and historic settlements [and conservation areas] of St Hilary and Llantrithyd. Long views of coast possible.

**Justification:**

Unspoilt rural area between main valleys with consistent historical value.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Encourage appropriate rural detailing of hedgerows and protection and ongoing management of woodlands possibly supported by Tir Gofal. Rural settlement and farm building guidelines needed. Restriction of development particularly on prominent slopes and ridges

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Protect aquifer with appropriate land management. Encourage buffer strips.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Protect areas of interest by designation. Protect and manage hedges, stone walls, grassland, roadsides, woodlands, streams [e.g. buffer strips].

*Historical:* Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review.

*Cultural:* Protect historic buildings/conservation areas/village cores and their settings. Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 14,21  |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 2,3,4  |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 24,25  |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    |        |       |
| Cultural          | 7           |      |        |       |

**Contextual Information**

*Rural Land Use:*

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 3,7,8 |
| Woodland                   | 5,7   |
| Settlement and Development | 10    |

**Cross References:**  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,13,14,15,16,17,20,  
22,23,

**Landscape Character Area No. 17  
Llancarfan and Lower Waycock Valleys**



**Description:**

Steep sided narrow valleys including Kenson River cut into Lias plateau with natural stream courses and distinctive soil slip patterns on slopes. Pastoral landscape with strong hedgerows and woodland cover and attractive settlements both in valley and on plateau edge. Outstanding historical value centred around early monastic community of St. Cadoc's at Llancarfan and part of area designated as Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Importance.

**Justification:**

Valleys form distinctive landform feature in plateau with attendant distinctive landcover pattern. The boundary is defined by historic designation boundary to the west and landform features to the east.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Retain character of area by support by Tir Gofal where applicable maintaining field patterns/boundaries, farm management, woodland management, riparian vegetation. Restrict development and implement rural settlement and farm guidelines. Consider LCD.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural river course and protect water quality.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Continue protection and management of Nant Whitton Woodlands. Suitable land management of areas around riparian corridors [including buffer zones] and woodlands using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants. Maintain/improve high water quality of river. Consider further designation of areas.

**Historical:** Very important historic landscape intolerant to change requires sensitive management and development restriction to maintain essential qualities.

**Cultural:** Protect historic buildings/conservation areas/village cores and their settings. Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 15   |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 10     |       |
| Vegetation        | 4           | 12   |        |       |
| Historical        | 6           |      |        |       |
| Cultural          | 7           |      |        |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Agriculture                | 3,7  |
| Woodland                   | 5,12 |
| Settlement and Development | 10   |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,13,14,15,16,17,20,  
22,23,



**Landscape Character Area No. 18  
Rhoose Environs**



**Description:**

Plateau farmland between Weycock and Kenson Valleys to the north and coastal strip to south visually dominated by Cardiff Wales Airport [Landscape Character Area No. 19]. Barry to the east and Aberthaw Cement Works to the west. An exposed landscape of productive arable with trimmed/laid hedges and limited woodland associated with small valleys and settlement. Cut through by A4226/B4265 linking Barry with Llantwit Major.

**Justification:**

Landscape of consistent topography bounded by valleys, the coast and Barry with urban fringe pressures.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Retain as a buffer around Porthkerry, between Rhoose/Airport and Barry. Minimise impact of detractors such as Aberthaw quarry, Airport development and BA Hangar by planting of boundaries and roads. Strengthen hedgerows and woodlands to absorb existing development and restrict further development.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Sensitive restoration of cement quarries required. Protect water quality.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Reduce fragmentation by management of hedges, grassland, roadsides, woodlands and water features.

*Historical:* Continue protection of archaeological sites. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study overall.

*Cultural:* Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 16     |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 4      |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25     |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    | 5      |       |
| Cultural          |             | 1    |        |       |

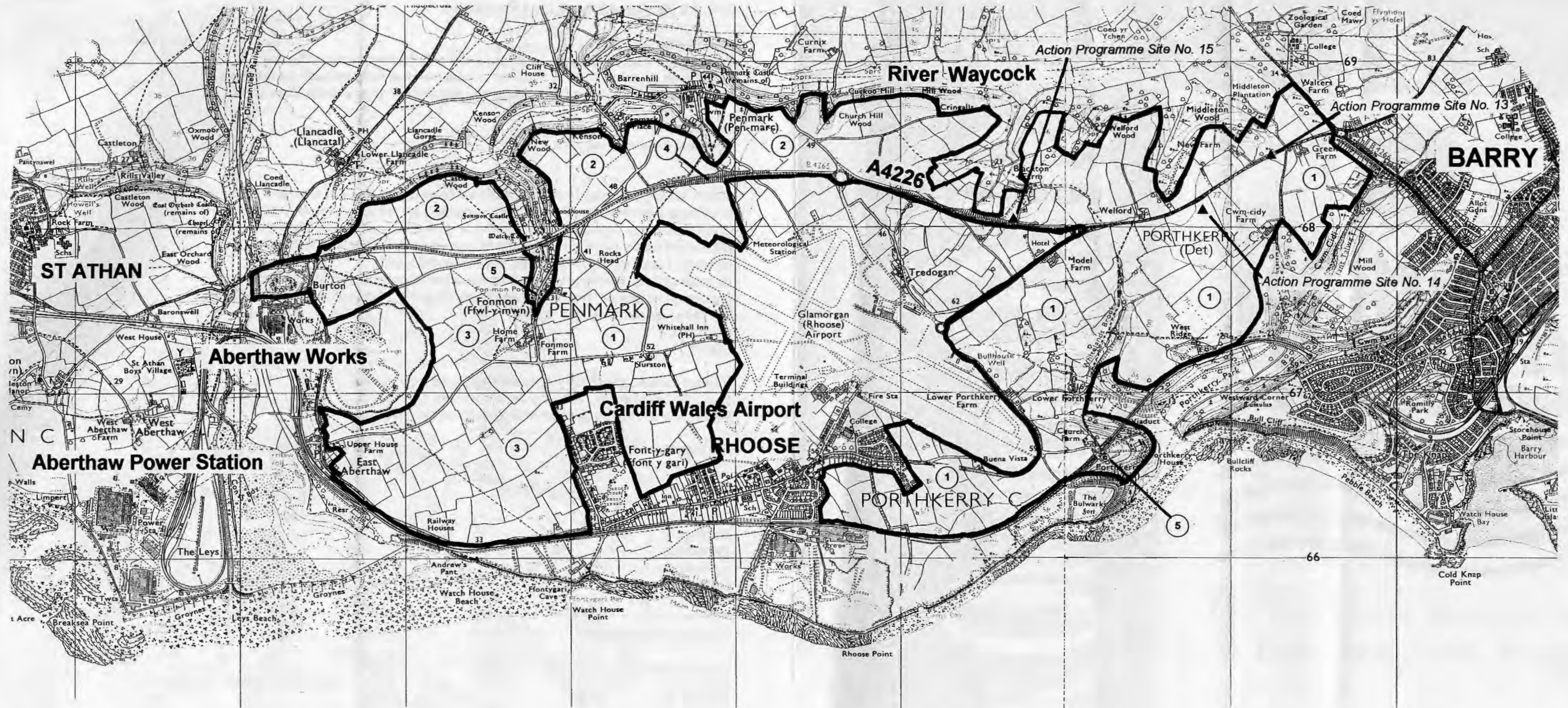
**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Agriculture                | 10   |
| Woodland                   | 13   |
| Settlement and Development | 9,11 |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,6,7,12,13,14,15,16,17,  
20,22,23,24



**Issues:**

- Existing development visible across plateau
- Low hedges and few trees
- Intervisibility inland
- Scale of BA hangar
- Aberthaw quarry extension
- Development threat

**Aims:**

- To retain the area as a rural buffer between settlements
- To strengthen the landscape structure of woods, trees and hedgerows to screen existing development.

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Protect and manage farmland buffer strengthening hedgerows where required. Protect and manage woodland and extend where possible as shelterbelts and as screens for detractors from existing fingers of woodland. Encourage access to and from coast and Porthkerry Park.
2. Protect and manage hedge and field pattern
3. Area used and designated for mineral extraction to have strengthened hedgerows and trees on periphery to screen works in advance of extraction.
4. Encourage regeneration of trees on road embankment and plant in places to screen airport and associated development.
5. Apply rural settlement design guidelines DG13.

Landscape Character Area No. 18  
Rhouse Environs

## Landscape Character Area No. 19 Cardiff Wales Airport and Environs



### Description:

Commercial airport with associated buildings and BA Maintenance Facility. Developing Business Park to north on current pastoral farmland with hedgerows and limited tree cover. Located on coastal plateau with high visibility from north.

### Justification:

Coherent development area.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Manage existing hedgerow and tree cover to maximise screen and landscape infrastructure. Carry out a masterplan for the area including advance landscape works including landform and large belts of native species planting and implement these. Avoid development of visually prominent areas of the site.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Protect water quality.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Reduce fragmentation by management of hedges, grassland, roadsides, woodlands and water features. Plant native species in blocks to link into surrounding countryside.

**Historical:** -

**Cultural:** -

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4:

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      |        | 18    |
| Geology           |             |      | 4      |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25     |       |
| Historical        |             |      | 5      |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | -      |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

Agriculture

Woodland

Settlement and Development 11

#### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,6,7,12,16,17,  
20,22,23,24

**Issues:**

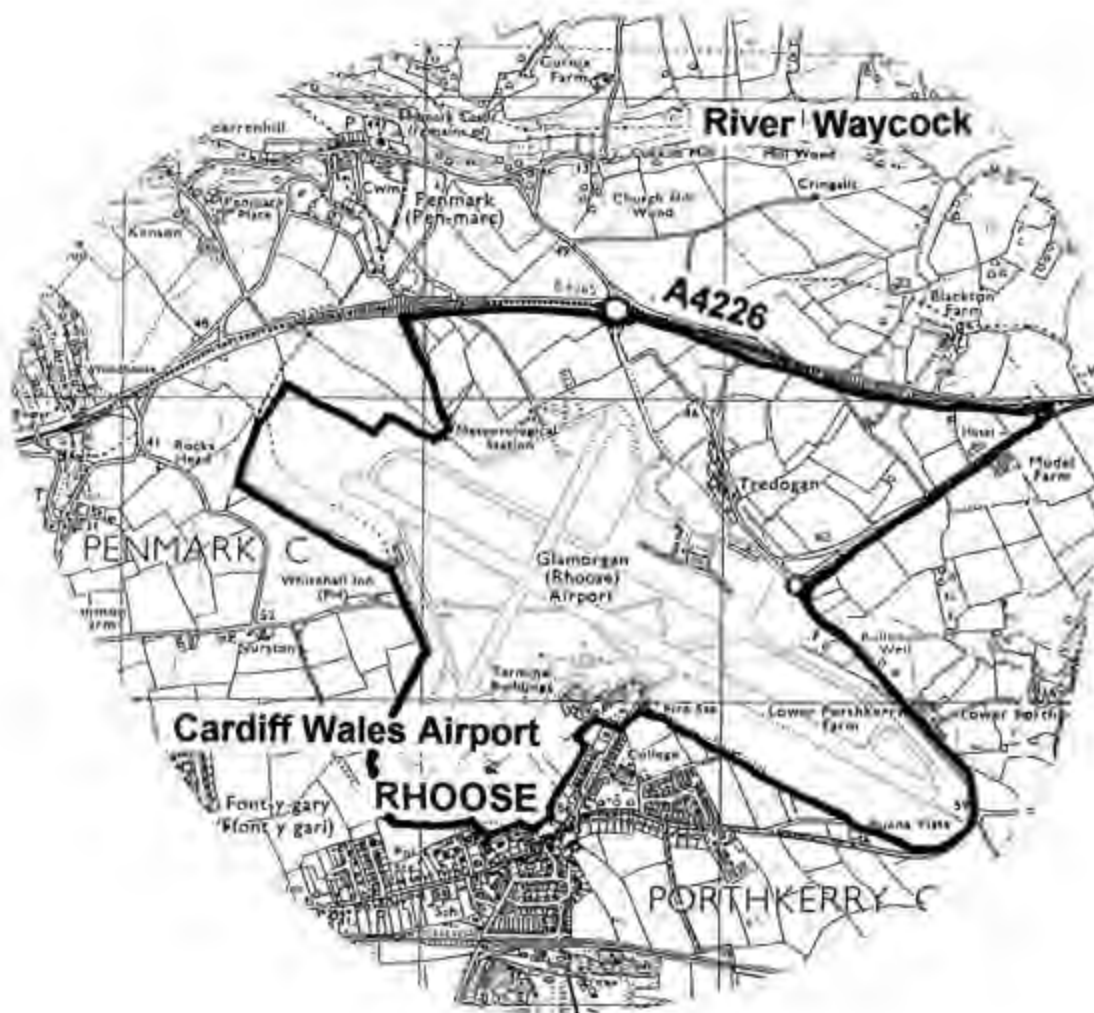
- Development area highly visible from rural vale
- BA hangar large scale detractor

**Aims:**

- To minimise the visual impact of development
- To promote a positive image of the Vale in an important location

**Detailed Strategy:**

See Design Guideline DG27



**Landscape Character Area No. 19  
Cardiff Wales Airport and  
Environs**

**Landscape Character Area No. 20**  
**Coastal Strip - East of Aberthaw Power Station**



**Description:**

Narrow coastal strip from low water line to settlement and infrastructure related to coast including Sully Island. Superb views of Severn Estuary/Bristol Channel and Somerset. Consists of sandy beaches, wavecut platforms, low cliffs, wind sculpted vegetation, mix of older settlement but dominated by 20c development including housing, leisure [Barry + caravan parks] and commercial development at Barry. Outstanding in terms of geological and fossil features [4 SSSI's] and coastal/maritime habitats.

**Justification:**

The coast edge has distinctive qualities and particularly intense problems of leisure development such as caravan parks, visitor management, and coastal access which set it apart from it's direct hinterland. Coastal access continuity is a particular issue.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Restrict development within area. Prepare design/management strategy to provide a robust landscape strip to a high standard of design, detailing and access. This should complement Heritage Coast approach. Increase management input to care for area addressing litter, erosion and localised damage.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Conserve natural rock features including 4 SSSI's. Provide interpretation. Ensure stream and coastal pollution control and pick litter regularly on beaches.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Integrated coastal management required balancing ecological, recreational and economic needs including protection of coastal SSSI's, addressing anti-erosion measures and offshore mineral extraction. Use Tir Gofal where possible to create coastal buffer zone and reduce intensification.

**Historical:** Continue protection of archaeological sites and increase interpretation for sites such as the Bulwarks and Lavernock medieval village. WW2 heritage on coast may have importance. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study overall

**Cultural:** The Penarth/Lavernock area of cultural significance with Sisley paintings, Marconi and as a visitor destination. The coastline should be cleaned up with improved management to retain and regain qualities. Interpretation is also required.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4:*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 7    |        |       |
| Geology           | 5           |      |        |       |
| Vegetation        | 1           |      |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 13   | 5      |       |
| Cultural          | 3           |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                |     |
| Woodland                   |     |
| Settlement and Development | 3,7 |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.3  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,2,3,4,6,7,8,12,17,19,21,  
 22,24

Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos 21,22,23,24,25,26,  
 27,28

**Detailed Strategy:**

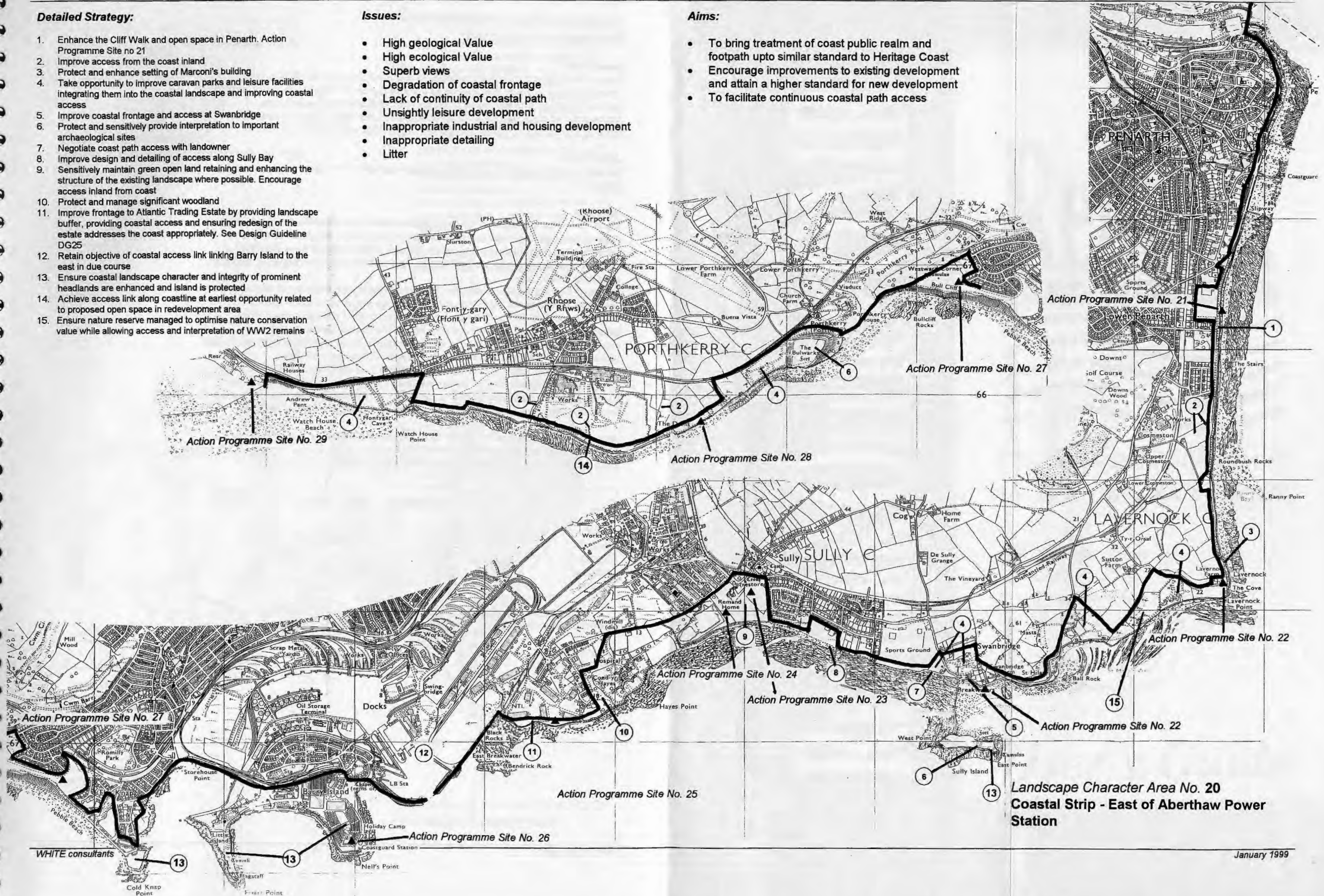
1. Enhance the Cliff Walk and open space in Penarth. Action Programme Site no 21
2. Improve access from the coast inland
3. Protect and enhance setting of Marconi's building
4. Take opportunity to improve caravan parks and leisure facilities integrating them into the coastal landscape and improving coastal access
5. Improve coastal frontage and access at Swanbridge
6. Protect and sensitively provide interpretation to important archaeological sites
7. Negotiate coast path access with landowner
8. Improve design and detailing of access along Sully Bay
9. Sensitively maintain green open land retaining and enhancing the structure of the existing landscape where possible. Encourage access inland from coast
10. Protect and manage significant woodland
11. Improve frontage to Atlantic Trading Estate by providing landscape buffer, providing coastal access and ensuring redesign of the estate addresses the coast appropriately. See Design Guideline DG25
12. Retain objective of coastal access link linking Barry Island to the east in due course
13. Ensure coastal landscape character and integrity of prominent headlands are enhanced and island is protected
14. Achieve access link along coastline at earliest opportunity related to proposed open space in redevelopment area
15. Ensure nature reserve managed to optimise nature conservation value while allowing access and interpretation of WW2 remains

**Issues:**

- High geological Value
- High ecological Value
- Superb views
- Degradation of coastal frontage
- Lack of continuity of coastal path
- Unsightly leisure development
- Inappropriate industrial and housing development
- Inappropriate detailing
- Litter

**Aims:**

- To bring treatment of coast public realm and footpath upto similar standard to Heritage Coast
- Encourage improvements to existing development and attain a higher standard for new development
- To facilitate continuous coastal path access



**Landscape Character Area No. 20  
Coastal Strip - East of Aberthaw Power Station**

## Landscape Character Area No. 21 Porthkerry Country Park



### Description:

Steep sided valley on western outskirts of Barry cut into coastal plateau with wooded slopes, open grassy glades and watercourse running to the sea. Country park with road access and associated facilities and pitch and putt course. Impressive railway viaduct a prominent visual feature. High nature conservation value at Cliff Wood - Golden Stairs which is an SSSI and LNR.

### Justification:

Discrete landform feature and management unit which requires coherent guidelines.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Develop management plan including visitor management to ensure mature wooded landscape is retained while meeting user needs. Consider variety of management on grasslands for variety. Ensure visitor facilities have minimal impact on landscape and protect viaduct. Apply urban edge guidelines to maintain semi-rural character.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural rock features as part of important coastline. Maintain natural river course and protect water quality.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Consider as part of integrated coastal management balancing ecological, recreational and economic needs. Develop park management plan including visitor management to ensure areas of high ecological value are protected and enhanced e.g. woodland, riparian corridors.

**Historical:** SAM's within site need protection and interpretation in Park as well as Adjacent site of Bulwarks. Education can be an important function of the park.

**Cultural:** Significant educational and recreational resource in need of continued and improved resources. Railway and viaduct significant to development of Vale.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 17   |        |       |
| Geology           | 6           |      | 4      |       |
| Vegetation        | 1           |      |        |       |
| Historical        |             |      | 5      |       |
| Cultural          |             | 6    |        |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 10 |
| Woodland                   | 6  |
| Settlement and Development | 8  |

#### Cross References:

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.3  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,2,3,4,7,12,16,17,19,21,  
 22,24  
 Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos. 40  
 See Technical Annex Volume  
 4 Section for Porthkerry  
 Country Park Management  
 Framework

**Issues:**

- Ecological value conflict with recreational needs
- Urban fringe problems
- Management regime

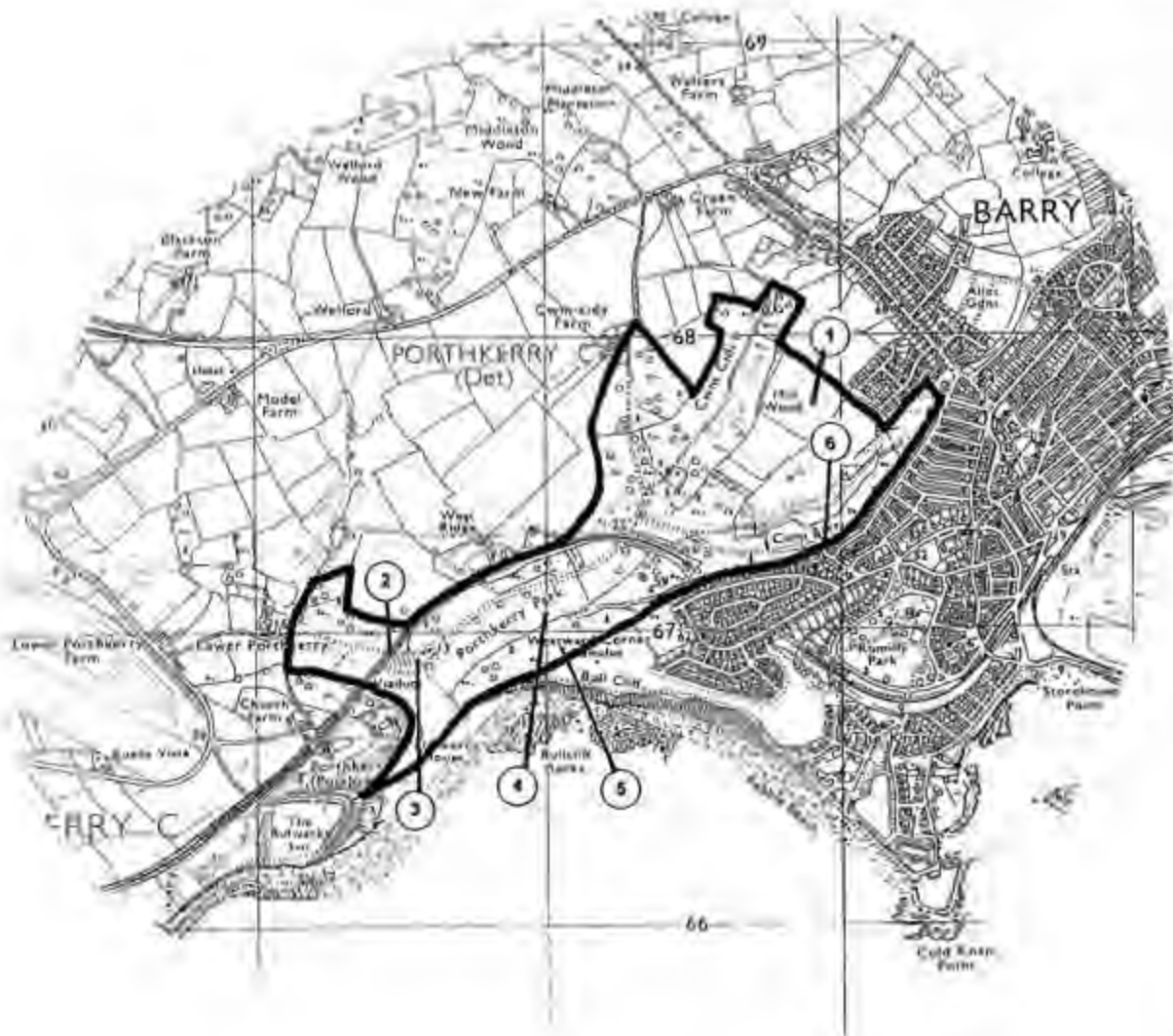
**Aims:**

- Balance recreational needs with protecting and enhancing ecological value of woodland.
- Upgrade management and educational resource

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Integrate newly acquired land into park by means of pedestrian access and reinforce field pattern
2. Protect and maintain viaduct
3. Improve facilities while ensuring the impact on the park and viaduct is minimised by careful design
4. Consider variable cutting regime on grassland to encourage diversity and to add visual interest
5. Protect and manage ecologically valuable woodland
6. Improve signage and detailing on approach road, carparks and other facilities.

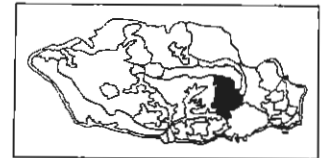
*Refer to Management Framework in Technical Annex Volume 4 Section 12.0*



**Landscape Character Area No. 21  
Porthkerry Country Park**



**Landscape Character Area No. 22  
Dyffryn Area**



**Description:**

Broad gentle sloping valley running from limestone ridge south towards lower Waycock reaches and overlooked by northern edge of Barry. Arable and pastoral farmland with trimmed hedges, blocks of woodland, scattered settlement focussed on Dyffryn village. Dyffryn Gardens are a local attraction. The area has high value particularly attached to visual and cultural aspects, but also to historical. The issue of highly visible encroachment of development onto the steep slopes north of Barry needs to be addressed. Power lines are also a detractor in southern part of valley.

**Justification:**

Quiet area contained by ridges and focussed on River Waycock with a consistent landcover.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Maintain rural character of area by support by Tir Gofal where applicable maintaining field patterns/boundaries, farm management, woodland management, riparian vegetation. Restrict development particularly in relation to the expansion of Barry or related development or from the A48. Implement rural settlement and farm guidelines. Consider LCD.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Maintain natural river course and protect water quality.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Suitable land management of areas around riparian corridors [including buffer zones] and woodlands using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants. Maintain/improve high water quality of river. Consider further designation of areas.

*Historical:* Important historic landscape with need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status needed and management review.

*Cultural:* Protect Dyffryn Gardens, its setting and approaches to retain character of this part of the Vale. Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |      |          |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|----------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest   | Other |
| Visual            |             | 12   |          |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 2,4,10   |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 12   | 24,25,28 |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    |          |       |
| Cultural          | 2           |      | 1        |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 3  |
| Woodland                   | 5  |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

**Cross References:**  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,  
20,22,23,

**Landscape Character Area No. 23**  
**St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Crest**



**Description:**

Limestone ridge crest of pastoral farmland with substantial blocks of woodland in places forming the rough boundary between the 'Bro' to the South and the 'Welshry' to the North and the main east-west link across the Vale. The busy A48 Roman Road runs along ridge linking conservation area villages of St Nicholas and Bonvilston. Rural character eroded by roadside development , quarrying, masts, signage etc outside conservation areas. Cottrell Park Golf Course also modifies character. Wide views in places to sea in south and South Wales coalfield to the north. Woodland on skyline is important.

**Justification:**

Ridge is a consistent and significant land form feature

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Ridgeline strategy needed to maintain and enhance woodland cover and hedgerow pattern on crest and to control inappropriate development and improve detailing adjacent to A48. Consider LCD. Rural settlement and road guidelines.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Minimise environmental impact of limestone extraction. Consider quarries for RIGS sites.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Suitable land management of areas including woodlands and hedgerows using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants.

*Historical:* Protect linear feature and setting of Roman Road. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review. Provide interpretation of 'Portway'.

*Cultural:* Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated aspects | Value       |         |          |       |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|----------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High    | Modest   | Other |
| Visual            |             | 11      |          |       |
| Geology           |             |         | 2,3,8    |       |
| Vegetation        |             |         | 24,25,27 |       |
| Historical        |             | 7,10,12 |          |       |
| Cultural          |             |         | 1        |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agriculture                | 4  |
| Woodland                   | 8  |
| Settlement and Development | 10 |

**Cross References:**

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,6,7,9,13,14,15,16,17,  
 20,22,23,  
 Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos. 1,2,6

**Landscape Character Area No. 24**  
**St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Slopes**



**Description:**

Prominent steep slopes running north and east from limestone ridge crest [Landscape Character Area No. 23] visible over a large area of Ely Valley and forming the backcloth to the main gateway into the Vale at Culverhouse Cross. Strong woodland cover in parts, some development creeping up the hill in south/east slopes but relatively unspoilt pastoral farmland /hedgerows to the north. High value particularly in Visual Aspect.

**Justification:**

Prominent slopes requiring particular care in development control and woodland and hedgerow management.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Restriction of development essential . Enhance woodland cover and hedgerow pattern to integrate development and maintain rural character of area. Improve detailing adjacent to A48. Consider LCD. Ensure appropriate restoration of quarries if possible. Apply rural settlement and road guidelines generally and urban edge guidelines by Culverhouse Cross.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Sensitive restoration of landfill quarries. Maintain natural watercourses, enhance where necessary and protect water quality.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Protect areas of interest such as woodlands [Cottrell, Wenvoe] and grasslands [Cottrell]. Protect and manage hedges, stone walls, grassland, roadsides, woodlands, streams. Suitable land management of areas including woodlands and hedgerows using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants.

**Historical:** Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status and management review. Protect setting of Roman Road.

**Cultural:** Carry out detailed cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

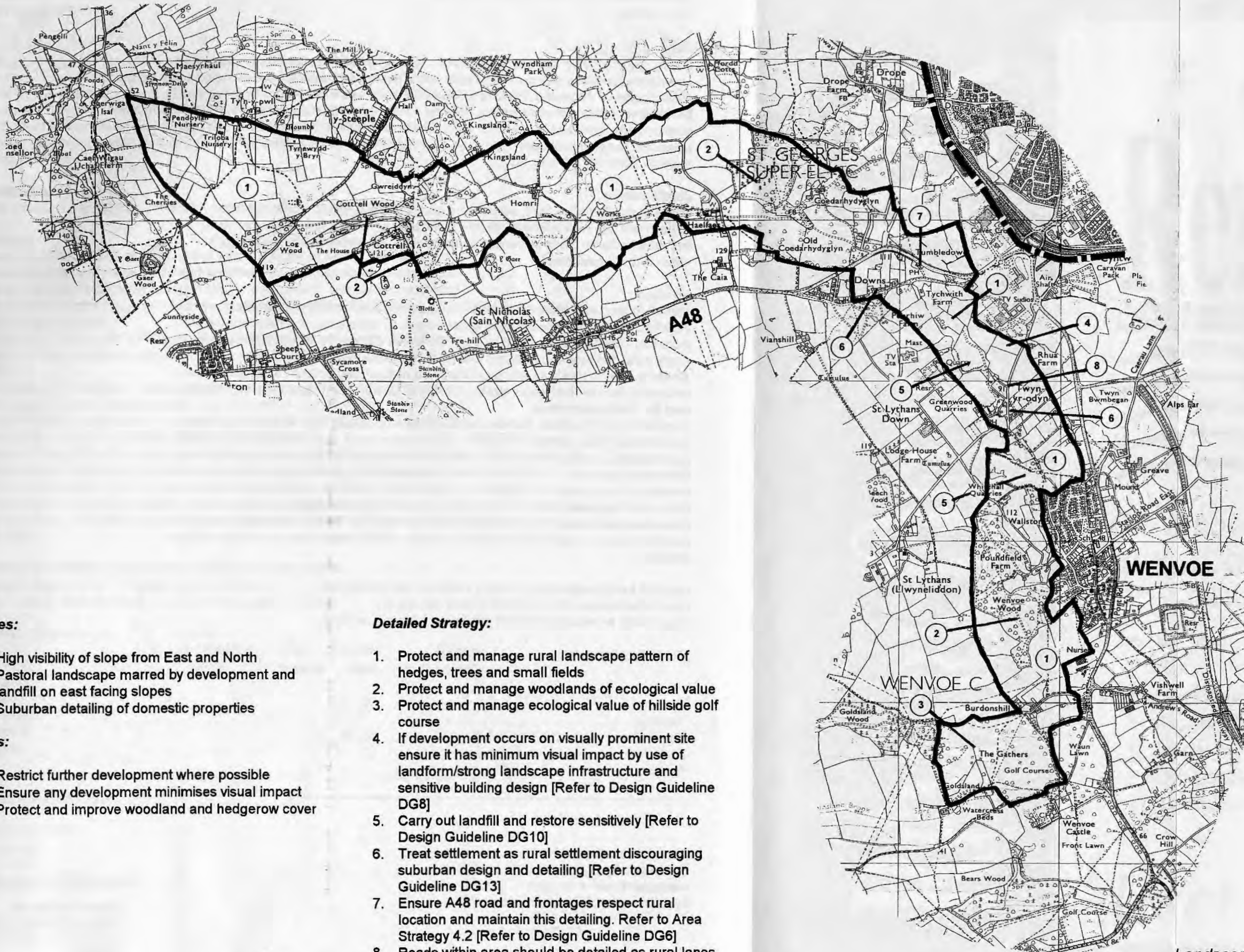
| Evaluated aspects | Value       |         |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High    | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 10      |        |       |
| Geology           |             |         | 2,8    |       |
| Vegetation        |             |         | 24,27  |       |
| Historical        |             | 7,10,12 |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |         | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Agriculture                | 5    |
| Woodland                   | 8    |
| Settlement and Development | 2,10 |

**Cross References:**  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,7,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,  
 20,22,23,



**Issues:**

- High visibility of slope from East and North
- Pastoral landscape marred by development and landfill on east facing slopes
- Suburban detailing of domestic properties

**Aims:**

- Restrict further development where possible
- Ensure any development minimises visual impact
- Protect and improve woodland and hedgerow cover

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Protect and manage rural landscape pattern of hedges, trees and small fields
2. Protect and manage woodlands of ecological value
3. Protect and manage ecological value of hillside golf course
4. If development occurs on visually prominent site ensure it has minimum visual impact by use of landform/strong landscape infrastructure and sensitive building design [Refer to Design Guideline DG8]
5. Carry out landfill and restore sensitively [Refer to Design Guideline DG10]
6. Treat settlement as rural settlement discouraging suburban design and detailing [Refer to Design Guideline DG13]
7. Ensure A48 road and frontages respect rural location and maintain this detailing. Refer to Area Strategy 4.2 [Refer to Design Guideline DG6]
8. Roads within area should be detailed as rural lanes within constraints of heavy vehicle access

Landscape Character Area No. 24  
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Slopes

## Landscape Character Area No. 25 Ely Valley



### Description:

Gently sloping valley with flat bottom and natural river course. Generally pastoral and arable farmland with scattered settlement pattern focussed on conservation area villages of Peterston, Pendoylan and St Brides. The area is under some development pressure bordered by M4 and A4332 to north and east and the Bosch employment area lies discreetly on the valley floor near M4 Junction 34. Wide views are generally possible. The area is of outstanding value in the vegetation aspect - River Ely corridor SSSI.

### Justification:

Large area with valley floor, slopes and gently rising land in north east corner. Valley itself has high intervisibility and coherent characteristics. North east area included because it has common landcover characteristics to the valley and is within the Ely catchment.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Protect and manage woodlands and hedgerow cover including riparian vegetation to maintain landscape structure and to absorb existing development including industrial and leisure related. Conserve settings to conservation areas. Apply rural settlement guidelines and rural road design guidelines.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural river course, enhance where necessary and protect water quality. Consider glacial topography including boulder clay for RIGS designation.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Retain and enhance high quality riparian habitats [River Ely corridor SSSI], protect floodplain from development, protect water quality, peat bog habitat. Consider designation [SNCI] for Crynalit and Pendoylan and Peterston Moors and consider Tir Gofal for farm management in these places. Maintain features of value such as woodlands, hedgerows, streams, roadside verges.

**Historical:** Important historic landscape in need of archaeological landscape characterisation study and heritage audit. Protection of historic features needed.

**Cultural:** Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4:*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |       |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High  | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 13    |        |       |
| Geology           |             |       |        |       |
| Vegetation        | 5           | 15,16 | 27     |       |
| Historical        |             | 12    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |       | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 5,6 |
| Woodland                   | 11  |
| Settlement and Development | 10  |

#### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,  
20,22,23,

## Landscape Character Area No. 26

### Cwrt yr Ala Valley



#### Description:

Secluded gentle sloping valley of the Cadoxton River and tributaries with extensive broadleaf woodland cover on upper slopes [Leckwith Woods, Park Wood] and mixed farmland with continuous hedgerows and trees running down to the valley bottom. Winstone Brook dammed in places to form a series of ponds at Cwrt yr Ala. Settlement focussed on settlement/conservation area of Michaelston-le-Pit where some development is impinging on the valley floor. Adjacent Wenvoe Quarry is visible.

#### Justification:

Distinct well contained valley relatively unaffected by development.

#### Strategy:

**Visual:** Maintain rural qualities of valley with restriction of further development. Protect and improve management of woodland to maintain cover and to allow access. Manage hedgerows to retain strong field pattern. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access. Apply rural settlement guidelines and rural road design guidelines.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural watercourses, basins and gorges, enhance where necessary [such as Cwrt yr Ala ponds] and protect water quality.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Enhance woodland management and continue non-intensive agricultural management of grasslands on slopes to east. Protect and maintain riparian vegetation. Consider designation [SNCI] of areas. Suitable land management using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants.

**Historical:** Part of the 'Bro' which is an important historic landscape with need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study.

Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status needed and management review.

**Cultural:** Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

#### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4:

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 2    |        |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 1,2    |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 21   | 24,25  |       |
| Historical        |             | 7    |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

#### Contextual Information

##### Rural Land Use:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Agriculture                | 1 |
| Woodland                   | 2 |
| Settlement and Development | 1 |

#### Cross References:

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.2  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,7,13,14,15,16,17,  
19,22,23,



**Issues:**

- Tranquil, relatively unspoilt area under development pressure
- Woodland management
- Urban fringe
- Nature conservation and historic value

**Aims:**

- To protect and maintain the tranquillity and rural quality of the valley
- To protect and manage the nature conservation value of woodlands and riparian vegetation
- To protect and manage the historic value of the area

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Maintain critical vista of the valley viewed from the Turnpike Road with strong hedgerows and wooded valley sides
2. Protect and manage woodland of ecological value forming strong enclosure to the valley
3. Protect natural watercourse [possibly with designation], conserve riparian vegetation and consider reinstatement of salmon leaps
4. Conserve and interpret area of high ecological value including Dinas Powys Castle
5. Protect landscape setting to Michaelston le Pit
6. Manage urban fringe landscape area as buffer to Cwrt yr Ala valley
7. Ensure quarry extension does not cause visual or ecological impact on valley
8. Maintain rural detailing of settlement around Leckwith Road to minimise suburbanisation of urban fringe
9. Consider landscape management plan of mast enclosure to fit plant into the landscape e.g. replacement of conifers with broadleaves

**Landscape Character Area No. 26  
Cwrt yr Ala Valley**

**Landscape Character Area No. 27**  
**Southern Ely Valley Slopes**



**Description:**

Steep slopes upto 90m in places, covered in broadleaf woodland running down to the tidal [currently] Ely River including tributary of Cwm Cydfin. Pasture lies on upper slopes. Mudstone and Marl cliffs in parts and disused brick pits are found in parts. The area is urban fringe with some industrial activity, housing and roads and suffers from vandalism. Trees on steep slopes are unstable in parts and have fallen. Little management except Leckwith Woods by Vale of Glamorgan Council and above Penarth Marina. High nature conservation value at Cwm Cydfin SSSI.

**Justification:**

East facing slopes face Cardiff and are visually part of Cardiff area. Steep slopes have specific management and urban fringe problems.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Protect and manage woodlands to maintain cover particularly on the skyline and to screen development. Remove dereliction and plant area by River Ely to screen industrial premises. Restrict further development of area to reinforce role as buffer to Cardiff. Manage riparian corridor to maximise nature conservation interest. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access. Apply urban edge guidelines.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Allow regeneration of brick pits managing vegetation on steep slopes for safety. Maintain natural watercourses, enhance where necessary and protect water quality.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Protect and maintain Cwm Cydfin SSSI river system and woodland. Consider designation [SNCI] of adjacent areas. Enhance woodland management and continue non-intensive agricultural management of grasslands. Suitable land management using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants.

*Historical:* Part of the 'Bro' which is an important historic landscape with need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status needed and management review.

*Cultural:* Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |       |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High  | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             | 1     |        |       |
| Geology           |             |       | 1      |       |
| Vegetation        | 6           | 21,22 |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 7     |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |       |        |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | -   |
| Woodland                   | 1   |
| Settlement and Development | 1,5 |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.2  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,6,7,10,11,12,14,15,16,  
 17,19,22,23,





**Issues:**

- Highly prominent wooded scarp slope
- Woodland management
- Service detractors on slope and skyline
- Urban fringe vandalism
- Low intensity farming area under development pressure

**Aims:**

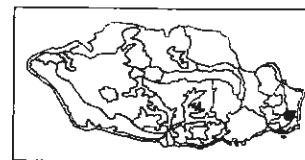
- To maintain green backcloth to urban area and improve woodland cover and remove gaps in skyline
- To protect the nature conservation value of the SSSI and surroundings
- To improve the visual quality of an urban fringe area.

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Protect and manage important hillside woodland. Minimise visual disruption of the skyline by rerouting or undergrounding statutory services and removing other detractors
2. Encourage vegetation regeneration of disused pits
3. Manage regenerating vegetation to screen unsightly derelict area. Restrict any development.
4. Encourage owner to tidy premises and carry out planting to screen unsightly areas
5. Protect and manage farmland with nature conservation interest
6. Manage river bank for nature conservation interest
7. Protect and manage Cwm Cydfin SSSI area including woodland and riparian habitats

Landscape Character Area No. 27  
Southern Ely Valley Slopes [Leckwith]

**Landscape Character Area No. 28  
Cosmeston Country Park and Glamorganshire Golf Club**



**Description:**

An area for recreation on the fringe of Penarth. The country park is reclaimed limestone quarry workings filled with spring water. It includes reed swamps and marshy grassland, tree and scrub plantation and grasslands. The park facilities on the southern edge consist of car park and buildings and a Medieval Village reconstruction based on a deserted village. It has outstanding nature conservation interest- Cosmeston Park SSSI. As the park is easily accessible from Cardiff and intensively used there is some conflict. The park will be extended to the north and west in association with large scale housing development in West Penarth.

The golf course is located on higher ground [the Downs] between the Park and Penarth. It has tree/scrub belts, one of which is visually prominent with pines which forms a distinctive skyline. It is generally intensively maintained grassland with limited ecological interest.

**Justification:**

Recreation use defines the area’s separation from other surrounding landscape character areas although it consists of two discrete management units. *Key Aspect*

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Park: Develop management plan including visitor management to ensure a mature landscape develops meeting user needs. Protect and manage trees/woodland to ensure long term cover. Golf course: Protect skyline trees in particular and ensure additional planting for succession. Apply urban edge guidelines to maintain semi-rural character.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Minimise pollution of water courses.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Park: Develop management plan including visitor management to ensure valuable wetland and associated habitats are protected and extended. Golf Course: Maintain features of value such as woodland, hedgerows, ditches, unimproved grassland.

*Historical:* Important area with deserted medieval settlement and castle, dovecot and associated landscape requires scheduling and proactive conservation policies. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study overall .

*Cultural:* Significant educational and recreational resource in need of continued and improved resources. Carry out cultural associations study. Further subtle interpretation of features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 4      |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 1      |       |
| Vegetation        | 7           | 20   | 25     |       |
| Historical        |             | 13   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             | 4    | 1      |       |

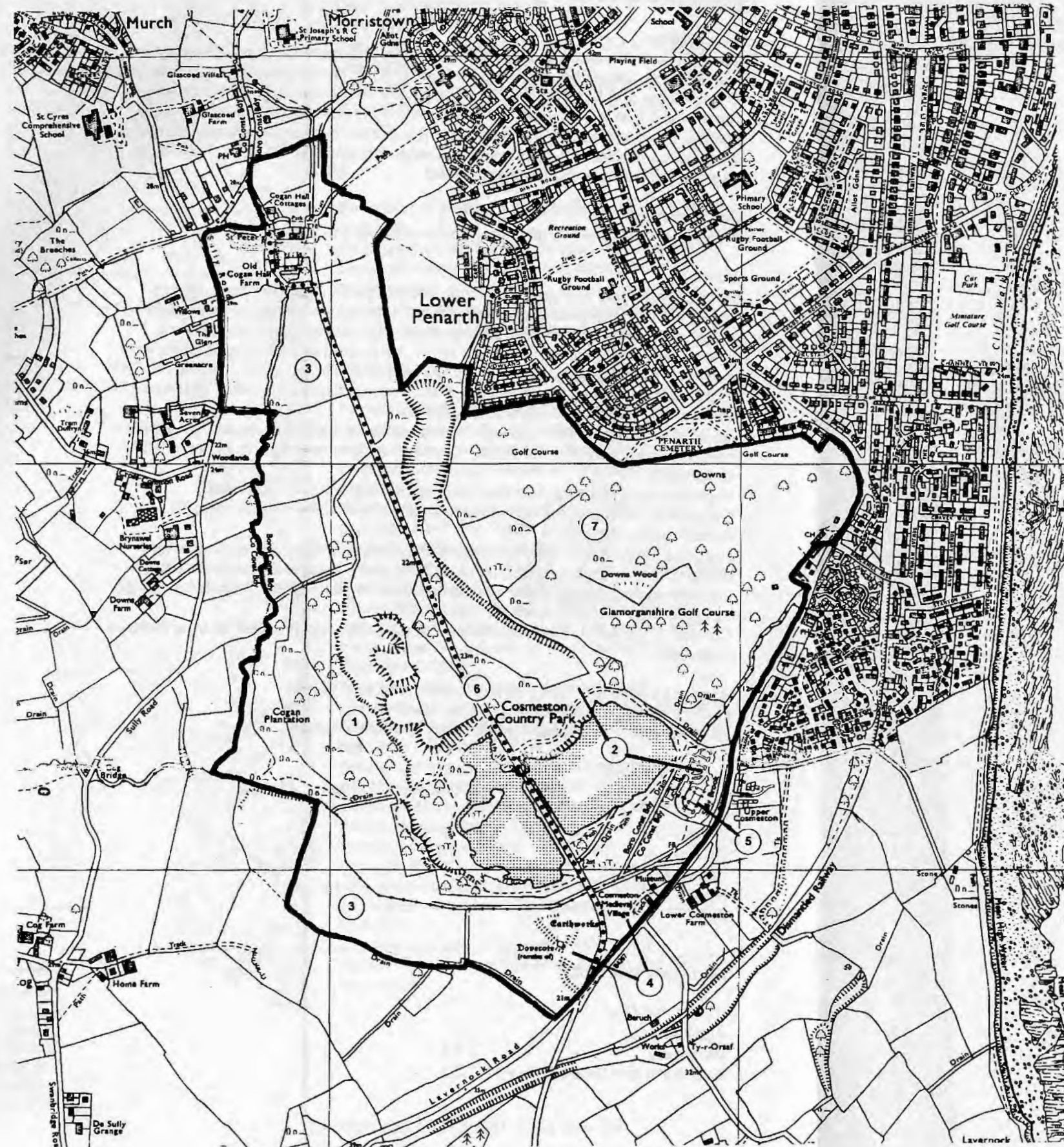
**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 2   |
| Woodland                   | 3   |
| Settlement and Development | 3,4 |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategies 4.2,4.3  
Design Guidelines Volume 2: DG1,12,16,17,19,22,23,  
Action Programme Volume 3: Site Nos. 39  
See Technical Annex Volume 4 Section for Cosmeston Country Park Management Framework



**Issues:**

- Nature conservation and historical value
- Visitor pressure
- Conflicts between users
- Access
- Use of additional land for Park
- Prominent tree skyline on Golf Course

**Aims:**

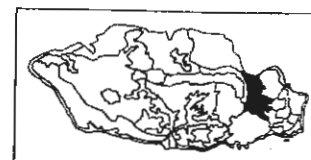
- To balance recreational and educational needs with nature conservation value.
- To achieve a mature landscape
- To protect the landscape value of important urban fringe area.
- To develop a management plan for the Country Park

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Cosmeston Park SSSI to be managed primarily for nature conservation accommodating education and recreation
2. Adjacent areas to be managed for recreation and achieving a mature wooded landscape while recognising nature conservation objectives
3. Manage additional land as low intensity use agricultural land with small scale improvements to hedgerows, enclosure and riparian vegetation
4. Protect and utilise dovecot and other historical remains as additional educational resource
5. Replace short-lived willows with long term native species tree planting.
6. Maintain safe access for pedestrians and cyclists on track as part of Dinas Powys/Penarth to coast route
7. Manage tree cover to maintain visual impact as screen to Penarth on rising ground

**Landscape Character Area No. 28  
Cosmeston Country Park and  
Glamorganshire Golf Club**

**Landscape Character Area No. 29**  
**Wenvoe Environs**



**Description:**

Countryside between the built up areas of Barry, Culverhouse Cross, Dinas Powys and Wenvoe. Slopes from the eastern Cwrt yr Ala area to Wenvoe in the West and to Cog Moors and Barry to the south. Productive arable and pastoral farmland interspersed with a busy road, scattered settlement, quarries and dismantled railway. There is pressure for development and there is a road proposal. There are urban fringe problems in countryside management and erosion of rural character. There is high value in the Historical aspect.

**Justification:**

A coherent semi-rural corridor enclosed to the east and west.

**Strategy:**

**Visual:** Protect and manage woodlands and hedgerow cover including riparian vegetation to maintain landscape structure and to absorb existing development and act as rural buffer between Cardiff and Barry. Particularly protect slopes from development and manage woodland cover. Apply rural settlement guidelines and rural road design guidelines generally to maintain rural character. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access. Apply urban edge guidelines to areas around Barry and Culverhouse Cross.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain natural watercourses, enhance where necessary and protect water quality. Consider existing limestone quarries for RIGS designation.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Maintain features of value such as woodlands, hedgerows, streams, roadside verges. Suitable land management using Tir Gofal/Woodland grants.

**Historical:** Important historic landscape with need for archaeological landscape characterisation study and historic settlement study. Historic interest needs to be weighed against development and subsequent consideration of historic landscape status needed and management review.

**Cultural:** Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 9      |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 2,4,8  |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 24,28  |       |
| Historical        |             | 7,13 |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture                | 1,2   |
| Woodland                   | 2,3,4 |
| Settlement and Development | 1,2,3 |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.2  
 Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
 DG1,6,7,9,13,14,15,16,17,  
 19,22,23,  
 Action Programme Volume 3:  
 Site Nos. 7,8,19,20



**Issues:**

- Major Gateway area to Vale
- Development pressure
- Proposed Airport Link road impact and associated development
- Suburbanisation of detailing including roads
- Backcloth of hills and ridge visually important
- Access

**Aims:**

- To retain the area as a rural buffer between Cardiff and Barry
- To strengthen the landscape structure of woods, trees and hedgerows to screen existing development
- To reflect rural character of Vale in detailing
- To improve access management

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Protect from development and manage open farmland, woodlands and hedgerows to act as setting and buffer between settlements. Particular emphasis to eastern slopes and southern area adjacent to Barry.
2. Improve road landscape and boundaries as in Culverhouse Cross design guide.
3. Improve A4050 [Wenvoe Bypass] by gradual replacement of avenue trees with more appropriate rural species [See Design Guideline 6].
4. Undertake detailed design briefing of Pencoedre development to minimise landscape impact and make a positive gateway to Barry [see Design Guideline DG26].
5. Tree screening of views to Wenvoe Quarry.
6. Ensure Quarry extension not visible to this area or to Cwrt yr Ala valley. Ensure screening from proposed road [see Design Guideline 9].
7. Encourage access from urban areas into countryside by footpath management and explore potential for access using dismantled railway [balancing ecological value].
8. Protect ecological value.
9. Integrate Airport Link Road carefully into the landscape so not widely visible and minimising ecological severance. Ensure area for mitigation is sufficient.
10. Manage remnant of Pencoedre Wood for continuous cover, for timber production and for recreation.

**Landscape Character Area No. 29  
Wenvoe Environs**

## Landscape Character Area No. 30 Cog Moors



### Description:

A low lying floodplain of ancient lowland pasture and marsh crossed by drainage channels. Hedgerows are an important element but are discontinuous in places. There is no settlement and away from roads the area is tranquil. Detractors include the adjacent industrial fringe of Barry, power lines, the raised existing road and poor fencing/detailing. There is pressure for development and there is a road proposal which just impinges on the area [Dinas Powys bypass]. Overall there are urban fringe problems in countryside management and an erosion of rural character.

### Justification:

A distinct topographic and landcover area.

### Overall Strategy:

**Visual:** Maintain as an effective buffer between Dinas Powys and Barry. Maintain and enhance hedgerow cover, retain watercourse pattern, apply improved rural detailing to enclosure/gates. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access. Apply urban edge guidelines to maintain semi-rural character.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Maintain watercourses, enhance for nature conservation where possible and protect water quality.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Retain high quality habitats such as ponds. Continue non-intensive pasture use. Extend species rich grassland and marsh. Suitable land management using Tir Gofal.

**Historical:** Area with significant archaeological potential requiring proactive conservation policies. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study.

**Cultural:** Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References are in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 8      |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 9      |       |
| Vegetation        |             | 19   |        |       |
| Historical        |             | 13   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 1,2 |
| Woodland                   | 3   |
| Settlement and Development | 3   |

### Cross References:

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,6,8,12,16,17,19,22,23  
Action Programme Volume 3:  
Site Nos. 11,12,19 [all adjacent]

**Issues:**

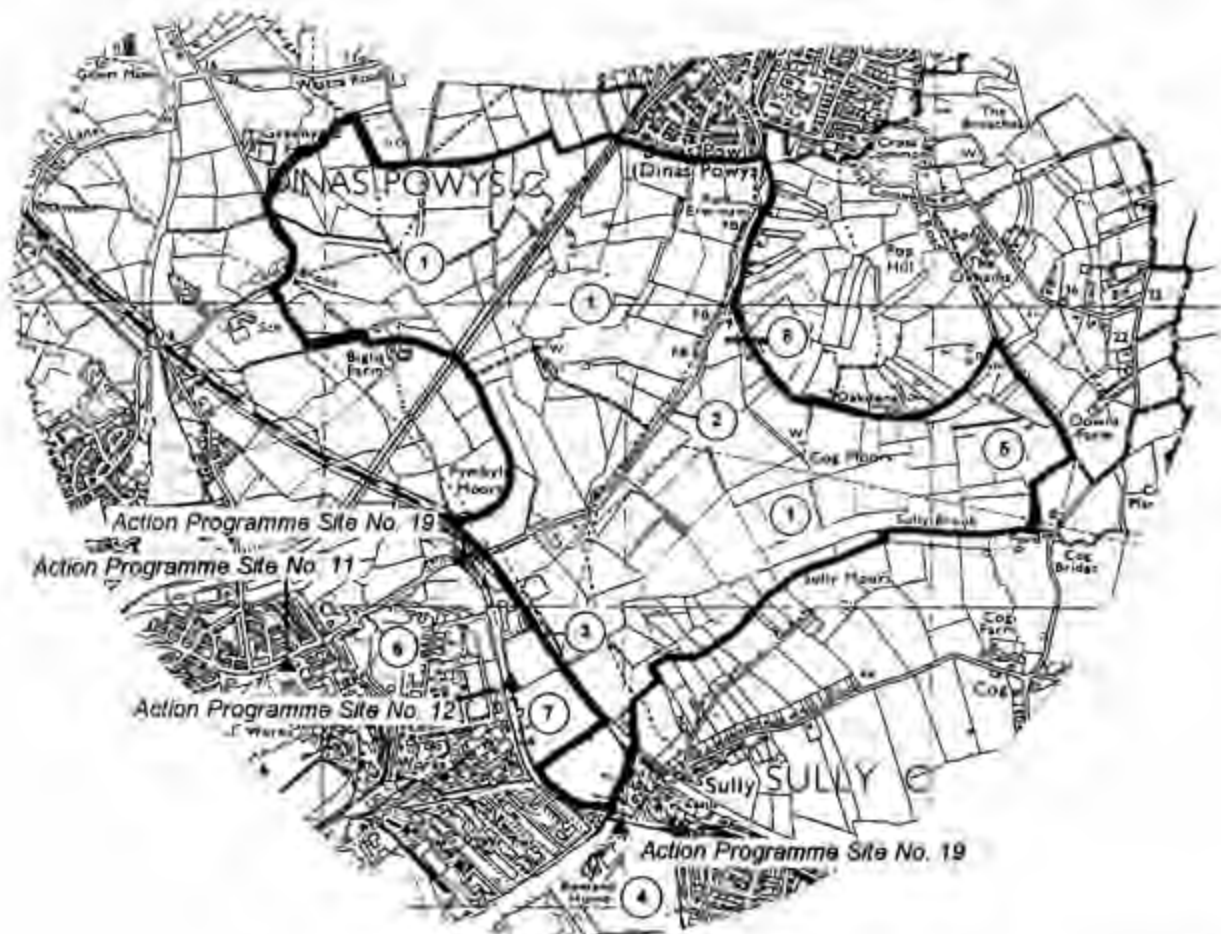
- Ecological value
- Urban fringe problems
- Water management
- Poor detailing
- Barry is visual detractor
- Development pressure
- Road severance
- Access

**Aims:**

- To maintain and enhance area's distinctive character as lowland moors.
- To maintain area as a rural buffer between Dinas Powys and Barry.
- To protect and manage area's nature conservation value.

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Support non-intensive agricultural use and strengthen hedgerows to maintain the landscape pattern.
2. Improve rail corridor [Volume 2 Design Guideline DG6]
3. Maintain and improve planting on railway embankment as screen for potential future development. Consider access to form footpath/cycleway between coast and inland.
4. Ensure appropriate mitigation of impact of proposed Dinas Powys bypass.
5. Protect and manage particular nature conservation value of Cog Moors and Sully Brook.
6. Improve road and frontages. [See Volume 3 Action Programme Site No. 11].
7. Improve road and frontages. [See Volume 3 Action Programme Site No. 12].



**Landscape Character Area No. 30  
Cog Moors**

**Landscape Character Area No. 31  
Sully Ridge**



**Description:**

Limestone ridge of well managed arable and pastoral farmland and low maintained hedges centred on well preserved hamlet of Cog. Definite settlement boundary of Sully to west.

**Justification:**

A distinct ridge landform with contrasting land management to surrounding areas.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Maintain the current pattern of farm use reinforcing tree cover where possible. Maintain current settlement boundaries. Apply rural settlement guidelines and rural road design guidelines to enhance rural character. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Minimise agri-chemicals run off.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Maintain features of value such as hedgerows, ditches, roadside verges, dismantled railway.

*Historical:* Area with medieval settlement at Sully requiring proactive conservation policies. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study.

*Cultural:* Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 6      |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 2,1    |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25,28  |       |
| Historical        |             | 13   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

**Rural Land Use:**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 1,2 |
| Woodland                   | 3   |
| Settlement and Development | 3   |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.2  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,6,10,12,13,14,15,16,  
17,19,22,23,



**Issues:**

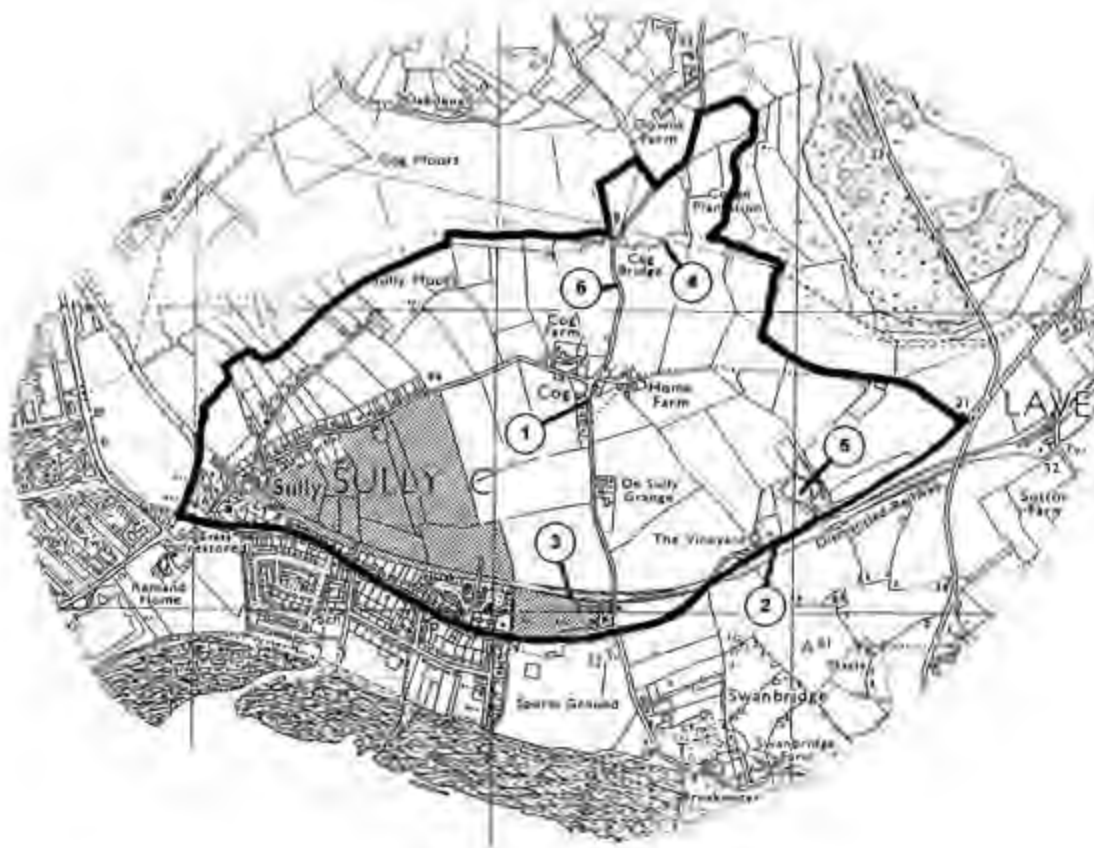
- Urban fringe problems
- Visually prominent well managed farmland under potential threat of development
- Suburban detailing

**Aims:**

- Protect and maintain rural character of area
- Enhance road corridors to a rural standard
- Enhance ecological value

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Maintain rural vernacular character of Cog retaining settlement boundaries [See Design Guideline DG13]
2. Improve roadside landscape, replacing lighting columns [See Design Guideline DG6]
3. Manage dismantled railway vegetation to maintain a landscape buffer and for ecological value. Use as cycle route.
4. Protect Sully Brook and consider introducing buffer strips
5. Consider acquisition of old quarry site and restore to pasture. Improve boundary treatment using rural detailing
6. Manage verge for nature conservation value



**Landscape Character Area No. 31  
Sully Ridge**

## Landscape Character Area No. 32 Lavernock Hinterland



### Description:

Gently rolling mixed farmland coastal hinterland with intermittent views of the sea. Hedgerows overgrown in parts with small scale fields to west and larger fields to east. Urban fringe problems in countryside management and erosion of rural character including on roads.

### Justification:

Area within influence of the sea and with urban fringe problems.

### Strategy:

**Visual:** Protect and enhance tree cover particularly in prominent areas and manage hedgerows to enhance landscape structure. Protect from development as coastal hinterland. Improve detailing as per rural road design guidelines to improve character. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access. Apply urban edge guidelines to maintain semi-rural character.

**Geology, Landforms and Drainage:** Minimise agri-chemicals run off.

**Vegetation and Habitats:** Maintain features of value such as hedgerows, ditches, roadside verges, dismantled railway.

**Historical:** Area with medieval settlement at Lavernock requiring proactive conservation policies. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study.

**Cultural:** Carry out cultural associations study. Subtle interpretation of local features desirable.

### Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values

Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :

[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 5      |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 1,2    |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25,28  | .     |
| Historical        |             | 13   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

### Contextual Information

#### Rural Land Use:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 1,2 |
| Woodland                   | 3   |
| Settlement and Development | 3   |

#### Cross References:

Volume 1: Area Strategies  
4.2,4.3

Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,2,4,6,7,12,13,14,15,16,  
17,21,22,24

**Issues:**

- Urban fringe problems
- Poor suburban detailing
- Prominent skylines
- Poor farm management

**Aims:**

- Enhance area as coastal hinterland with appropriate detailing
- Improve management of woodland belts and hedgerows in farmland
- Enhance access to coast

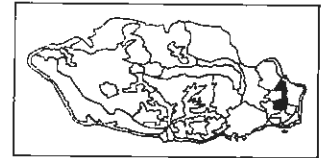
**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Protect and manage prominent tree belt on skyline including replacement planting
2. Manage roads to maintain rural character [See Design Guideline DG7]
3. Manage dismantled railway vegetation to maintain a landscape buffer and for ecological value. Use as cycle route.
4. Improve roadside landscape, replacing lighting columns [See Design Guideline DG6]
5. Enhance setting of sports buildings and boundaries with native tree planting and hedging
6. Improve safe pedestrian/cycle access to coast including signage



**Landscape Character Area No. 32  
Lavernock Hinterland**

**Landscape Character Area No. 33  
Penarth and Dinas Powys Urban Fringe**



**Description:**

Narrow strip of predominantly pastoral farmland between Penarth and Dinas Powys. There are urban fringe problems with hope value, overgrown hedgerows, horse grazing and associated stables and poor enclosure detailing such as fences and gates. There is pressure for development and there is the Dinas Powys bypass proposal.

**Justification:**

Area with common urban fringe land use, dominated by surrounding settlements and under particular pressure.

**Strategy:**

*Visual:* Protect and manage woodlands and hedgerow cover including riparian vegetation to maintain landscape structure and to absorb existing development and act as buffer between settlements. Particularly protect slopes/hill sides from development and manage woodland cover. Consider countryside ranger to aid management and access. Apply urban edge guidelines to maintain semi-rural character.

*Geology, Landforms and Drainage:* Minimise agri-chemicals run off.

*Vegetation and Habitats:* Maintain features of value such as Pop Hill lot meadows, hedgerows, ditches, roadside verges, dismantled railway.

*Historical:* Area with Romano-British interest at Pop Hill requiring proactive conservation policies. Need for archaeological landscape characterisation study.

*Cultural:* Carry out cultural associations study. Interpretation of local historical features desirable.

**Aspect Landscape Policy Areas References and Values**

*Cross References in Technical Annex Volume 4 :*

*[Nos relate to area evaluations within each aspect section]*

| Evaluated Aspects | Value       |      |        |       |
|-------------------|-------------|------|--------|-------|
|                   | Outstanding | High | Modest | Other |
| Visual            |             |      | 3      |       |
| Geology           |             |      | 1      |       |
| Vegetation        |             |      | 25,28  |       |
| Historical        |             | 13   |        |       |
| Cultural          |             |      | 1      |       |

**Contextual Information**

*Rural Land Use:*

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Agriculture                | 1,2 |
| Woodland                   | 2,3 |
| Settlement and Development | 3   |

**Cross References:**

Volume 1: Area Strategy 4.2  
Design Guidelines Volume 2:  
DG1,6,7,12,14,15,16,17,  
19,22,23,  
Action Programme Volume 3:  
Site Nos. 9,10,19

**Issues:**

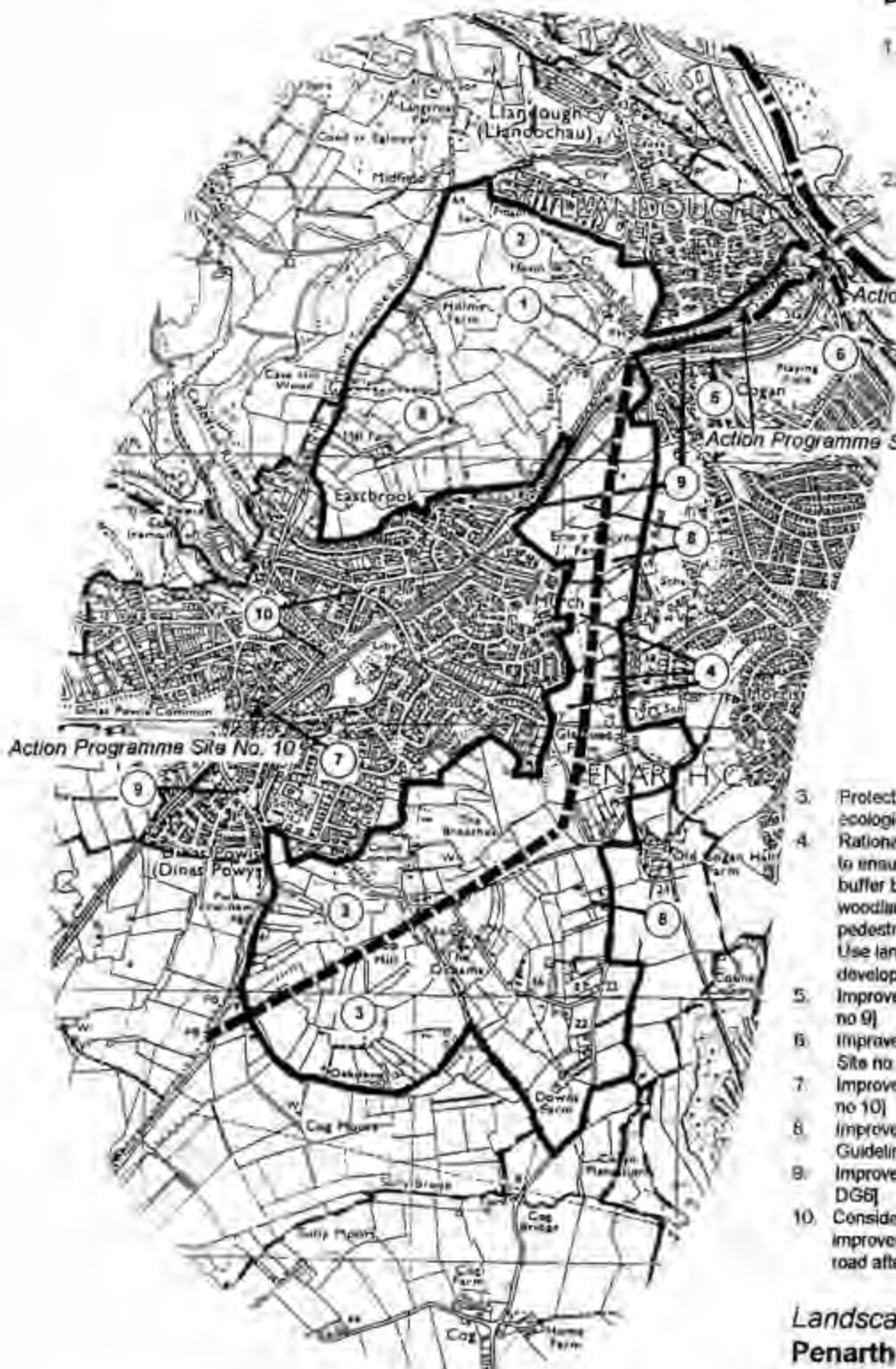
- Landscape under pressure
- Urban fringe problems
- Bypass proposals
- Development threat
- Horsiculture

**Aims:**

- To maintain a green buffer between Penarth and Dinas Powys
- To enhance the management of the area including woodlands, hedgerows and pasture.
- To improve and manage access

**Detailed Strategy:**

1. Protect exposed slopes from development. Manage woodland(s), hedgerows and pasture to maintain a strong landscape pattern and to act as a buffer for Cwrt yr Ala. Encourage and manage access
2. Protect and manage unimproved grassland of high ecological value



3. Protect and manage historic landscape pattern and ecological value of Pop Hill lot meadow.
4. Rationalise green corridor around proposed bypass to ensure the area is an effective and useful green buffer between settlements. Consider substantial woodland and coppice planting and improve pedestrian/cycle access adjacent and across road. Use landform to minimise impact. Restrict development infill.
5. Improve road approaches (Action Programme Site no 9)
6. Improve roundabout landscape (Action Programme Site no 19)
7. Improve road approaches (Action Programme Site no 10)
8. Improve urban fringe area (Refer to Design Guideline DG12)
9. Improve road corridor (Refer to Design Guideline DG6)
10. Consider traffic calming, environmental improvement works by commercial/ school areas on road after bypass construction

**Landscape Character Area No. 33  
Penarth and Dinas Powys Urban Fringe**



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**LEGEND**

- 5 Landscape Character Area number  
Refer to Section 6.0.
- Study Area Boundary

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Figure 11

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS**