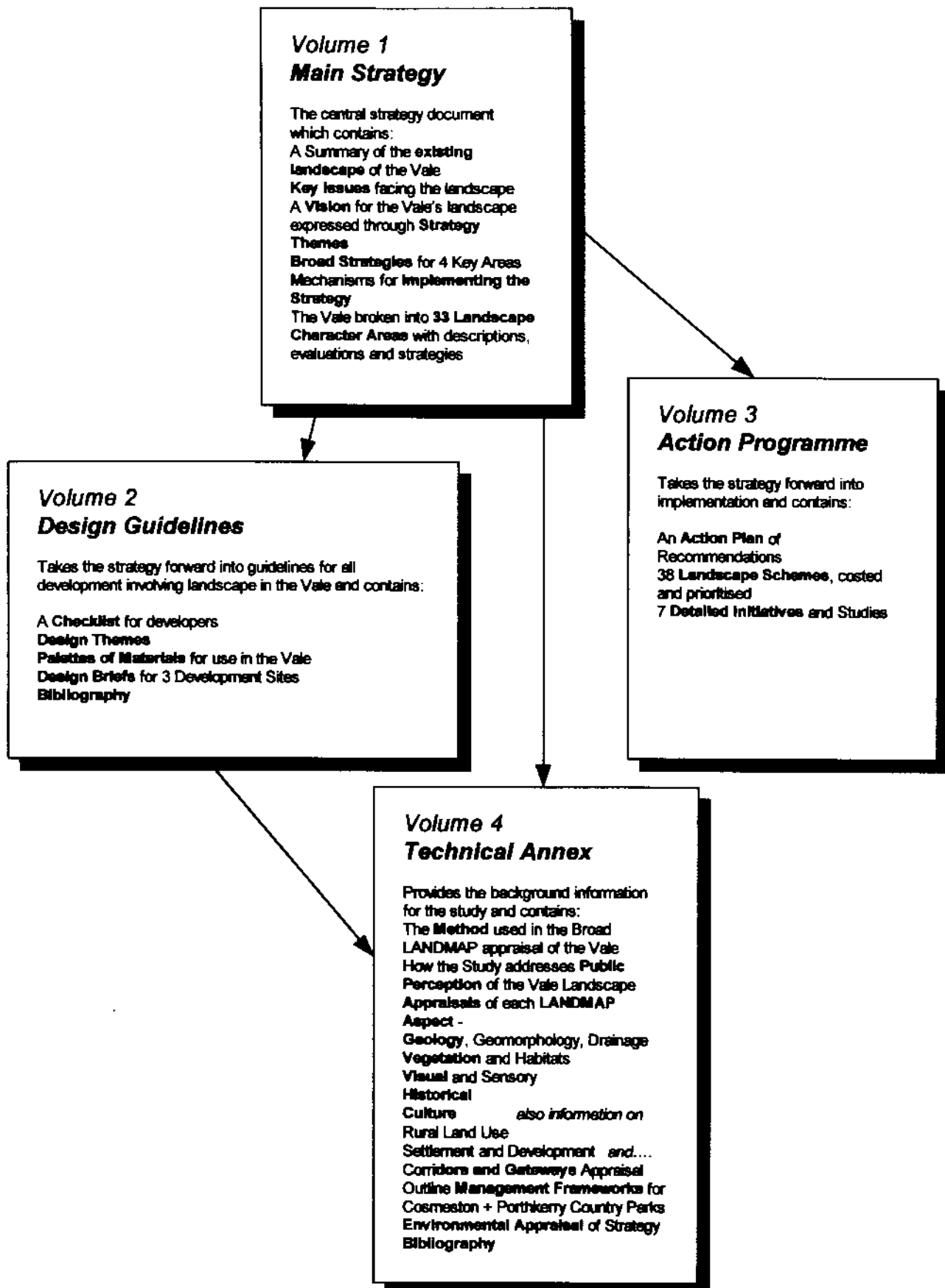


Guide to the Strategy Document

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:



Contents

Guide to the Strategy Document Contents

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-

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- Section 6.0 Visual and Sensory
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- Section 8.0 Culture

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- Section 9.0 Rural Land Use
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-
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is Volume 4 of a series of four documents which, together, make up the report 'Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan'. The Guide to the Strategy Document at the front of the volume explains the titles and contents of the other three volumes.

The intention of this volume is to provide background information primarily for the Main Strategy document. It consists of all the separate LANDMAP appraisals and addresses the method used. It also contains the strategy response to the Public Perception study carried out separately, a Corridors and Gateways assessment and a suggested Management Framework for Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Parks. Finally, there is an Environmental Appraisal Framework to ensure that the strategy proposals follow best practice and a Bibliography [a duplicate of that in the Design Guidelines Volume 2 for ease of reference]. There are different dates of completion for each section which reflect when they were carried out or completed within the project timescale.

2.0 Method

METHOD

1.0 Overview and Context

The appraisal element of the study was undertaken during December 1997 and January 1998. This was a period when the LANDMAP process was being refined from initial conclusions reached in November 1997. In November, the LANDMAP process was advocating a detailed assessment using GIS. The client group for this study wished to take a broader approach to inform the UDP, to provide the basis for landscape design guidelines and an action programme and to act as a compatible framework for a more detailed LANDMAP study at a later date.

The method used for this 'manual process' landscape appraisal was an early version of the LANDMAP process and informed by visual assessment methods used in previous 'Landscapes Working for Wales' studies. Information was collected and presented in a way that could be used by a later full GIS-based LANDMAP.

Subsequent to the initial assessment and production of a framework report a further LANDMAP process report was produced by Countryside Council for Wales consultants [May 1998]. This made a number of changes which are set out more fully in Appendix C. These included two aspects, Settlement and Development and Rural Land Use, becoming secondary, informative aspects rather than being used in the evaluation of the landscape. Subsequent to this, the 'LANDMAP Draft handbook for consultation' issued by the Countryside Council for Wales in November 1998 further refined the presentation of the process and renamed these 'contextual information'. Other points affecting this report remain essentially the same as in the May LANDMAP report.

2.0 The Process

The process undertaken is set out below and is also illustrated in Figure A.

2.1 Briefing and Orientation

In this project the study brief was devised by the client and a core group and the consultant responded to the brief. The Local Steering Group [LSG] did not define the brief as part of an LANDMAP Orientation phase. The initial orientation meeting was held with a subsequently formed local steering group and aspect specialists as part of a briefing meeting. The aspect specialist team met before this and once in the subsequent appraisal process. Consultation was carried out with relevant bodies.

Standard bases for map information were prepared at 1:25,000. Standard proformas for component descriptions, evaluation and strategy and management were devised for each aspect by the coordinator with aspect specialist input. The form was intended to ensure consistency of approach and criteria between aspects and provide an organised format for information to be entered onto a database if desired in a subsequent exercise. Each aspect specialist was also given a brief indicating the process and data required including thresholds for evaluation of components, or potential landscape policy areas. This was developed from the draft LANDMAP handbook produced by CCW in November 1997, a copy of which was also given to the aspect specialists. Both the brief and proformas were agreed with the LSG. Examples are shown in Appendices A and B.

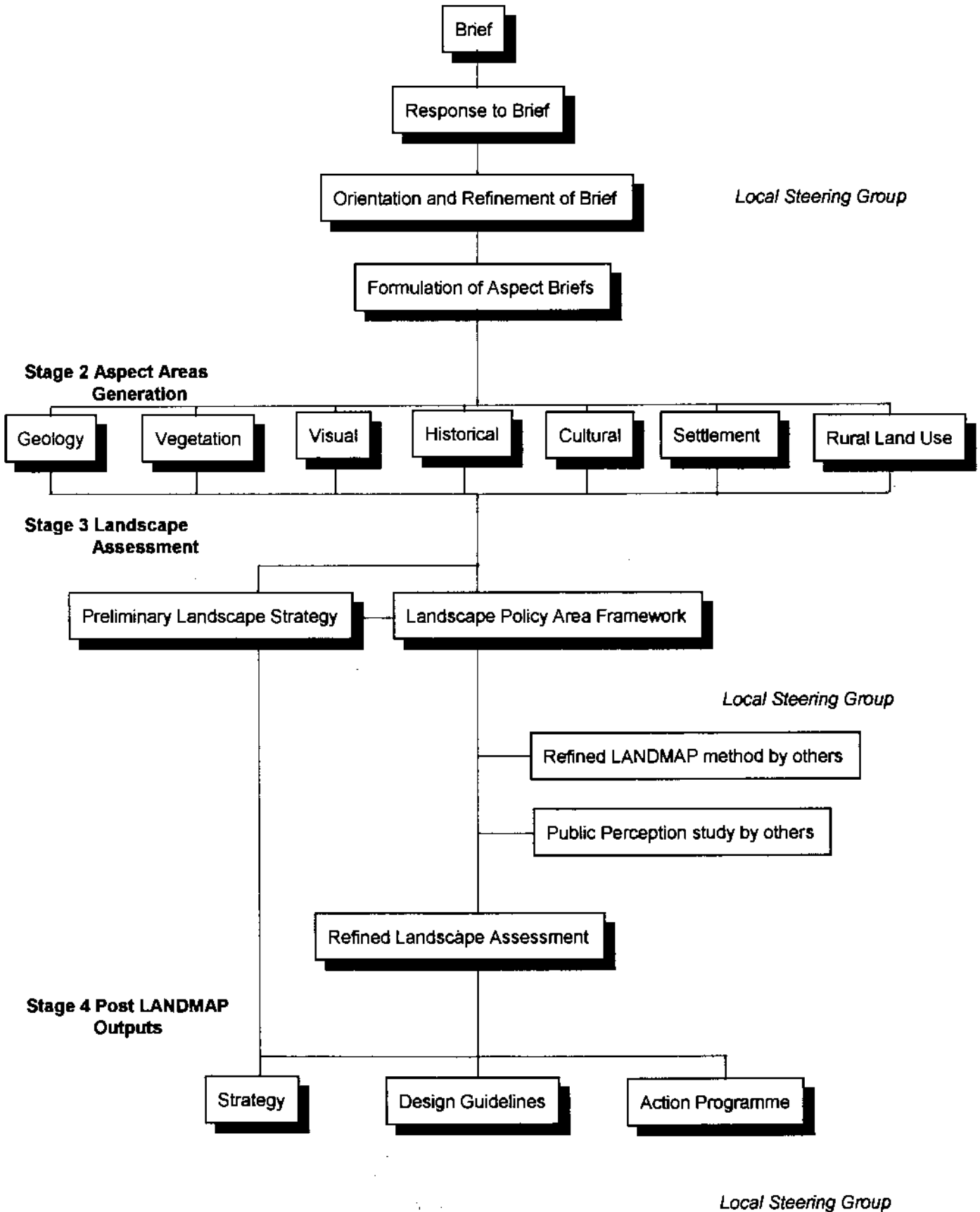
2.2 Generation of Aspect [Landscape Policy] Areas

Each aspect specialist collected appropriate base data, mapped this onto a

FIGURE A: METHOD

Stage 1 Orientation

Meetings



1:25,000 OS map and used this as a basis for evaluating components. Aspect specialists shared information and discussed areas of overlapping interest although the opportunities for this were limited due to the tight timescale for this stage of the study. Components were selected as areas with distinctive qualities which required a specific strategy. Each area was described, evaluated and a strategy and broad management objectives defined. The intrinsic value of the area was calibrated as below:

- 1 Areas of outstanding value [national and international [e.g SSSI's]
- 2 Areas of high intrinsic value [county]
- 3 Areas of modest intrinsic value [local]
- 4 Other areas

The importance of achieving a landscape objective for an area was also defined as Essential, Highly Desirable or Desirable.

The component areas were marked on an acetate and colour coded [depending on evaluation of intrinsic quality]. An overview report was prepared for each aspect defining method, overview description, key issues and data sources.

2.3 Landscape Assessment

The aspect reports and the public perception study were read by the coordinating landscape assessor. These were then considered at two levels - the overall strategy for the Vale and the evaluation and strategy for Landscape Character Areas. The Visual aspect landscape policy areas were compared to the other aspect areas to assess whether the boundaries were robust and the areas formed were coherent and justifiable. The visual aspect was used to define the boundaries of a final landscape character areas but this was refined by other aspects in one case, at Cowbridge and Stalling Down by the historical aspect. This was because of the historical relationship between the two areas and the importance of the visual setting of the Roman Road.

Once the boundaries were confirmed, each evaluated aspect landscape policy area overlapping or within a landscape character area was noted in a table, including its intrinsic value. Sometimes upto three landscape policy areas for a given aspect with different values could cover a landscape character area. Conversely, an aspect landscape policy area could be many times the size of a landscape character area with general description, value and strategy relevant to adjacent character areas. An overall value of the character area was therefore suggested only in terms as a possible Local Countryside Designation. Though a scoring system attaching numerical value to the highest relevant aspect intrinsic values was considered, it was felt that this was too mechanical, and gave comparable weighting to all aspects irrespective of the areas covered by outstanding or high rated landscape policy areas. Therefore a justified judgement was made in evaluating the area. This stage of the process was undertaken by the coordinating landscape assessor, who as a qualified landscape architect also undertook the Visual aspect and had a good knowledge of the area. As such, the judgement of value is open to discussion. At least the evaluation basis is clear.

It should be noted that the the boundaries of the 34 visual landscape policy areas were assessed on the basis of 46 documented viewpoints as well as car based visual survey. The areas are often considerably smaller than landscape character areas developed on the basis of CCP423 which recommends around 3 viewpoints per area. While one can be confident the areas are justifiable in themselves, the exact boundaries in some cases may be open to debate. These tend to occur where landform and land cover do not necessarily correlate.

2.4 Other Outputs

Based on the assessments above, strategies including implementation were developed for the Vale. These were theme and area based. Each landscape character area in the South East Vale was considered in more detail but a further detailed LANDMAP assessment was not made. Design Guidelines to act as possible Supplementary Planning Guidance/SPG's] were drawn up. An Action Programme including sites for action and suggested initiatives was also prepared.

APPENDIX A

ASPECT SPECIALIST BRIEFS SAMPLES

LANDSCAPES WORKING FOR THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Sub Consultants Brief

VEGETATION AND HABITATS ASPECT

Data sources:

CCW Phase 1 Survey and other data; Wildlife Trust information, BSBI, National Museum of Wales, Forestry Authority, Glamorgan Bird Group, Environment Agency, RSPB, Local Authority ecologists and databases; Tir Cymen Management Strategies; Biodiversity Action Plan broad habitats list - HMO; Aerial data; published atlases and reviews

Base data mapping:

On 1:25,000 base map mark the following:

SSSI's, SPA's, pSACs, NNR's, LNR's, SNCI's, other non-statutory designations, important phase 1 semi-natural vegetation areas, ancient woodlands, forest nature reserves, and linear features.

Overview text:

Prepare brief report defining method [see LANDMAP handbook] and brief description of area and key issues.

Component Overlays:

Prepare an overlay dividing the study area into:

- 1 Areas of outstanding value [national and international including SSSI's, SPA's, pSACs, NNR's]
- 2 Areas of high intrinsic value [county]
- 3 Areas of modest intrinsic value [local]
- 4 Other areas

Component Text:

For each of these areas complete the proforma attached with explanatory text as necessary.

Management Strategies

Prepare and coordinate resource management strategies for Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Parks.

Feed into design guideline and strategy reports

Attend 3 steering group meetings and 3 team meetings

APPENDIX B

ASPECT SPECIALIST PROFORMA SAMPLES

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

How would you classify this area?

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Are there SAC's, pSAC's or NNR's in this area?
If so, name them.

Are there SSSI's in this area?
If so, name.

Are there LNR's in this area?
If so, name.

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?
[SNCI's, other landscape features etc]

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

APPENDIX C:**REFINEMENT OF REPORT IN LINE WITH LANDMAP METHOD CHANGES [June 1998]**

Subsequent to the initial assessment and production of a framework report a further LANDMAP process report has been produced by Countryside Council for Wales consultants [May 1998]. This has made a number of changes which are set out more fully below.

- ◆ A broad as well as a detailed level of assessment is now included. This assessment is based on primarily desk study, dividing aspects into classes with assumed attributes rather than assessing individual areas. e.g. In the Vegetation Aspect, the class 'Upland acid grassland' would be assumed to be of the same value and condition wherever it occurred.
- ◆ Two aspects, Settlement and Development and Rural Land Use, are now informative 'base' aspects rather than 'evaluated' aspects. This means they do not contribute to assessment of value of a landscape but inform the strategy that is required for that landscape. They have been restructured to provide land use and settlement pattern information respectively.
- ◆ The current standard Landscape Character Assessment process [*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Spon, 1995*] has been reintroduced as the basis for the Visual Aspect assessment.
- ◆ An assessment of a landscape's tolerance to change in each aspect has now been reintroduced.
- ◆ Assessments of the trend of change and urgency of management have been introduced.
- ◆ A public perception study is now an informative aspect to be carried out before aspect specialists carry out their assessment.

It appears that the LANDMAP method is still not fully resolved and further refinements are likely to be made as it is applied to further studies. It is therefore inappropriate to revise this study in order to hit a 'moving target'. The following modifications are made to the appraisal to respond to the developing methodology in respect of the above points:

- ◆ Maintain existing broad brush area assessment as the class categorisation is untried for all aspects and would result in considerable reorganisation of existing information.
- ◆ Omit Settlement and Development and Rural Land Use aspects from assessment of value of landscape character areas but retain as aspects in Technical Annex.
- ◆ The Visual assessment has already been carried out broadly in line with the preferred method.
- ◆ The tolerance to change assessments are perceived as being potentially difficult and of limited value in their proposed form and will not be incorporated.
- ◆ Trend and condition have already been included to a degree in the

assessments and are most appropriate at the detailed assessment stage. i.e. in a subsequent study.

- ◆ Incorporate public perception study findings into strategy.

3.0 Public Perception Input

PUBLIC PERCEPTION INPUT

Introduction

The Public Perception Study was prepared by the Welsh Institute of Rural Studies, University of Wales, Aberystwyth in early 1998. The purpose of the study was to allow the public to contribute to the landscape study process and influence landscape policies and the action programme.

The report was prepared after the LANDMAP assessment was carried out and therefore did not form part of the Stage 1 orientation stage of the study. Therefore it has not influenced the focus of the study or informed the assessment team. What it has been able to do is input into the Stage 3 and 4 strategy and operational outputs. It has confirmed the landscape assessment and influenced the emphasis of themes and recommendations.

The public perception study was carried out over 10 weeks and with a limited budget. The views expressed can only be regarded as indicative. The report is only one step in the involvement of the public in the landscape strategy. An ongoing monitoring group should be retained to ensure the public are informed and can continue to inform the implementation of the process.

This brief report takes the relevant results of both the household questionnaire and focus groups sessions, comments on them and shows where they are reflected in the final report.

Public Perception Report Reference	Public Perception Report Results	Comment	Landscape Strategy Report Reference
	HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRES		
4.1.2	Landscape Identity		
Table 10	The majority of residents identified their 'special place' as in the Vale itself. This illustrates importance of local landscapes and familiarity.	Landscapes around settlements have local value and should be conserved.	Vol 1- 3. Vol 2 – DG13
Table 11	49% identified coastal landscapes as special compared to small numbers identifying lakes/rivers[12%], mountains etc.	Confirms status of coast as area of particular value	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4
Table 12	People are attracted to landscape because of recreation value [31%], landscape beauty [22%], peace and quiet [25%], spirit of place [18%].	Demonstrates people like to use the landscape and reinforces the role of countryside recreation.	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 4 – 12.0
Table 13	The reason why places are special is often because of familiarity relating to where person grew up primarily.	Bond between landscape and person over time. Reinforces importance of local landscapes.	Vol 1 – 3.
4.1.3	The Vale of Glamorgan Landscape		
Table 14	Aspects which give the Vale it's distinctive character are rural/farmed landscapes [46%], unspoilt villages [26%], coast [18%], then landscape diversity and it's undeveloped nature etc	The rural Vale is the essential character and requires conservation	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 2 – DG7,16
Table 15	Landscape preference in the Vale put coast first [51%], then countryside [22%], farmland [15%]. Others of minor importance.	Confirms status of coast as area of particular value	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4
Table 16	The reason for landscape preference are primarily landscape quality and recreation [28%] followed by naturalness [27%] and then escapism.	Reinforces the importance of recreational use of landscape in addition to landscape quality. This puts emphasis on access, country parks and the coast.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4 Vol 4 – 12.0
Table 17	The most valuable elements of the landscape are seen as woodlands [83%], water, rivers, lakes [78%], coast/beaches [78%], fields/farmland [75%], then small villages, hedges/walls, cliffs. Quarries are not valued [2%].	The importance of trees in the landscape is given weight and suggests the need for protecting and developing woodlands. A generally high value is put on most landscape elements except quarries suggesting these should be screened	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 2 – DG9,16
Tables 18, 19	Photographic assessment of photos of the Vale – in order of preference – undeveloped coast, Vale woodland, Vale farmland, rural village, country park, developed coast, urban fringe.	Reinforces liking for 'naturalness' of coast and dislike for development, and untidiness. Suggests protection and improved management of the coast, conservation of traditional settlement and their settings, enhancement of the developed coast and urban fringe.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4, 12,13
4.1.5	Landscape Perception Analysis		
Table 20	The elements needing conserving in the Vale landscape focus on 4 over 15% - woodlands [33%], fields [22%], greenfield sites [21%], and the coast [15%].	Emphasises need to protect wooded landscapes and countryside around settlements [greenfield sites].	Vol 1 – 3. 3. Vol 2 - DG12,13
Table 21	Elements that need improving are primarily litter and dog fouling [25%], towns [19%] [in particular, Barry], traffic/roads [17%].	Need to improve management of facilities, improve urban areas and make roads safer. Need to improve country parks and linkage of open space into towns.	Vol 1 – 3. Vol2 – DG6,7,12 Vol 4 – 12.0

Public Perception Report Reference	Public Perception Report Results	Comment	Landscape Strategy Report Reference
Table 22	Factors that have caused most change in the Vale landscape are perceived to be new houses [34%], over development [31%], and large scale industrial developments [25%].	Focus on development being main agent for change, not tourism or farming.	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 2 – DG21,8, 12,13
Table 23	The greatest threats to the Vale landscape are perceived to be more development [39%], housing [29%], industry [19%], and roads/traffic [16%].	Clear message of concern on scale and type of development being carried out in the Vale. Need to protect landscape from inappropriate large scale development	Vol 2 – DG1,5,8, 12,13
4.1.6	Public Involvement in Landscape		
Table 24	Those who should develop landscape policies for the Vale are local authorities [75%], then the public [24%] and landowners [20%]. Professionals/landscape consultants were the least favoured as being involved.	This reinforces the role of the Council but suggests more involvement from the public [say in Local Agenda 21 initiatives/Jigso appraisals] and land owners [say in monitoring/steering groups]. The role of landscape consultants and professionals [say within local authorities] seems not to be understood [!] It is probably symptomatic of people's lack of understanding of what professionals do and the processes involved [see below on designations]. The study therefore needs to be consulted on fully to address this.	Vol 1 – 5.0
Table 25	Just over half [53%] said they would be interested in being involved in policy making.	This reinforces people's interest and shows that this resource should be harnessed.	Vol 1 – 5.0
Table 26	There is a poor awareness of landscape designations. Only 12% knew about conservation areas and the Heritage coast. No others, such as SSSI's, were recognised.		Vol 1 – 5.0
4.2	FOCUS GROUPS		
4.2.1	Landscape Identity		
Question 1	Special Landscape – Many mentioned the coast or sea as part of their special place. Hills or mountains and freshwater stimulated a number of landscapes. Main associations with special landscape were peace, calm and relaxation, holidays and area where respondents grew up.	Reinforces coast as of particular value. Topographic variety and water also valuable. The function of tranquillity in landscape is emphasised. Familiarity and the value of local landscape also mentioned.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4
4.2.2	Features/Landscapes of value to the local community		
Question 2	The distinctive qualities of the Vale landscape were perceived to be that it is essentially rural, with variety of landscapes, accessible, with gentle topography, a coastline, traditional towns and villages, narrow lanes, with a culture, history and tradition distinctive from much of Wales.	All these key features should be reflected in strategies.	Vol 1 – 3.0
4.2.3	Conserve, Enhance and Change		
Question 3	Landscapes to conserve for the future were the rural areas, open countryside and green spaces. Respondents wished no more encroachment onto green areas near towns or greenfield sites. They wished to maintain the small size of villages and any new development being in keeping with existing character. They wished to conserve hedges, narrow lanes, public paths, and preferred native trees to conifers in woodlands. They also wished to conserve coastal landscapes.	Need for tight development control, use of design guidelines, hedgerow protection, broadleaf woodland strategy, coastal landscape strategy.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2

Public Perception Report Reference	Public Perception Report Results	Comment	Landscape Strategy Report Reference
Question 4	Landscapes to change or improve – respondents mentioned need for better access into the countryside including for those with special needs. Large scale detractors such as cement works, power station and BA Hangar needed improvement. Other issues included litter and flytipping, cleaner beaches and rivers.	Ensure country parks and main access routes close to settlements cater for those with special needs. Integrate detractors into landscape. Improve management of public realm and coastline.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.3,4.4
Question 5	Landscapes under threat were areas around settlements (from development), village infilling, loss of gardens and play areas. New issues included - farming was perceived to be affected by Government Agricultural Policy. Hedge removal and pesticides were also regarded as damaging. Also general peace and quiet was perceived to be under threat from quarrying, airport expansion etc. Coastline thought to be under threat from recreational pressure/litter.	Strict development control around settlements and within villages. Whole farm agri-environment schemes needed to support good farm management. Protect tranquillity of countryside. Improve management of coastline.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.3,4.4
4.2.4	Perceived Landscape Value		
Question 6	Photo 1 – Rural Village – Very positive reaction to way settlement blended with landscape. A rural idyll for many.	Maintain rural settlement character.	Vol 2 – DG13
	Photo 2 – Wooded Vale Landscape – liked for trees, colours [oilseed rape contrast with foxgloves, bracken, woodland etc] and perceived opportunities for activities in the landscape.	Maintain varied landscape with trees/hedges and encourage access where possible.	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 2 – DG16
	Photo 3 – Undeveloped Coast – liked for natural and wild landscape/sea – untouched and unspoilt although stone walls added character.	Maintain the character of the coast	Vol 1 – 3. 4.4 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4
	Photo 4 – Urban Fringe – the dislikes outweighed the likes. Horse grazing sign of deterioration of agricultural use. Neglected with too much development.	Enhance urban fringe.	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 2 – DG12
	Photo 5 - Vale Farmland – very favourable reaction describing landscape as pretty, beautiful and unspoilt. The colour and lushness of vegetation and water were positive elements. Dislikes included perceived lack of things to do and lack of hedges.	Whole farm agri-environment schemes needed to support good farm management and protect water features and hedges.	Vol 1 – 3. Vol 2 – DG14,15, 16
	Photo 6 – Country Park – Things to do met with widespread approval. Wildlife regarded as important. Water safety an issue.	Reinforcement of role of park [Cosmeston] in providing important recreational honeypot. Maintain range of activities and wildlife value.	Vol 4 – 12.0
	Photo 7 – Developed Coast – very few likes with the messy beach in foreground drawing most comments.	Enhance the developed coastline including beach access. Management of this area important.	Vol 1 – 3. 4.3 Vol 2 – DG2,3,4

4.0 Geology, Geomorphology and Drainage

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Geology, geomorphology and hydrogeology aspect of the LANDMAP assessment was carried out at a broad level. It was complemented by an assessment of drainage issues which is considered in a separate report. The study was based largely on a desk study of the Vale using geological mapping, SSSI schedules, other literature and consultation. Brief site visits were carried out to verify data.

Information from the above data sources was mapped on to 1:25, 000 base maps and divided into 14 Landscape Policy Areas. Of these, four were classified as having outstanding intrinsic value on the basis of either containing one or more SSSI's, or being part of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

The report is structured as follows:

- summaries of the geological and geomorphological features in the study area [Sections 2.0 and 3.0]
- Key issues arising [Section 4.0]
- descriptions of the outline landform features of each landscape policy area [Section 5.0]
- a more detailed description of the geology of the area [Section 6.0]
- an appendix describing method and listing data sources.

2.0 GEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

The bedrock exposed in the Vale of Glamorgan comprises almost entirely upper Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary strata (Fig. 1), with a superficial drift cover of Quaternary sediments. There is almost continuous, good exposure of rocks along coastal cliffs (areas 6, 7; including Heritage coast), interrupted by estuarine areas (areas 9-12), (Figs 2 & 3). The best inland exposures are mainly quarries. In the northern part of the Vale of Glamorgan there is a thick cover of Quaternary glacial boulder clay which masks the bedrock (area 8).

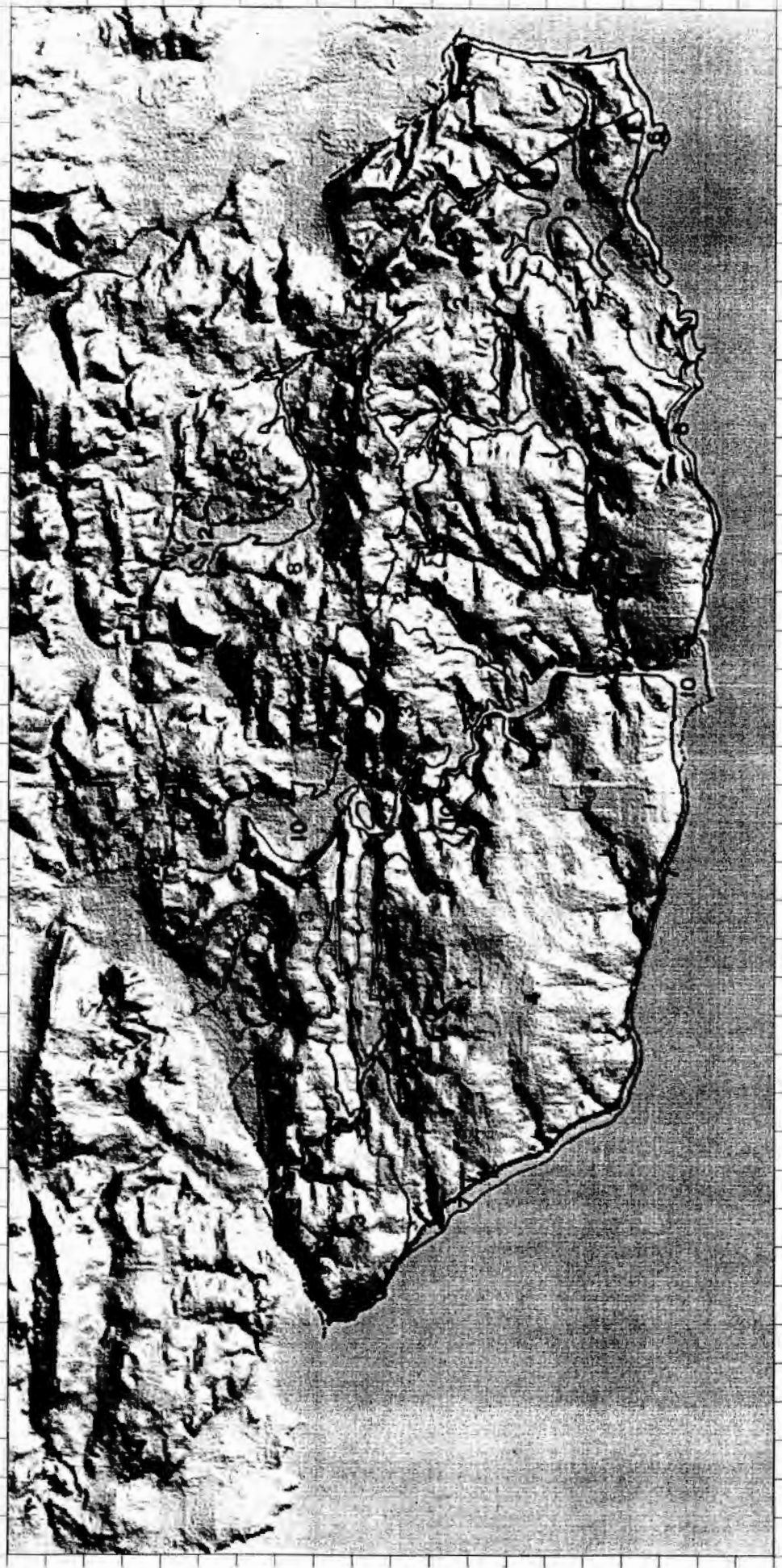
The Palaeozoic rocks crop out through the broad tract of ground from Barry to Wenvoe, and across westwards through Cowbridge to Ogmore (areas 2, 3, 6 and 7), (Figs 2 & 3). Carboniferous Limestone forms the main rock type, and is well-exposed in disused (e.g. St Andrew's Major) and working quarries (e.g. Wenvoe, Ruthin, Ewenny) across the area, as well as on the coast at Ogmore and Barry. The underlying Old Red Sandstone is only exposed in the cores of folds, in limited areas around Cowbridge (Stalling Down) and Michaelston. The Palaeozoic succession thickens towards the south, to a maximum of c.1000m at Barry. The rocks are folded and deformed by Variscan earth movements (Fig. 1, = late Palaeozoic, Hercynian) into open, E-W structures. Dips in the Limestone are steep on the limbs of folds and shallow across the upfold (antiform) crests.

Mesozoic, Triassic and lower Jurassic (Lias Group) rocks form the main bedrock through the south of the Vale of Glamorgan (areas 1-4), (Figs 2 & 3), as well as in a small area in the northwest around Langan (area 5). They are well exposed along the Heritage coastline (areas 6, 7), and there are a number of inland quarries,

Figure 1

GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE

ERA	PERIOD	AGE (Millions of years ago)	Summary of geological history of Wales	
CENOZOIC	QUATERNARY	Recent or Holocene	0.01 - present	Coastal areas drowned by rising sea level caused by melting ice at the end of the Ice Age. Deposits of alluvium and peat, with further development of present drainage patterns and modern flora and fauna.
		Pleistocene	1.6 - 0.01	The 'Ice Age', with repeated glaciations and milder interglacial periods. The most recent major glaciation reached a maximum 18,000 years ago, and the last local ice left North Wales by 14,500 years ago. Modification of land forms by ice scouring and deposition of glacial drift. First evidence of Man in Wales from Pontnewydd Cave, North Wales, about 200,000 years old.
	TERTIARY	Neogene	26 - 1.6	Prolonged, pulsatory uplift and erosion. Late Palaeogene and early Neogene terrestrial sediments known only from Mochras and locally in Gwynedd and south-west Dyfed. Early Palaeogene intrusive igneous rocks in north-west Wales. Basic landforms and drainage patterns established.
		Palaeogene	65 - 26	
	MESOZOIC	Cretaceous	140 - 65	No rocks of this age known in Wales. Different opinions suggest either a persistence of terrestrial conditions, or that the Chalk sea covered much of the country.
Jurassic		195 - 140	Lower Jurassic marine rocks known only from south-east Glamorgan and Mochras borehole. Harlech, with thick, younger sediments in Bristol Channel. Warm, shallow sea may have transgressed over Wales through the period but direct evidence is lacking.	
Triassic		230 - 195	Arid and semi-arid terrestrial conditions, with evidence of periodic flash floods. Dinosaur footprints and early mammal remains known from Glamorgan. Marine transgression in south-east Wales at the very end of the period.	
PALAEOZOIC	UPPER	Permian	280 - 230	Uplift and mountain building (Hercynian Orogeny). Erosion across most of Wales.
		Carboniferous	345 - 280	Marine transgression early in period, leading to spread of warm, subtropical seas with rich coral/brachiopod faunas; extensive deposition of carbonate sediments that now form the Carboniferous Limestone. Regression in middle of period, with widespread deltaic deposits. Rich vegetation on coastal plains and deltas in late Carboniferous times; peat accumulated to form coal seams of the Coal Measures.
		Devonian	395 - 345	Uplift and mountain building (Caledonian Orogeny) continued from Silurian times, resulting in the deposition of the terrestrial Old Red Sandstone across most of Wales. Rapid diversification of land floras and non-marine fish faunas.
	LOWER	Silurian	435 - 395	Marine muds, silts and sands, with local carbonate sediments. Land with deltas across South Wales. Shallowing and retreat of the sea late in the period, with widespread onset of terrestrial conditions. Earliest fishes in Wales, and first vascular land plants appeared.
		Ordovician	505 - 435	Marine muds, sands, grits and local carbonate sediments. Evidence of extensive volcanicity in north, mid and south-west Wales. Fossil faunas increasingly diverse, including first corals.
		Cambrian	570 - 505	Transgression of sea into Wales, with deposition of grits, sands and muds. First abundant fossils, including earliest trilobites and brachiopods.
PRECAMBRIAN		4600 - 570	Oldest rocks in Wales dated at about 600-700 million years old, but are possibly considerably older. Evidence of intermittent marine conditions and volcanicity, with periods of folding, uplift and erosion. Earliest fossils from Wales are 'jellyfish' from Carmarthen of late Precambrian age.	



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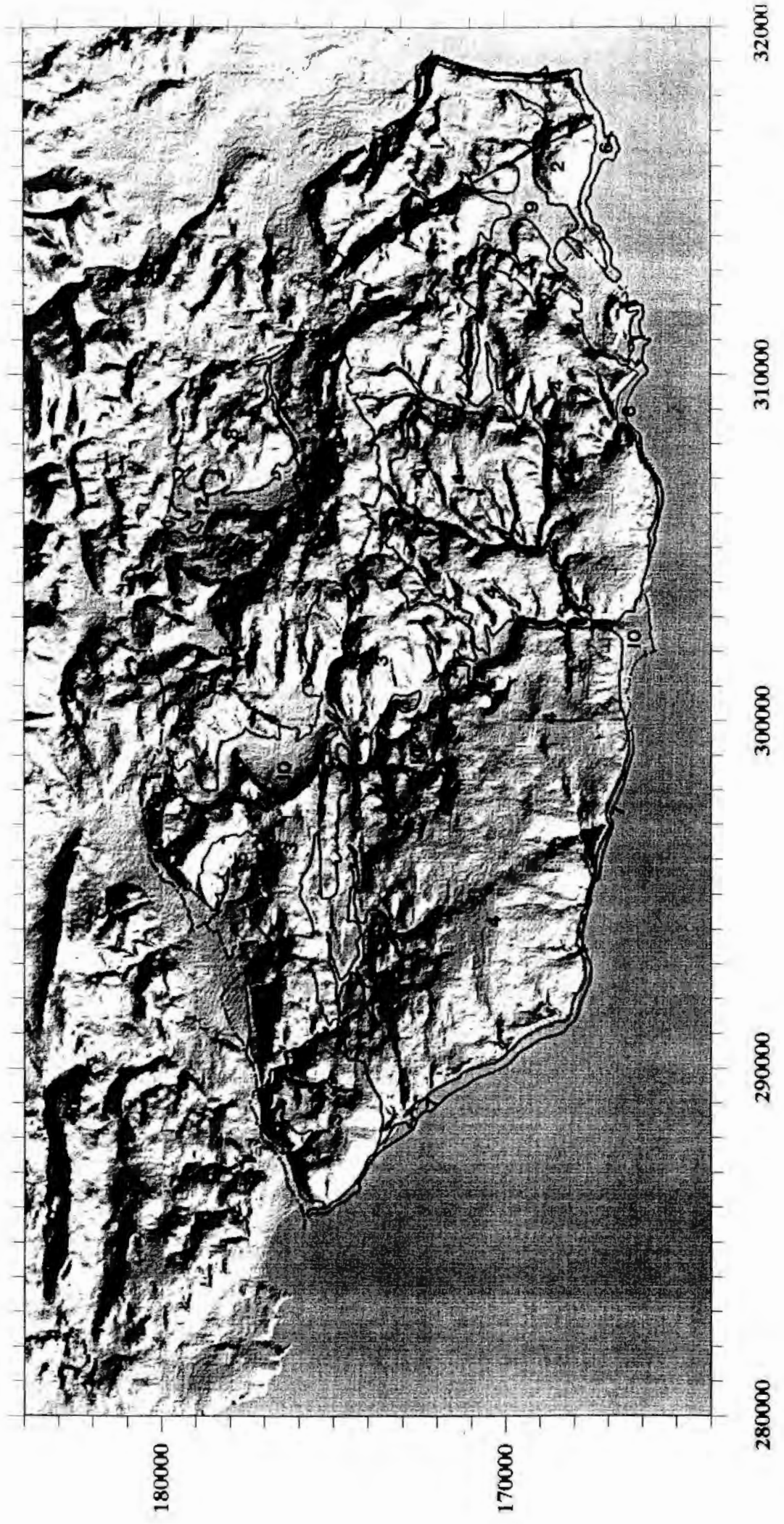
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Illumination from South East



Illumination from South West
Figure 3

mostly disused. From the distribution of Triassic and Lias sediment types it is evident that the remnant topography of an irregular, eroded Carboniferous Limestone land surface controlled Mesozoic deposition. Eroded Variscan E-W upfolds through Cowbridge and Barry remained very shallow or emergent compared with downfolded areas to either side. Coarse 'marginal' facies (conglomerates, sandstones, sandy limestones) was deposited around and over the Limestone islands (areas 2, 3, 6, 7, 13; e.g. SSSIs 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8; quarried locally for building stone), (Figs 2 & 3), while much finer 'normal' facies (mudstones, marls, siltstones; e.g., SSSIs 3, 4, 5; e.g., Aberthaw cement quarries, numerous disused Triassic clay brick-pits in Penarth and along the Ely, Culverhouse Cross) was deposited further away from these topographic 'highs' (areas 1, 5). The Mesozoic succession, which is generally low-dipping, is affected by E-W faulting caused by stretching. A major NE-SW trending fault, exposed in St Mary's Well Bay and running through Dinas Powis – Wenvoe (Alps quarry, associated with iron mineralization), separates areas of marginal facies (area 2) and normal facies (area 1).

The much younger, Quaternary drift cover (Fig. 1), which lies across the bedrock, comprises older, Pleistocene glacial sediments and valley head deposits, and younger, alluvial river deposits. Thick glacial till deposits of boulder clays and gravels in the northern Vale of Glamorgan (area 8), which represent part of a glacial end-moraine, form a hummocky area of acidic, poorly drained clayey soils. Post-glacial, clayey and tufa head deposits, sometimes terraced, occur on lower slopes and valley bottoms (e.g. small valleys cutting Lias in area 4, Cwm Marcross, Cwm Nash). Clay-rich alluvium covers wide, sinuous tracts in the major river valleys (areas, 9-12). Other post-glacial deposits are present along the coastal strip as areas of blown sand, beach sand and gravel (e.g. mouth of river Thaw), and in offshore sand dunes.

3.0 GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SUMMARY

There is a wide variety of natural landforms in the Vale of Glamorgan. These landforms are the result of a series of processes operating both today and in the geological past that link erosion and deposition with the nature of the bedrock. Much of the fine detail of the landforms originated during the recent geological past, from the last glaciation (10,000 years ago) to present. However, the division of the Vale of Glamorgan into broad tracts of distinctive landform has been established over a long period of geological time. It is this long history of geomorphological evolution that has given the Vale of Glamorgan its distinctive character (Figs 2 & 3).

The oldest event that helped to produce the landforms of the Vale of Glamorgan took place between the Carboniferous and Triassic periods when massive erosion removed many hundreds of metres of Upper Palaeozoic rocks. Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone became exposed in the core of the Cowbridge antiform and Carboniferous Limestone in the Barry area. The erosion took place in a semi-arid environment as a result of flash floods channelled into desert wadis that fed into extensive inland seas (playas), where the products of erosion were deposited. The outcrops of Palaeozoic rocks in the antiformal areas remained as elevated hills, dissected by steep sided valleys and surrounded by low-lying regions where Triassic sediments accumulated. The hills and surrounding inland seas were the ancestral areas 2, 3 & 1, 4, 5 respectively (Figs 2 & 3).

The Triassic topography was subsequently buried beneath younger Jurassic sediments, until, during the Tertiary, the region was again uplifted. Erosion removed

much of the Mesozoic sedimentary rocks and re-exposed the old hills of Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone originally produced during pre-Triassic erosion. These hills were surrounded by an extensive flat peneplain cut into the Triassic and Jurassic rocks at sea level in the areas of former Triassic inland seas. The Tertiary uplift was accompanied by faulting which affected both the Mesozoic and underlying Palaeozoic rocks. Differential erosion along the faults produced scarp features in the peneplain. Thus during Tertiary times the essential features of the landforms of areas 2, 3 & 1, 4, 5 had been produced (Figs 2 & 3).

During Plio-Pleistocene times (late Tertiary-Quaternary; Fig. 1) relative uplift of the Vale of Glamorgan continued, elevating the peneplain and producing the basic topography of the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly evident in the broad flat tract of the southern part by Llantwit Major. Rivers, draining from the hills of Palaeozoic rocks, cut valley systems into the peneplain underlain by Mesozoic rocks. The valleys display a highly distinctive dendritic pattern, resulting from the flat form of the peneplain into which they cut. However, some of the tributaries flow east-west and probably are guided by E-W striking faults within the underlying Mesozoic rocks. These are the valley systems of areas 9,10, 11, 12 (Figs 2 & 3). Later marine erosion along the Vale of Glamorgan coast further exposed both the Mesozoic and underlying Palaeozoic rocks in areas 6, 7, producing an extensive wave cut platform backed by high sea cliffs. Some of the valley systems in the west of the Vale of Glamorgan were "beheaded" by rapid retreat of the sea cliffs (e.g. Cwm Nash & Cwm Marcross).

During the last glacial advance the northeast part of the Vale of Glamorgan was affected by glaciation and fluvio-glacial deposition in area 8. Here a complex pattern of localised landforms resulted from deposition of glacial till, the formation of rapidly changing fluvio-glacial features and the development of regions of peat in ephemeral wetlands.

Post glacial effects have modified the landforms in detail but have left the broad features of the ancient geomorphology in tact.

4.0 KEY ISSUES

The following key issues arise from the appraisal:

- 8 SSSI sites in the VoG document the unconformity surface between the Carboniferous Limestone and overlying Mesozoic rocks, and important exposures of Carboniferous, Triassic and Jurassic rocks. All but one are coastal exposures, parts of the almost continuous exposure in cliffs and coast from Ogmere to Penarth, apart from estuarine areas, along the Heritage coast and beyond (areas 6 and 7). The coastal strip requires careful conservation to maintain rock exposure (e.g. coastal defence schemes), planning to control threat from leisure activities/amenities to access, and educational schemes to promote public awareness of geology.
- Second tier, RIGS sites still require documentation in the VoG. The current lack of RIGS is high-lighted when, in classification of the intrinsic value of geological areas in this LANDMAP process, areas are either 'outstanding' (include SSSIs) or only 'modest' (all other areas). It should be borne in mind that potential RIGS sites in the VoG, which would raise the intrinsic value to high, are particularly associated with inland exposures of the Carboniferous Limestone (e.g. areas 2,

3), glacial features (area 8), and the Tertiary peneplain (e.g. head valleys of area 4). There is need for further investigation and documentation of a RIGS site network, primarily as an educational resource.

- Limestone resources (Carboniferous Limestone, Lias Group limestones) require careful management. Monitoring needed to preserve topographical landscape threatened by quarrying and aggregate removal, action to limit environmental disturbance, and sensitive restoration of disused quarries.

5.0 OUTLINE LANDFORM FEATURES OF EACH AREA

Area: VG/G/1. This area is bounded by the Bristol Channel coast in the southeast, by the Ely valley to the northeast and by the scarp feature produced by erosion along the Dinas Powis fault to the west. The principal landform is that of an uplifted peneplain cut into Triassic marls and Liassic mudstones and thin limestones. The peneplain is deeply dissected by the Cadoxton river system and by the river Ely to the northeast, where a scarp slope has been extensively formerly quarried for brick clay. The northwest trending Penarth fault produces a northeasterly facing scarp feature in the northern part of the area. Soils are poorly drained and essentially calcareous, where not improved.

Area: VG/G/2. This area lies to the west of the Dinas Powis fault and forms a sinuous belt of relatively high but undulating land, representing original hills of Palaeozoic rocks eroded during the Triassic period. The remnants of gorge-like valleys cut by flash floods and partially filled with Triassic conglomerates are occasionally preserved (Cwm George, Dinas Powis). Elsewhere, the original steep slopes have been smoothed by erosion (e.g. the Wenvoe valley). The southern part of the area, in the Sully district, is relatively low-lying and occupied by shallow dipping Triassic conglomerates with the slightly higher ground formed by "islands" of Carboniferous Limestone (north of Swanbridge, Cadoxton-Palmerstown). To the north and west the higher ground is formed by the outcrop of Palaeozoic rocks, which forms a broadly south-dipping dip slope from St Lythans through St Nicholas and Bonvilston to Llantrithyd. Gentle topographic features across the dip slope coincide with minor N-S and NW-SE trending faults (e.g. west of St Nicholas). North of St Nicholas the Carboniferous Limestone and underlying Old Red Sandstone forms a prominent scarp slope facing north towards Peterston-super-Ely. Soils, where not modified, are predominantly well drained and calcareous

Area: VG/G/3. A complex geomorphological area representing the westward continuation of the Palaeozoic rocks of area 2. In this area the Palaeozoic rocks represent the crestal region of the Cowbridge antiform and are cut by numerous E-W striking faults. As in area 2, the Palaeozoic rocks were originally eroded to form Triassic and Jurassic hills flanked by conglomerates and the present day landforms reflect these earlier features. The antiform core, in the Cowbridge area, is occupied by Old Red Sandstone on Stalling Down and the overlying Carboniferous Lower Limestone Shale, which due to its softer nature forms the lower ground. To the west, a belt of Carboniferous Limestone flanked by Jurassic conglomerates form the elevated ground from Penllyn through Crack Hill, Tair Croes Down, Old Castle Down, Beacons Down to Ogmore. Here the limestones have low dips at the crest of the Cowbridge antiform with the gentle southerly dips producing smooth south facing dip slopes along the southern slopes of the downs and steeper scarp slopes into the Ogmore and Ewenny valleys. Soils, where not modified by farming, are generally well drained and alkaline, except

on Stalling Down, where the Old Red Sandstone has given rise to acidic soils.

Area: VG/G/4. This is an extensive area stretching E-W across the southern half of the Vale of Glamorgan representing a raised peneplain underlain by Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. The peneplain is broken by the incised valleys of the Thaw/Kenson/Llancaiwan system and the head waters of the Alun valley in the west. In the southwest, several cwms, containing head, calcareous tufa or alluvium, cut into the peneplain (Cwm Mawr, Cwm Nash, Cwm Marcross, Avon Col-Huw etc.). Faults, clearly exposed in the cliffs of area 7, can be traced across the peneplain as low scarps. The most obvious is the feature trending east from the fault exposed immediately north of Trwyn-y-Witch.

Soils, where not modified by farming, are poorly drained and moderately alkaline.

Area: VG/G/5. A small scale mirror image of area 4 to the north of the Palaeozoic "island" of area 3.

Soils as in area 4, where not modified by farming, are poorly drained and moderately alkaline.

Area: VG/G/6. The coastal strip from Penarth Head to Aberthaw, representing a variable width wave-cut platform backed by either a storm beach (Porthkerry, Aberthaw), high cliffs of Mesozoic rocks (Penarth Head, Lavernock Point, Bull Cliff, Rhose Point or low cliffs exposing Triassic marginal facies rocks resting on Carboniferous Limestone (Sully Island, Sully Bay, Bendrick Rock, Barry Island, Cold knap Point).

Area: VG/G/7. The heritage coast from mouth of Ogmore river to west Aberthaw, representing a variable width wave-cut platform, widest in the sector between Trwyn-y-Witch and Nash Point, backed by storm beach (Dunraven Bay, Seamount Bay, Afon Col-Huw and Aberthaw), high cliffs of Mesozoic rocks (Pant-y-Slade to Summerhouse Point) or low cliffs of Triassic and Jurassic marginal facies rocks resting on eroded Carboniferous Limestone (Ogmore river to Pant-y-Slade, Trwyn-y-Witch).

Area: VG/G/8. A complex geomorphological area representing a variety of glacial and periglacial landforms developed during and following the last glaciation. Much of the area is a region of thick glacial till deposits of boulder clays and gravels, which represent part of a glacial end-moraine, producing irregular, hummocky topography with poorly drained acidic soils. An area of flat landform underlain by glacial silts and clays and peat, representing the site of a glacial lake, occurs in the region of Nant Dyfrgi [025 785] north to Gelli-Geuen [020 800]

Areas: VG/G/9, 10, 11 & 12. These areas represent the valleys of the Cadoxton river, the Thaw/Kenson/Llancaiwan system, the Ogmore/Ewenny/Alun system and the upper Ely river respectively. The valleys are incised into the Mesozoic rocks of areas 1, 4 & 5, and also, in the case of the Thaw and Ely rivers, into the glacial sediments of area 8. The Thaw also crosses the Palaeozoic rocks of the Cowbridge antiform in area 3. The valleys have a characteristic dendritic pattern where they are incised in the flat peneplain of the southern part of the Vale of Glamorgan, exemplified by that of the Thaw system south of Cowbridge. Where they cross the softer unconsolidated glacial sediments of area 8 the valleys broaden into wide flat-bottomed features floored by alluvium (e.g. the upper Thaw valley and the upper Ely valley). Where the rivers cross the Palaeozoic "islands" they occupy narrow, steep-

sided valleys (e.g. the Afon Alun).

6.0 GEOLOGY IN MORE DETAIL

The geology of the Vale of Glamorgan is characterised by sedimentary rocks from three distinct periods: 1) Upper Palaeozoic, 2) Mesozoic and 3) Quaternary. The deposition of each was separated by a period of deformation and non-deposition, represented by an unconformity.

PALAEOZOIC

The first and oldest group of rocks is the Devonian Old Red Sandstone and conformably overlying Carboniferous Lower Limestone Shales & Carboniferous Limestone. The outcrop of these rocks forms a broad sinuous band trending northwards from the coast at Barry to Wenvoe and westwards through Cowbridge to Ogmore. This outcrop is controlled by erosion of large-scale, east-west trending folds with the relatively resistant Carboniferous Limestone cropping out in the fold limbs, where the limestone dips moderately steeply to the north and south, and across the hinges, where the limestone bedding is sub-horizontal. The outcrop coincides with areas of higher topography. The underlying Old Red Sandstone has a very limited outcrop, occurring only in the cores of antiforms.

The Carboniferous Limestone thickens from about 300m in the north of the Vale to over 1000m in the south around Barry. The dominant rock type is lithified calcite limestone of various types and subordinate dolomitic (magnesium-rich) limestone. The Carboniferous Limestone is richly fossiliferous with tropical shallow marine assemblages of brachiopods, corals, crinoids, etc. In some areas these fossils are silicified, e.g. at the Barry Island SSSIs.

The limestones have been extensively quarried for limestone aggregate used in roads and concrete. Locally, the limestones have been replaced by hematite (red iron oxide) and cut by mineral veins containing galena (lead sulphide), sphalerite (zinc sulphide) and baryte (barium sulphate); disused mine shafts occur where these deposits were formerly extracted. Where not covered by younger rocks, the Carboniferous Limestone produces a nutrient-rich alkaline soil which is generally only thin due to the soil being washed down solution features in the limestone. The limestone is permeable, allowing water to drain through fractures in the rock. Where an impermeable cover exists, the limestone acts as a reservoir and springs occur at the boundary between the limestone and cover where the water table crops out. There are relatively few examples of such spring lines in the Vale.

The outcrops of Old Red Sandstone and Lower Limestone Shales are too small to create significant landscape features and exposures of the sandstones are rare. Soils on these quartz rich lithologies are generally acidic and poor in nutrients. The best example is Stalling Down, east of Cowbridge. The Lower Limestone Shales are carbonate-rich rocks muddier in the lower and upper parts, associated with calcareous soils but generally less permeable than the Carboniferous Limestone. They can be seen in outcrop NW of Cowbridge.

Structures

The Palaeozoic rocks of the Vale of Glamorgan are affected by the Variscan

orogenic episode which produced a mountain belt across Europe as a result of continental collision at the end of the Palaeozoic Era. The northern margin of this mountain chain is present in southern Britain and the Palaeozoic rocks of the Vale of Glamorgan show structures typical of such a mountain front. E-W trending folds with associated E-W striking thrust faults can be seen in many of the Palaeozoic exposures, e.g. Trwyn-y-Witch, Barry Island, Ruthin Quarry and St Andrews Quarry. The outcrop pattern of the Palaeozoic rocks is largely controlled by these structures.

Landscape areas in which Palaeozoic rocks occur:

Areas 2, 3, 6 & 7.

MESOZOIC

The second group of rocks comprises the Triassic and Lower Jurassic cover of the Palaeozoic rocks. After the deposition of the Carboniferous rocks of the Vale of Glamorgan a major period of Earth movements occurred which folded and faulted the Palaeozoic rocks, producing a range of hills bordering the Variscan Mountains which lay to the south, over SW England and France. During the ensuing Permian and Early Triassic periods the Vale suffered a major episode of erosion which reduced the Variscan hills to an extensive plain from which rose gentle upland regions, largely coincident with the present outcrops of Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone.

TRIASSIC

Initially during the Late Triassic, the area lay above sea level and experienced a semi-arid climate in which flash floods continued to erode the limestone hills and carved deep ravines into which coarse limestone conglomerates and breccias were deposited. The consequent wadis and alluvial fans provide evidence of the Triassic climatic conditions. Exposures of these Triassic features are of international geological importance, protected in the SSSIs around the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and between Barry and Penarth. At Ogmere the underlying limestone has been karstified with Triassic sediments infilling the solution fissures and containing fossil reptiles and early mammals, again of international importance.

Away from the hills of Palaeozoic rocks the Triassic deposits are very different. The flash floods fed water into an extensive inland sea in which interbanded red and green marls were deposited. Periods of evaporation of the sea are recorded in layers and nodules of gypsum (calcium sulphate). Evidence of dinosaur footprints preserved at the margins of a Triassic lake is protected by the Hayes Point-Bendrick Rock SSSI. These rocks belong to the Upper Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group and are overlain by the Penarth Group, a sequence of black and grey shales interbedded with thin sandstones and limestones. Towards the base of the Penarth Group is an aurally extensive bone bed - the Rhaetic bone bed - containing fossil reptiles, representing strandline deposits as marine conditions transgressed the region. The cliffs at Penarth Head represent the type locality for the Penarth Group and thus these exposures are of international importance and protected by an SSSI. The Mercia Mudstones were formerly extensively quarried for brick clay and the sediments can be seen in these disused quarries between Penarth and Culverhouse Cross, as well as in the cliffs from Penarth Head to Lavernock Point.

Natural soils developed on the outcrop of the Mercia Mudstone marls tend to be

poorly drained due to the clay content and weakly alkaline. On the limestone conglomerates bordering the palaeohills soils are more strongly alkaline and better drained - more similar to the soils on the Carboniferous Limestone.

Landscape areas in which Triassic rocks occur:

Areas 1 (Mercia Mudstones & Penarth Group), 2, 3, 6 & 7 (marginal facies conglomerates)

JURASSIC

The late Triassic and early Jurassic marine transgression covered much of the Vale and resulted in the deposition of the Lower Lias, a thick sequence of interbedded limestones and mudstones. The Triassic uplands of remnant Carboniferous rocks were gradually inundated but a marginal (shoreline) facies of conglomerates, calcareous sandstones and locally oolitic limestones was developed around the *Vale of Glamorgan islands*. These conglomeratic rocks and evidence of Jurassic coastlines are well developed between Ogmere and Southerndown, where the exposures contain Jurassic rock units unique to the Vale. The Lower Liassic rocks are up to 150m thick and are well exposed along the sea cliffs of the Glamorgan heritage coast. The limestones and shales contain an abundant fossil fauna of ammonites, bivalves and crinoids, as well as other fossil groups including fish and reptiles.

Structures

During the Mesozoic the Vale lay on the northern margin of a major east-west fault-bounded basin centred on the Bristol Channel. The Mesozoic rocks are affected by numerous east-west striking normal faults associated with the crustal stretching associated with the basin development. This faulting continued throughout the Jurassic and into the early Cretaceous period. Later, during the early Cenozoic a reversal of movement on many of the faults took place as a consequence of Alpine deformation in the Vale. In addition many new NW-SE to N-S striking faults and associated minor folds were formed. These fault structures are excellently displayed in the cliffs and foreshore along the Heritage Coast and between Barry and Penarth. One major NW-SE striking fault, exposed in St Mary's Well Bay forms the boundary between the Mercia Mudstone dominated landscape area 1 and area 2 to the west in which the Triassic is represented by marginal facies conglomerates and breccias.

The Jurassic rocks form a broad belt of relatively low flat lying ground between the coast and the higher ground of the Palaeozoic islands. Several quarries have exploited the mixture of limestone and mudstone for cement and the Aberthaw portland cement works continues to extract the Lias for its raw material. In addition, there are many small disused quarries in the marginal facies of both the Triassic and Jurassic that formerly used local rock for building. Springs occur sporadically over much of the area of this Liassic outcrop. They tend to be associated with east-west striking normal faults which have acted as barriers to ground water flow, but many of the springs have no such relationship and probably represent local reservoirs in the limestones. Soils tend to be poorly drained due the clay content of the mudstones and are weakly alkaline.

Landscape areas in which Jurassic rocks occur:

Area 1 - Lower Lias lying conformably above Triassic Penarth Group; Areas 3, & 7 - Conglomeratic marginal facies of the Lias, occurring around the Palaeozoic islands; Area 4 - the broad belt of land running east-west from Ogmere to west of Barry in which typical Lower Liassic interbedded limestones and mudstones are developed. A smaller area (area 5) lies to the north of the Cowbridge island of similar Lower Liassic rocks.

QUATERNARY

The third group of rocks represent the superficial or drift deposits developed unconformably on the older solid rocks. These are all Quaternary in age and comprise an older set of Pleistocene glacial sediments, valley head deposits and younger river alluvial deposits. These deposits reflect the rapid climatic changes that occurred during the Quaternary. Before the onset of the Pleistocene glaciation, extensive erosion of the Mesozoic deposits resulted in a broad peneplain developed around the higher ground of the Palaeozoic outcrop, exhuming the old Mesozoic topography. This peneplain, originally at sea level, coincides approximately with the Mesozoic outcrop in the Vale. It was uplifted to its present elevation during the Pliocene/Pleistocene interval and produced the basic morphology of the Vale. The subsequent glacial and fluvial erosion and deposition modified the peneplain and resulted in the present day topographic detail.

Glacial Deposits

These deposits cover most of the northeastern part of the Vale and are part of an end-moraine deposited by a Glamorgan piedmont glacier during the Devensian glaciation which terminated approximately 10,000 years ago. The bulk of the deposits are till, ranging from structureless boulder clays to clayey gravels. They contain mainly clasts derived from the coal measures sandstones to the north and produce poorly drained, acid soils. The hummocky nature, with sinuous depressions and kettle holes characteristic of the land surface underlain by these deposits is thought to have resulted from the melt-out of stagnant ice. Occasional lenses of sand and gravel are fluvio-glacial deposits and give rise to small water reservoirs producing scattered springs across the area.

Landscape areas in which Glacial Deposits occur.

Area 8 - NE Vale.

Postglacial Deposits

Head deposits, of varying thickness, have accumulated on the lower slopes and bottoms of many valleys. They generally consist of brown silty and sandy clays with a wide variety of pebble content, reflecting the composition of the solid rock upslope. They have formed by gravity-induced mass-movement downslope. The head deposits of Cwm Marcross and Cwm Tresilian form a series of terraces, which record progressive lowering of erosive base-level by the streams that occupy these valleys. These events may reflect changes in sea level during postglacial time, or they may have formed as a response to cliff retreat during historical times. Calcareous tufa, a cellular deposit of calcium carbonate formed around springs issuing from the Lias, occurs in several valleys in the Vale. The best known is Cwm Nash, where pale brown tufa is interbedded with head deposits and thin paleosol

horizons. The head deposits in the Vale generally form well drained and alkaline soils.

Alluvium forms wide flat tracts in the major river valleys in the Vale. It generally consists of brown and grey silty clays, sands and gravels with peat horizons in places.

Postglacial deposits are also present along the coastal strip as blown sand, e.g. in area 3, as beach sand and as gravel aggregates in the mouth of the river Thaw. These latter are exploited in association with the Aberthaw cement industry. Sand is also present in offshore dunes in the Bristol Channel. Commercial dredging of these sands has been imputed for the loss of beach sands along the Vale coast.

Landscape areas in which Postglacial Deposits occur:

Area: 4 - in small valleys cutting the Liassic peneplain and draining across area 6, sometimes with hanging valleys; Areas 9,10, 11 & 12 - mainly alluvium, but sometimes rimmed by head in the Ely and Cadoxton valleys in the east, and the valleys of the Thaw, Ewenny and Alun in the west.

APPENDIX

METHOD AND SOURCES

The Geology, Hydrogeology and Geomorphology aspects of the LANDMAP assessment has been based largely on a desk study of the Vale, using the following data sources:

- a) **Base Geology:**
1:10,000 Geological Survey Sheets: SS87NE, SS87SE, SS96NW, SS96NE, SS97NW, SS97NE, SS97SW, SS97SE, ST06NW, ST06NE, ST07NW, ST07NE, ST07SW, ST07SE, ST16NW, ST16NE, ST17NW, ST17NE, ST17SE.
1:50,000 Geological Survey Sheets: 262 & 263

Waters, R.A. & Lawrence, D.J.D. 1987. Geology of the South Wales Coalfield, Part III, the country around Cardiff. Memoir for 1:50,000 geological sheet 263 (England & Wales). British Geological Survey.

Wilson, D., Davies, J.R., Fletcher, C.J.N. & Smith, M. 1990. Geology of the South Wales Coalfield, Part VI, the country around Bridgend. Memoir for 1:50,000 geological sheets 261 and 262 (England & Wales). British Geological Survey, pp62.

- b) **Minerals:**
Consultation with Martin Lucas - Vale of Glamorgan Minerals Officer;
Minerals Planning Maps for the area of the Vale of Glamorgan

Harrison, D.J. 1984. The limestone resources of the Bridgend district - a reconnaissance study. Report of the British Geological Survey.

Wilson, D. & Smith, M. 1985. Planning for development: thematic geological maps, Bridgend area. Report of the British Geological Survey.

- c) **Heritage Coast**
Consultation with Paul Dunne - Glamorgan Heritage Coast, head ranger.

Perkins, J.W., Gayer, R.A. & Baker, J.W. 1997. Glamorgan Heritage Coast - a Guide to its Geology. The Glamorgan Heritage Coast, pp39.

- d) **SSSIs**
Consultation with CCW - SSSI schedules for the Vale of Glamorgan.

In addition to the above, brief field visits have been carried out to confirm features from the desk study. Previous personal experience of the geology of the area has also been incorporated.

Information from the above data sources was mapped on to 1:25,000 base maps and divided into 13 Landscape Areas. Of these, three were classified as having outstanding intrinsic value on the basis of either containing one or more SSSI, or being part of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

DRAINAGE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This drainage assessment report is part of the Geology and Landforms aspect which contributes to an overall landscape assessment of the Vale of Glamorgan for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, supported by the Welsh Development Agency. It has been carried out by White Consultants who also lead the overall multi-disciplinary team. The overall assessment is broadly based on the LANDMAP method. However, for this subject, the information is not analysed and separated into components. Broad landscape issues are discussed for each catchment area. This will still be helpful for informing the landscape assessment. Clearly, watercourses are also being considered by different aspects including Vegetation and Habitats which covers ecological issues [Appendix B p6].

1.2 A brief desk study was carried out. This consisted of studying the following documents:

- The River Ogmore Catchment Management Plan Action Plan 1996 [NRA]
- Ely and Vale of Glamorgan LEAP Draft Issues and catchment map [Environment Agency]
- Study of various other documentation such as OS maps

Information on floodplains and other more detailed information was not available in the latter document which is under preparation by the Environment Agency.

2.0 KEY ISSUES

2.1 The study area is covered by the following river catchments:

- Ogmore [including the Ewenny and Alun]
- Heritage Coast streams including Afon Col huw
- Ely
- Thaw [including Kenson, Nat Llancarfan and Waycock]
- Cadoxton [including Sully Brook, Coldbrook and Nant yr Argae]

Of these, the largest is the Thaw which covers much of the central part of the Vale from north to south and is 37% of the total study area.

The key issues relating to landscape are as follows:





- 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 Ogmore catchment is the spring at Schwyll, near Ogmore castle. This water comes from under the Western Vale plateau.
- There is only one inert landfill site in the Vale. This is positive in the sense that there is limited risk of contamination to the groundwater. However, this raises the issue of sustainable development and dealing with waste as close as safely possible to source of production [proximity principle].
- There are numerous springs on the limestone. These often dry up in summer due to reduced groundwater levels.
- River habitat surveys need to be completed to identify the quality of the resource if not already done so.
- Litter is a problem on the Ewenny in particular but also on other rivers with urban areas on them. Sea anglers on the coast cause problems of leaving tackle which can be harmful to wildlife and look unsightly.

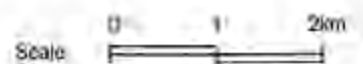
- There is a general presumption against development in floodplains. The Ely, Cadoxton and Thaw Rivers have extensive low lying areas which could be vulnerable. An assessment is being carried out by the Environment Agency regarding 1 in 100 year flooding for more accurate advice to be given to the Planning Authority. The EA's policy on floodplains should be followed.
- Access adjacent to rivers can conflict with nature conservation objectives. There appears to be very limited access at present. River walks may be appropriate in places.
- 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.
- Buffer strips along watercourses are promoted by the Environment Agency and an advice note is provided by them. This concept protects and enhances river corridors and protects river banks. It is primarily a nature conservation measure which is appropriate to the Vale particularly in the intensively cultivated area of the western plateau.
- Japanese Knotweed has not been identified as a specific problem in the Vale but areas where development has been carried out with imported soil or downstream of these areas could be vulnerable. WDA guidelines for removal should be followed. These are presently being reviewed.
- The Green Sea Initiative is looking to improve the water quality of the beaches around Barry to enable them to reach European Blue flag status. This is compatible with the strategy of improving the overall quality of the South East Vale coastline.
- Access for canoeing and other watersports is not identified as an issue in the Vales relatively small watercourses.



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







GEOLOGY-COMPONENTS

West



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



GEOLOGY-COMPONENTS





Central



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LEGEND

2 Component Reference Number - see Text

-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High Intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



GEOLOGY-COMPONENTS

East

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/1

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Between River Ely and the Dinas Powys fault, including Penarth and East Dinas Powys.

How would you classify this area? Outcrop of "normal" (non-marginal) facies Mesozoic, with little natural rock exposure, but only patchy and thin drift cover. Some topographical relief caused by deep incision by the Ely River in the east and the Cadoxton River system in the centre of the area - forming part of area VG/G/9.

Landform character: uplifted and dissected peneplain.

What are the rock types?

Lower Lias - thin-bedded limestones and mudstones

Penarth Group - black and grey mudstones with thin sandstones and limestones and a basal conglomeratic bone bed.

Mercia Mudstone Group - red and green marls with thin gypsum bands and nodules

What are the main structural features?

Bounded to the west by the St Mary's Well - Dinas Powys fault that creates a significant scarp feature trending NNW-SSE. Contains the WNW-ESE striking Penarth fault.

Is there mineral extraction? Formerly

if so, where? Formerly brick pits in the scarp to the west of the River Ely in the red marls of the Mercia Mudstone Group.

Formerly cement quarries (Cross Common (Breeches) Quarry Downswood Quarry & Cosmeston Quarry) in Lower Lias

Are there SSSI's in this area? NONE

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Area of "normal" (non-marginal) Triassic and Jurassic, formerly utilised for brick and cement manufacture. Topography controlled by geomorphological feature of the St Mary's Well - Dinas Powys fault and Plio-Pleistocene plateau dissected by River Ely and Cadoxton River.

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest ✓ Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

The Fault scarp feature of the Dinas Powys fault should be protected.

Importance of achieving objective Essential Highly Desirable Desirable ✓

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected ✓

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced ✓

The key qualities and elements are subject to change ✓

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

NONE

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/2

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Sinuous belt from Sully - St Andrews Major - Wenvoe - Bonvilston - Llancafarn - Llantrithyd.

How would you classify this area? Area of relatively high, but undulating topography, representing dissected outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone and underlying Old Red Sandstone bordered unconformably by marginal Triassic deposits. Drift cover thin to absent, with thin, alkaline soils. Landform character: high ground forms remnants of Triassic "islands" of Palaeozoic rocks surrounded by Triassic conglomerates. Gorge-like valley features, partly infilled with Triassic conglomerate occur at Cwm George, Dinas Powis. Higher ground in the north and west forms a south facing dip slope and a north facing scarp.

What are the rock types?

Triassic - red stained limestone conglomerates and breccias

Lower Carboniferous - calcite and dolomitic limestones of various types.

Upper Old Red Sandstone - cross-bedded red quartz sandstones and reddish brown siltstones and mudstones, with thin calcrete paleosols

What are the main structural features? VARISCAN FOLD AND THRUST BELT & SUB-TRIASSIC UNCONFORMITY

The east-west trending hinge of the Cowbridge anticline controls the northern part of the area and the southeastern part of the area contains the hinge regions of the Vale of Glamorgan syncline and the Barry anticline. A number of east-west striking thrust faults are present on the limbs of the Cowbridge anticline. The sub-Triassic unconformity

Is there mineral extraction? YES

if so, where? **Wenvoe Quarry** - Carboniferous Limestone (planning permission + buffer zone)

Alps Quarry - Carboniferous Limestone - disused (contains quarry office and plant for Wenvoe Quarry)

Pant y Ffynnon Quarry - Carboniferous Limestone (planning permission + buffer zone & area of mineral resource to be xxxxx)

Whitehall and Greenwood Quarries - Carboniferous Limestone - disused (to be restored)

St Andrews Quarry - Carboniferous Limestone - disused (for closure)

Hematite (Fe): disused mine shaft - Wenvoe; Galena (Pb/Zn): disused mine shafts - Goldsland Wood (Wenvoe) & line of disused shafts - St Hilary.

Are there SSSI's in this area? NONE

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The area is dominantly one of limestone outcrop, forming the topographically high ground of the Vale. Limestone currently extracted from two intermediate-sized quarries with planning permission.

Several disused limestone quarries with planning permission scheduled for closure or scheduled for restoration.

Several disused mine shafts associated with former Iron and Lead mining.

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest ✓ Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retention of rolling hill topography characteristic of Palaeozoic outcrop in the Vale.

Importance of achieving objective Essential Highly Desirable ✓ Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected ✓

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced ✓

The key qualities and elements are subject to change ✓

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Active limestone aggregate quarries need to be monitored carefully for environmental disturbance and appropriate action taken to preserve topographical landscape. Disused limestone quarries scheduled for closure or restoration will require sensitive treatment.

Inland exposures of limestone quarries with good potential for RIGS sites.

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/3

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Sinuous belt from St Hilary - Cowbridge - Colwinston - St Brides Major - Ogmere.

How would you classify this area? Area of relatively high, but undulating topography, representing dissected outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone and underlying Old Red Sandstone bordered unconformably by marginal Liassic deposits, underlain locally by marginal Triassic deposits. Drift cover thin to absent, with thin, alkaline soils.

Landform character: high ground forms remnants of Triassic and Jurassic "islands" of Palaeozoic rocks flanked by conglomerates. Geomorphology of the Palaeozoic outcrop controlled by crestal region of Cowbridge antiform, with Stalling Down formed by hard Old Red Sandstone in antiform core surrounded by softer lower Carboniferous mudstones. Chain of downs in west of area form south facing dip slopes and steeper north facing scarps.

What are the rock types?

Liassic - white conglomeratic limestones and calcarenites with mudstone partings.

Triassic - red stained limestone conglomerates and breccias.

Lower Carboniferous - calcite and dolomitic limestones of various types + Lower Limestone Shales.

Old Red Sandstone - cross-bedded red quartz sandstones and reddish brown siltstones and mudstones, with thin calcrete paleosols, resting on purple lithic conglomerates interbedded with quartz-mica sandstones and mudstones.

What are the main structural features?

The hinge region and south-dipping limb of the east-west trending Cowbridge anticline and overlying sub-Mesozoic unconformity

Is there mineral extraction? YES

if so, where? Ruthin Quarry - Carboniferous Limestone (planning permission + other protected mineral are + buffer zone);

Pont Alun Quarry - Carboniferous Limestone (planning permission + buffer zone);

Pant Quarry - Carboniferous Limestone (planning permission + buffer zone);

Longlands & Ewenny Quarries - Carboniferous Limestone (disused with planning permission);

Between Colwinston & Llangan - Mineral conservation area;

Galena (Pb) [& Baryte (Ba)?] - line of disused mine shafts - Llangan & Twmpath Farm.

Are there SSSI's in this area? Yes

If so, name: 1 - Cnap Twt Quarry, 2 - Ewenny Quarry [SS895760] and Pant Quarry [SS902768].

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The area is dominantly one of limestone outcrop, forming the topographically high ground of the western Vale. Limestone currently extracted for aggregate from three intermediate-sized quarries with planning permission. Several disused limestone quarries with planning permission. Several disused mine shafts associated with former Lead (and silver?) mining.

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding ✓	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retention of rolling hill topography characteristic of Palaeozoic outcrop in the Vale.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable ✓	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	✓	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		✓
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	✓	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Cnap Twt, Ewenny and Pant Quarries are an SSSIs must be protected.

Active limestone aggregate quarries need to be monitored carefully for environmental disturbance and appropriate action taken to preserve topographical landscape. Disused limestone quarries with planning permission will require sensitive treatment.

Inland exposures of quarries with potential for RIGS sites.

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/4

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Strip between Barry through Llantwit Major to Dunraven.

How would you classify this area? Plateau of flat, relatively low ground, representing the Plio/Pleistocene raised beach, forming the outcrop of the "normal" (off-shore) Lias. Plateau is dissected by the valley system of the River Thaw and by short river systems in the southwest. Soils are poorly drained and weakly alkaline. Springs are scattered across the area, with a diffuse band of springs along the outcrop of the Dunraven fault.

Landform character: Extensive elevated peneplain incised by valleys of the Thaw system, the upper Alun and several shorter cwms in the southwest. Low fault scarp features also traverse the peneplain.

What are the rock types?

Liassic - thin-bedded limestones and mudstones, with small fault-bounded inliers of Carboniferous Limestone. The Liassic outcrop is cut by several short river valleys, filled with post-glacial head deposits. That of Cwm Nash also contains calcareous tufa deposits.

What are the main structural features?

Several east-west striking normal faults, including the Dunraven fault, of Mesozoic age. Also NW-SE striking strike-slip faults of Alpine age.

Is there mineral extraction? YES

if so, where? **Aberthaw Cement Quarry** - Liassic limestone and mudstone (planning permission + buffer zone).

Rhose & Lliswerry Quarries - Liassic limestone and mudstone (scheduled for closure).

Are there SSSI's in this area? NONE

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Dissected plateau of the Plio/Pleistocene raised beach, giving the characteristic topography of the vale of Glamorgan. Head filled, short valley features of Dunraven, Cwm Mawr, Cwm Nash, Maecross, Col Huw and Porth Kerry.

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	✓	Other
------------------------	-------------	------	--------	---	-------

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

The area should maintain its raised peneplain features, without major disturbance and the short cwm features must be carefully conserved.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	✓	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	✓	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		✓
--	--	---

The key qualities and elements are subject to change	✓	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Sensitive restoration of disused cement quarries at Aberthaw.
Head valleys (cwms) of Monknash area should be conserved.

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/5

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Small Area between Treoes and Liangan.

How would you classify this area? Area of flat relatively low-lying ground, cut by tributary of the Ewenny River and forming an outcrop of the "normal" (off-shore) Lias to the north of the Palaeozoic outcrop of area VG/G/3. Soils are poorly drained and weakly alkaline.

Landform character: elevated peneplain underlain by Mesozoic sedimentary rocks.

What are the rock types?

Liassic - thin-bedded limestones and mudstones.

What are the main structural features?

Small-scale normal faults of Mesozoic age.

Is there mineral extraction? NONE
if so, where?

Are there SSSI's in this area? NONE
If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE
If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Small area of Liassic rocks to the north of the Palaeozoic outcrop, demonstrating the "island" nature of the latter. The area is part of an industrial development.

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest ✓ Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

No particular strategy required.

Importance of achieving objective Essential Highly Desirable Desirable ✓

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected ✓

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced ✓

The key qualities and elements are subject to change ✓

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Status Quo

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/6

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Coast between Penarth - Lavernock Point - St Mary's Well - Sully - Bendrick Rock - Barry - Rhose - Aberthaw.

How would you classify this area? Coastal strip with continuous rock exposure in both foreshore and sea cliffs. The area contains many significant and internationally recognised geological features. Landform character: variable width wavecut platform backed by storm beach, high cliff or low cliff.

What are the rock types?

1. Area to the east of St Mary's Well Bay:

Liassic - "normal" (off-shore) facies thin-bedded limestones and mudstones.

Triassic - "normal" (non-marginal) facies of Penarth Group black and grey mudstones with thin limestones and sandstones and a basal conglomeratic bone bed and Mercia Mudstone Group red & green marls + gypsum.

2. Area to west of St Mary's Well Bay:

Triassic - marginal facies red limestone conglomerates and breccias, unconformably lying on: Carboniferous Limestone.

What are the main structural features? Numerous, well exposed normal faults and strike-slip faults of Mesozoic and Alpine age. Well exposed sub-Mesozoic unconformity at Sully Island, Bendrick Rock and Barry Island.

Is there mineral extraction?
if so, where? NONE

Are there SSSI's in this area? YES

If so, name Barry Island (No. 1 on map - eastern sheet);
Hayes Point - Bendrick Rock (No.3 - eastern sheet);
Penarth Coast (No. 5 - eastern sheet);
Sully Island (No. 7 - eastern sheet).

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Coastal strip of continuous rock exposure, in both foreshore and cliffs, with many features of international geological importance.

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding ✓ High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain present rock exposure and develop public awareness of geological significance.

Importance of achieving objective Essential ✓ Highly Desirable Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected ✓

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced ✓

The key qualities and elements are subject to change ✓

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Provide information boards at key points within area and trail leaflets. These should warn of the danger of falling rocks from high cliffs and of being cut off by the tide, explain the need to protect the geological features and outline in laymans terms the geology to be seen. Conservation needs to be sensitive, to avoid obscuring rock exposure by coastal defence measures. Leisure activities/facilities should not threaten access and amenity value.

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VGIG/7

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Glamorgan Heritage Coast between Ogmere and the mouth of the River Thaw.

How would you classify this area? Coastal strip with continuous rock exposure in both foreshore and sea cliffs. The area contains many significant and internationally recognised geological features.
Landform character: variable width wavecut platform backed by storm beach, high cliff or low cliff.

What are the rock types?

1. Area to the west of Trwyn y Witch:

Liassic - marginal facies with basal white conglomeratic limestones, containing fossil corals, overlain by calcarenites with mudstone partings. Resting either on underlying Triassic rocks or unconformably on Carboniferous Limestone.

Triassic - red stained limestone conglomerates and breccias, in part infilling wadi-like features in underlying Carboniferous Limestone.

Carboniferous - limestones of various types, some with abundant, well preserved fossils, including corals, brachiopods, crinoids and trilobites.

2. Area between Trwyn y Witch and mouth of River Thaw:

Liassic - thin-bedded limestones and mudstones, with abundant fossil fauna of ammonites, bivalves and crinoids.

What are the main structural features? Numerous, well exposed normal faults and strike-slip faults of Mesozoic and Alpine age. Well exposed sub-Mesozoic unconformity at Ogmere, Pant y Slade and Trwyn y Witch.

Is there mineral extraction? NONE
if so, where?

Are there SSSI's in this area? YES

If so, name **Monknash Coast** (No. 4 on map - western sheet);
Southerndown Coast (No. 6 on map - western sheet);
Sutton Flats (No. 8 on map - western sheet).

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Coastal strip of continuous rock exposure, in both foreshore and cliffs, with many features of international geological importance.

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain present rock exposure and develop public awareness of geological significance.

Importance of achieving objective Essential Highly Desirable Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Provide information boards at key points within area and trail leaflets. These should warn of the danger of falling rocks from high cliffs and of being cut off by the tide, explain the need to protect the geological features and outline in laymans terms the geology to be seen. Conservation needs to be sensitive, to avoid obscuring rock exposure by coastal defence measures. Leisure activities/facilities should not threaten access and amenity value.

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/8

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? **Northeastern part of Vale including: Ystradowen, Pendoylan, Peterston-super-Ely, St Bride's-super-Ely and St Nicholas.**

How would you classify this area? **Area of irregular, moderately high topography, bounded in the west by the upper Thaw valley and cut by the Ely Valley. Represents an area of thick glacial drift, constituting the end moraine of the Glamorgan piedmont glacier, with hummocky topography representing melt-out features of stagnant ice. Inliers through the glacial deposits show outcrops of Mesozoic rocks resting unconformably on Palaeozoic rocks in the north dipping limb of the Cowbridge anticline.**

Springs occur sporadically across the area, related to local water tables in fluvioglacial sands. Soils are poorly drained and acid.

What are the rock types?

Glacial Deposits - reddish boulder clay, (with clasts derived from the coal measures sandstones to the north), lenses of sand & gravel, fluvioglacial sands & silts, peat.

Mesozoic - Liassic limestones and mudstones overlying Triassic sandstones.

Palaeozoic - Carboniferous Limestone of various types, above Lower Limestone Shales and overlying Old Red Sandstone quartz sandstones, conglomerates and red marls with calcrete paleosols.

What are the main structural features? **Major east-west normal faults in the Mesozoic rocks beneath the glacial deposits. The Palaeozoic rocks are folded and thrust in the north limb of the Cowbridge anticline.**

Is there mineral extraction? **YES**

if so, where? **Forest Wood Quarry (only the southern part covered by S. Glamorgan minerals information) - Carboniferous Limestone (planning permission + buffer zone and with area of other protected minerals)**

Are there SSSI's in this area? **NONE**

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? **NONE**

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Boulder clay topographic features associated with end moraine of Glamorgan piedmont glacier. Small areas of peat formed in periglacial lake environments. Limestone extraction from intermediate sized aggregate quarry partly within adjoining Borough.

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retention of hummocky land form, characteristic of end moraine.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

True *False*

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

No immediate action required, but need to monitor development of Forest Wood Quarry.
Glacial topography likely to be included in RIGS classification

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/9

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Cadoxton Valley

How would you classify this area? Meandering river valley system with stretches of wide flat valley floor with alluvium. Lower reaches of river modified to form Barry Docks.

What are the rock types?

Alluvium - Brown and grey silty clays, sands and gravels with peat horizons.

What are the main structural features?

NONE

Is there mineral extraction?
if so, where? NONE

Are there SSSI's in this area?
If so, name NONE

Are there RIGS in this area?
If so, name NONE

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account
Alluvium in broad flat stretches of valley floor.

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	✓	Other
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area
NONE

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable	N/A
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			True	False ✓
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				True ✓
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			True ✓	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

NONE

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Thaw/Kenson/Llancafarn valley system

How would you classify this area? Meandering river valley system with tributaries, floored with alluvium and with head on upper valley flanks. Mouth of river forming small estuary with mouth bar gravels.

Landform: wide flat areas of alluvium in upper river stretches, where cut into glacial cover.

What are the rock types?

Alluvium - Brown and grey silty clays, sands and gravels with peat horizons.

Head - brown silty and sandy clays with variable pebble content derived from bed rock upslope

What are the main structural features?

NONE

Is there mineral extraction?

YES

if so, where?

Aggregates from mouth of the river Thaw

Are there SSSI's in this area?

NONE

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area?

NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Head deposits in upper valley slope; Alluvium in valley floor.

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Preserve meandering nature of valley system.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

True

False

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

NONE

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/11

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ogmore, Ewenry and Alun Valleys

How would you classify this area? Meandering river valley systems with tributaries, floored with alluvium and with head on upper valley flanks. Mouth of river forming small estuary with intertidal clays and flanked by extensive area of blown sand.

What are the rock types?

Alluvium - Brown and grey silty clays, sands and gravels with peat horizons.

Head - brown silty and sandy clays with variable pebble content derived from bed rock upslope

Blown sand in areas bordering estuary.

What are the main structural features?

NONE

Is there mineral extraction? NONE

if so, where?

Are there SSSI's in this area? NONE

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Head deposits in upper valley slope; Alluvium in valley floor; blown sands in Ogmore river mouth.

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	✓	Other
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Preserve meandering nature of valley system and the region of blown sand to the south of the river Ogmore.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	✓	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected ✓

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced ✓

The key qualities and elements are subject to change ✓

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

NONE

GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY Area No: VG/G/12

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Upper Ely Valleys

How would you classify this area? Meandering river valley system with tributaries, floored with alluvium.

Landform: wide flat areas of alluvium in upper river stretches, where cut into glacial cover.

What are the rock types?

Alluvium - Brown and grey silty clays, sands and gravels with peat horizons.

What are the main structural features?

NONE

Is there mineral extraction? NONE

If so, where?

Are there SSSI's in this area? NONE

If so, name

Are there RIGS in this area? NONE

If so, name

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

NONE

Area's intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
------------------------	-------------	------	--------	-------------------------------------	-------

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Preserve meandering nature of valley system.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.				

NONE

5.0 Vegetation and Habitats

METHODS AND APPROACH

There is at present no single comprehensive assessment of the vegetation and nature conservation interests of the Vale. A considerable volume of ecological information exists for the area, but this is dispersed amongst a wide range of statutory bodies, voluntary groups and private individuals.

The main source of ecological information about the Vale is the Phase 1 Habitat Survey held by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). This information is based on standardised county-wide surveys carried out by CCW in 1994-95, in accordance with the methodology set out by the former Nature Conservancy Council (1989). Information for the present study was copied directly from the Phase 1 habitat maps, and summaries of all of the relevant target notes were made.

This baseline information was supplemented by data from a wide range of additional sources, as listed below. These other sources included the Phase 2 survey and rare species databases held by CCW, information about designated sites (SSSIs, LNRs, Glamorgan Wildlife Trust (GWT) Nature Reserves etc), the Ancient Woodland Inventory and the Biological Survey of Common Lands, as well as informal consultations with a range of bodies and individuals concerned with nature conservation in the Vale.

Recent aerial photographs of the Vale were also consulted to add information about linear features such as disused railway lines and to check the accuracy of the Phase 1 survey.

No attempt was made to compile a comprehensive inventory of ecological information for the Vale, but the existence of significant data sources was noted where encountered.

Effort was concentrated on obtaining as wide a spread of site data as possible, rather than on the intensive compilation of species information for single sites: once a site had been sufficiently identified as having significant nature conservation interest, further investigation of that site ceased.

Emphasis was placed on the identification of sites with identified ecological value in the county, and those with potential value as identified by the consultees.

All such sites were entered in colour-coded format onto a base map, together with any remaining areas of semi-natural vegetation from the Phase 1 survey which was not independently identified as being of particular nature conservation interest. This then formed the baseline resumé of the nature conservation resource of the Vale.

The sites, or groups of sites where obviously adjacent or related, were then classified in accordance with agreed Landmap Policy Area categories, namely:

- 1) Areas of Outstanding Value (chiefly comprising areas considered to be of national value)
- 2) Areas of High Intrinsic Value (chiefly comprising areas considered to be of value in the county context)
- 3) Areas of Moderate Intrinsic Value (comprising features considered to be of value in the local context only)

The first category comprised sites such as SSSIs, or groups of SSSIs and adjacent lands, which were considered to represent cohesive and identifiable units of the highest nature conservation value in the Vale.

The second category chiefly contained sites considered to be of value in the county context, and comprised large single sites, or groups of smaller sites of previously identified value, which were considered to form cohesive units, or related systems of habitats, of greater than local value (such as major river valley systems, for

example). This category may include some sites which would warrant 'Outstanding' status should fuller information for evaluation become available.

The last category was interpreted as comprising the remainder of the county, which was divided for convenience into broad areas of countryside primarily on the basis of geology, and containing many minor features and sites of local nature conservation value. These areas were, however, recognised as containing a large number of smaller sites, or groups of sites, which were individually recognised as being of greater than local significance, although probably not of county significance. Such higher-value sites were therefore highlighted in a separate sub-category representing features of High Local Value in the county context.

A fourth category ('Other Areas'), taken to imply sites and features of negligible nature conservation value, was not used. No areas of the county were considered to be completely devoid of ecological interest, except possibly the main urban centres which were, in any event, excluded from this study.

Landmap proformas were completed for all of the Policy Areas listed under categories 1-3. Separate proformas were not completed for the individual Sites of High Local Value within category 3 as these were too numerous, but the main sites were individually listed within the relevant category 3 proforma.

SUMMARY OF THE VEGETATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION RESOURCE

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.

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.

These features are briefly described below:

Coastal Habitats

The coastline represents the most important ecological feature of the Vale. It includes 12 SSSIs as well as part of the internationally important Severn Estuary, and numerous sites of county and local significance. Many of the cliff sections are of nationally important geological value, and there are recent records of at least a dozen Red Data Book plant and fauna species.

Nature conservation interest extends out to the Mean Low Water Mark and beyond, but tends to decline comparatively quickly inland, where agricultural activity has frequently been taken right to the cliff top edge.

Virtually the whole coastline has been classified at the highest level of value by this study, even though the interest is degraded in some sections by unsympathetic industrial, residential and recreational developments. Some key areas (eg Ogmore and Porthkerry) are also exposed to high levels of recreational use, especially in the summer months.

The coastline is characterised by high cliffs of limestone and related strata, with numerous small bays and one small offshore island. In addition to having geological interest, the cliffs in particular support numerous rare and scarce plants, including shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*), purple gromwell (*Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum*) and native populations of wild service tree (*Sorbus domestica*), as well as rare invertebrates, and populations of notable nesting birds such as raven, peregrine falcon and possibly chough. The coast also includes some areas of soft rock cliff which are vulnerable to erosion, but which are especially valuable for invertebrates.

Other maritime and coastal habitats of particular interest include minor wooded stream valleys ('cwms') opening at the coast, areas of limestone and coastal grassland and scrub, seepages, saltmarsh, open mud, shingle, sand and offshore tubeworm reefs. The large enclosed waters of the Barry Docks, whilst subject to disturbance from surrounding development, are nevertheless valuable for wintering and passage seabirds, waders and wildfowl.

Limestone Grassland

Much of the Vale lies on limestone or limestone-derived geology, but the basic (alkaline) effects of this are not always evident in the vegetation, which is typically more characteristic of neutral conditions. It seems probable

that the natural alkalinity of the underlying rocks is suppressed by a combination of deep overlying soils and the effects of agricultural improvement.

Nevertheless, the Vale does contain some extensive areas of limestone grassland, especially where the Carboniferous Limestone is close to the surface. These occur chiefly at the far western end of the Vale in the area known as Ogmore Common and Old Castle Down, which comprises a mosaic of neutral, calcareous and acid grasslands, limestone heath and small areas of calcareous ancient semi-natural woodland and scrub, supporting a number of rare plant and fauna species.

Much of this area is common land and is subject to variable grazing, often at lower levels than is desirable. Ogmore Common is also subject to high recreational use, and there is active limestone quarrying.

Small areas and patches of limestone grassland also occur elsewhere in the Vale where limestone influences are conspicuous, but seem to be chiefly confined to the coastal fringe.

Neutral Grassland

Much the largest part of the Vale lies on Lias geology and, as noted above, whilst the Lias is calcareous in nature the pasture grasslands it supports more usually tend towards neutral (mesotrophic) vegetation, although in many areas there is a detectable component of calcareous species.

Most of the pasture of the Vale has been improved, albeit quite lightly, for agriculture, but there remain a large number of fragments of unimproved or semi-improved neutral grassland. These vary in size from odd field corners to areas of up to five or six fields together.

A particular feature of these grasslands is the occurrence of MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus* - *Centaurea nigra* grasslands, as classified by the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) of Rodwell (1992). This species-rich community has declined greatly throughout its British and European range, and is particularly scarce in South Wales, where all remaining examples are of value.

MG5 grassland is probably the natural community type for the grasslands of the Lias Vale in their original, unmodified state, but agricultural improvement has driven most examples towards the less diverse and more widespread MG6 *Lolium perenne* - *Cynosurus cristatus* community (referred to as 'semi-improved neutral grassland'). In their most improved condition, they are classed as MG7 *Lolium perenne* grasslands, a species-poor community of comparatively limited botanical interest.

Scarce and uncommon species associated with MG5 grasslands include pepper saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), several stations for which are recorded in the Vale.

Marshlands and Wetlands

Where pastures lie on clay soils in the Vale, neutral marshlands develop. These are typically dominated by rushes (*Juncus* spp), but are often rich in other marshland species as well. A particular feature of the Vale is the presence of M22 *Juncus subnodulosus* - *Cirsium palustre* marshlands (Rodwell 1991), a species-rich fen-meadow community which is uncommon both nationally and regionally. This community occurs at a few sites in the Lias Vale, but is typically patchy and small-scale. *Juncus subnodulosus* (blunt-flowered rush) is itself an uncommon species, and other notable associates include various species of marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza* spp).

Elsewhere the marshlands are more typically of the M23 *Juncus effusus/acutiflorus* - *Galium palustre* type, a widespread and variable community, or less frequently of the M24 *Molinia caerulea* - *Cirsium dissectum* type. Unimproved and well-managed examples of these communities may be very species-rich and are important in

supporting the rare and declining marsh fritillary butterfly (*Eurodryas aurinia*), several populations of which occur in the Vale. Another notable species is meadow thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), which occurs in many of the richer Vale marshlands.

Other marshland features in the Vale include a few small areas of reed swamp, base-rich seepages, acid bog and peat marsh. Reed swamps occur chiefly in the northern and eastern Vale, usually on the Glacial boulder clays and sands and gravels. They are particularly important for nesting birds. Base-rich seepages are a particular feature of the coast, and are important for invertebrates, including the pretty Red Data Book cranefly *Dicranomyia goritiensis* and various soldierflies.

Acid bog and peat wetlands are rare in the Vale, where little peat exists, but do occur very locally where soil conditions are suitable. The lowland peat marsh at Morfa Ystradowen is notable as one of the few large areas where peat conditions exist, but other important examples include the acid swamp at Pysgodlyn Mawr and Cadoxton Ponds. These features are all important for aquatic invertebrates, especially dragonflies and damselflies.

Acid Grasslands, Heathland and Bracken

These habitats are comparatively scarce in the Vale, being restricted to areas where geology and/or soils combine to produce suitable nutrient-poor or acid, well-drained conditions.

Key sites include the Ogmere Common/Old Castle Down area, where acid grasslands and bracken occur on blown sand, and heathland has developed on limestone which has been leached of nutrients ('limestone heath'). The latter is an unusual and scarce habitat nationally, and is of high botanical interest.

Acid grasslands and bracken also occur in the Aberthin/St Hilary area, where Old Red Sandstone and associated acid, sandy soils break through the surrounding (and chiefly alkaline-neutral) Lias. In addition, a number of the common lands in the eastern and central Vale are characterised by bracken cover, such as Mynydd Ruthin and Gower Common.

The acid grasslands and heathlands of Ogmere Common and Old Castle Down are important for a range of uncommon plants, invertebrates and birds. The bracken sites are also valuable, with some supporting populations of the rare and protected high brown fritillary (*Argynnis adippe*), which feeds on dog-violets (*Viola* spp) growing beneath light bracken canopy.

Bracken cover is often cited as being of low nature conservation value in Britain, especially where it forms dense monocultural stands with deep underlying litter. In many parts of South Wales, however, bracken cover tends to remain comparatively light, and in addition to providing habitat for specialist invertebrates such as high brown and other fritillary butterflies, may also support distinctive communities of nesting birds such as tree pipit, whinchat, wheatear, yellowhammer and cuckoo, several of which are nationally in decline and therefore of conservation interest (Tyler 1988).

Woodlands and Scrub

The Vale is not especially well-wooded, particularly to the west, having comparatively few areas of extensive semi-natural woodland. There are, however, a large number of small woodlands and copses which, together with an unusually well-preserved network of hedges and, in some areas, comparatively small field sizes, combines to give the impression of a well-wooded landscape.

In the central and western Vale, woodland is typically confined to the steeper slopes of stream and river valleys, with narrow ribbons of ancient semi-natural woodland radiating out along the tributaries. In the eastern part,

woodland spreads out more extensively across shallow topography associated with the Carboniferous Limestone, Lias and Triassic strata.

A high proportion of the Vale woodlands are ancient (ie they can be dated by documentary means to at least 1600AD) and semi-natural (ie containing a high proportion of native broadleaved tree species), a combination regarded as having the highest nature conservation value. Comparatively few have been converted to conifers, with rather more having been replanted with broadleaved trees, some of which are non-native. In many cases, however, the broadleaf-replanted woodlands retain considerable similarity with nearby ancient semi-natural woodlands in terms of the ground flora, shrub-layer and fauna species, a good example being the extensively-replanted ancient woodlands of the Leckwith area and Cwrt-yr-ala.

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) are the main tree species, the former particularly on the Carboniferous Limestone and calcareous soils of the Lias and Triassic Vale. Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), possibly including a few examples of native trees, occurs occasionally as does hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*).

The Vale contains numerous fine example of calcareous woodlands with rich ground floras, many of which are identified as SSSIs or afforded some other level of recognition. Examples include the Leckwith Woods, the Porthkerry Country Park woods, Cwrt-yr-ala, the Woodland Trust Reserve at Cwm George and the Nant Whitton woodlands. Amongst the rare and uncommon species present in such woods are herb paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), goldilocks buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Italian cuckoopint (*Arum italicum*).

The woodlands are also important for fauna such as nesting birds, invertebrates and, in one location at least, dormouse. Many species of bat, including the rare and declining lesser horseshoe bat, feed and roost in well-wooded stream valleys. Amongst the invertebrates present are uncommon butterflies such as white-letter hairstreak (*Strymonidia w-album*).

The Vale also contains remnants of a number of medieval deer parks, such as at Ewenny, Coed Marchan and St Donats. Deer parks were often created from ancient woodland and are today characterised by the presence of large, ancient pollard trees, which in turn support characteristic faunas of rare and scarce invertebrates (especially Coleoptera and Diptera), and lichens.

In addition to broadleaved woodlands, the Vale also has a few large conifer plantations, the largest being Hensol Forest. Whilst not generally considered as valuable for nature conservation as broadleaved woodlands, these larger areas are nevertheless significant for certain specialist breeding birds, such as nightjar for example. Hensol Forest also surrounds and, to some extent, shelters the acid swamp and lake of Pysgodlyn Mawr SSSI.

Scrub communities are a particular feature of the coast, where they may be of significance for passage migrant and nesting summer-visiting birds, as well as supporting rare plants such as purple gromwell. Scrub is also widespread elsewhere inland, often forming habitat linkages between areas of higher quality habitat, for example along stream valleys and disused railway lines.

Major River Valleys and Stream Systems

The single largest river system in the Vale is that of the Thaw and Kenson rivers, almost the whole catchment of which falls within the county. This represents a huge and complex system of habitats varying from saltmarsh and sedge swamp at the coast, through neutral riverside meadows, marshes and woodlands, to minor tributaries and ditches penetrating far inland, all linked into a continuous linear corridor of semi-natural habitats.

The Vale also includes sections of the Ogmore/Ewenny and Ely river systems, and includes the catchment of the River Alun. These are similarly important in the context of the Vale, providing linear corridors of linked habitats encompassing woodlands, marshlands, neutral grasslands, scrub, saltmarsh and brackish estuaries.

The rivers themselves are important for scarce and declining birds such as kingfisher, sand martin, dipper and heron, and for otter, a rare and protected mammal. Monk's-hood (*Aconitum napellus*), a rare plant nationally, occurs with some frequency along the banks and tributaries of the Ely River in the Vale. Riverside marshlands and 'moors' (low-lying floodplain meadows), such as those at Peterstone and Pendoylan on the Ely, are valuable sites for nesting and wintering waders, whilst the numerous valleyside woodlands are often ancient and of high biodiversity.

The Vale also includes numerous smaller stream systems, often wooded and undisturbed, such as the series of 'cwms' which open along the western coast.

Lakes and Ponds

Large inland lakes are comparatively few in the Vale, but are of considerable importance for birds and invertebrates such as dragonflies and water beetles. Key sites include the large lakes at Cosmeston Country Park and Hensol Lake. There are also a number of smaller lakes, including Llwyn-yoy pond (near Hensol Lake), Hensol Millpond, Cadoxton Ponds, Twyn Pond, the lake at Pysgodlyn Mawr and the St y Nyll ponds. A number of the disused quarries also have lakes of varying quality present, such as the Rhoose Point lagoons.

The Vale also has numerous small farm and field ponds, especially on the Lias clays. A limited survey in selected areas carried out in 1994 (HCI 1994) indicated the widespread presence of great crested newt, a rare and protected species in Britain. This species could also occur in many other ponds in the Vale. Many of these smaller ponds are also of value for dragonflies, waterfowl and common amphibians, and some contain uncommon water plants.

Hedgerows

The Vale retains a high proportion of hedges, many of which are old and species-rich. Old and diverse hedges are especially numerous on the Lias and Triassic Vale, but are probably rather less numerous on the Carboniferous Limestone where limestone walls are more common.

There has been no systematic survey of the hedges of the county, but a large sample of hedges in the central Vale was surveyed for floristic diversity in the 1970's (Masters 1973), and there have been more recent studies of smaller areas in connection with road scheme and development proposals. These studies indicate that hedges containing 7-9 woody species per 30m length are not uncommon in the Vale, with many containing far more, whilst the associated hedge banks support often diverse ground floras of common woodland species.

Some parts of the Vale retain small field sizes with excellent networks of hedges, especially in the less-fertile Glacial Vale. Such areas are likely to be of especial value in supporting hedgerow birds (many 'common' species of which are declining sharply in Britain), small mammals and invertebrates. Over extensive areas of the Lias, however, there has been a consistent trend towards the removal of hedges and increasing field size, a feature especially notable in areas such as Monknash and Llantwit Major.

Other Features of Value

Improved grasslands: as noted above, much of the Vale pastureland has been improved for agriculture and is comparatively species-poor. In many areas, however, this improvement has been relatively light. Elements of the semi-natural vegetation frequently persist, especially in less-fertile parts of the county, and such grassland is perhaps more correctly regarded as semi-improved. It is probable that the CCW Phase 1 survey considerably underestimated the extent of such grassland, which has some intrinsic botanical interest and considerable potential for restoration and enhancement.

Whilst improved and species-poor grasslands retain little botanical interest, they may nevertheless be significant for fauna, especially where they occur in the context of small field sizes, nearby semi-natural woodlands and frequent hedges, or where they are marshy or prone to flooding. Wader species such as lapwing and golden plover may use these areas for wintering or nesting, barn owl may hunt across them, and notable mammals such as brown hare and badger may use them for foraging. Damp improved pastures can be an important source of invertebrates (such as tipulid craneflies) hunted by foraging bats.

Limestone walls may themselves be valuable for a range of saxicolous (stone-encrusting) lichens and mural (wall-dwelling) plants and mosses, as well as offering habitats to a wide range of characteristic molluscs and other invertebrates, wintering amphibians and mammals etc.

Road verges are a comparatively minor element of the Vale's ecology, although wide roadside verges remain numerous and are often diverse in grassland species, especially in the limestone areas, where common orchid species frequently occur. Where sheltered and sparsely vegetated invertebrate interest may be high, for example amongst solitary bees and wasps. It is worth noting that the local authority has a series of about 40 Highway Conservation Zones, where management policy is directed towards the increase and maintenance of diverse verge grasslands. The list of Highway Conservation Zones is currently under review.

Disused railway lines are fairly numerous in the eastern and central Vale. Whilst seldom supporting rare species, unmodified sections are important in providing long corridors of semi-natural habitats, especially through built-up areas and intensive agricultural landscapes, often linking together series of smaller sites which might otherwise be isolated. As with road verges, sheltered and sparsely vegetated sections may have high invertebrate interest.

Quarries: The Vale contains numerous quarries, many still active. These usually penetrate into the limestone, and when disused have frequently developed locally significant limestone ledge communities, grasslands and mixed scrub. Some abandoned areas of quarry spoil and associated processing areas have also developed vegetation and habitat features of local interest. These are in turn utilised by invertebrates including, for example, the uncommon small blue butterfly (*Cupido minimus*). Some of the quarries also have lakes and pools present, with variably developed emergent and aquatic floras, supporting wildfowl, dragonflies and other invertebrates. Some high and inaccessible quarry faces are also used by notable nesting birds such as peregrine falcon.

Cosmeston Country Park was created in an old quarry site, and includes two large lakes. The park is now a major site of ecological significance in the Vale. Other sites of nature conservation value include Longlands Quarry and the Rhoose Point cement works and lagoons.

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NATURE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The main management issues with respect to nature conservation in the Vale of Glamorgan are briefly set out below:

- threats to the coastal and maritime habitats from unsuitable development for recreation and industry; offshore mineral extraction; unsuitable erosion-control; increasing recreational use; pollution; agricultural intensification.
- coast requires integrated management policy to protect most sensitive areas, including relaxation of agriculture in the cliff-top hinterland.
- continued degradation and/or loss of species-rich neutral grasslands and marshes, through development, drainage, agricultural improvement, neglect etc.
- opportunities for enhancement of remaining grassland and marshland through sensitive agricultural management; restoration and enlargement of species-rich vegetation to link remaining fragments in key areas.
- 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; linking existing isolated ancient semi-natural woodland blocks together; encourage sensitive management of woodlands through incentive schemes.
- 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 is required.
- small farm and field ponds are deteriorating through neglect or loss, or through eutrophication by agricultural sources: encourage restoration and creation of new ponds through incentive schemes.
- conserve and enhance peatland sites; protect Morfa Ystradowen from further improvement; reverse present drainage.
- develop detailed database of nature conservation information for the Vale through formal Biological Records Centre; instigate detailed studies of known and potential interests.
- identify series of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs); give recognition/protection in planning policy; encourage sensitive management and enhancement through incentive schemes.
- a local Biodiversity Action Plan should be compiled for the Vale of Glamorgan, comprehensively addressing all of these issues.

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Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

- SSSI Notification Schedules
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey maps (1:10,000) and Target Notes
- Phase 2 Habitat Survey database
- Red Data Book and rare species records

Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC)

- Local Nature Reserve boundaries
- aerial photograph coverage at 1:10,000, 1991 (Geonex series)

Glamorgan Wildlife Trust (GWT)

- GWT Nature Reserve boundaries and details
- listings of Red Data Book and Nationally Scarce species

Consultees

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

- Andrew Peterken
- Louise Thornhill
- Mary Williams

Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC)

- Steve Latham: Country Parks and Common Lands Officer
- Paul Dunn: Heritage Coast Officer
- Margaret Humphreys: Countryside Section

Glamorgan Wildlife Trust (GWT)

- Nigel Ajax-Lewis: Conservation Officer

Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)

- Julian Woodman (based at CCW)





Bridgend County Borough Council

- Steve Moon: County Ecologist



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number (see Text)
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







VEGETATION & HABITATS-COMPONENTS

West



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High Intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest Intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



VEGETATION & HABITATS-COMPONENTS

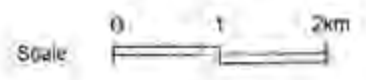
Central



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
- Areas of Outstanding Value
- Areas of High Intrinsic value
- Areas of Modest intrinsic value
- Other Areas



**VEGETATION & HABITATS-
COMPONENTS**

East

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/01

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Vale of Glamorgan Coast

How would you classify this area?

Maritime coastal and cliff habitats

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Neutral and calcareous coastal grasslands; cliff communities; saltmarsh and shingle communities; estuarine sand and mud habitats; scrub and low semi-natural woodland (especially in valley mouths); cliff-top hinterland chiefly improved grassland and/or arable; foreshore and sub-littoral habitats

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Severn Estuary SPA, pSAC and Ramsar Site (part only)

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Severn Estuary SSSI (part only)
Sutton Flats SSSI (geological)
Southern Down Coast SSSI
Monknash Coast SSSI
Nash Lighthouse Meadow SSSI
East Aberthaw Coast SSSI
Cliff Wood - Golden Stairs SSSI
Barry Island SSSI (geological)
Hayes Point to Bendrick Rock SSSI (geological)
Sully Island SSSI
Penarth Coast SSSI
Taff-Ely Estuary SSSI (part only)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Cliff Wood, Porthkerry LNR

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

Numerous other features of nature conservation value, including:

- part of Ogmore Common
- Cwm Col-huw GWT Reserve
- series of small wooded 'cwm' valleys with streams discharging at coast
- Aberthaw Saltmarsh GWT Reserve
- Lavernock Point GWT Reserve
- areas of species-rich unimproved/semi-improved neutral/calcareous grassland
- important cliff-nesting bird areas (including raven, chough, peregrine falcon)
- important areas for roosting/feeding/wintering birds, especially waders
- rare and scarce invertebrates, plants and lichens associated with cliffs and seepages
- foreshore *Sabellaria* reefs and sub-littoral habitats

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Extensive and ±uninterrupted stretch of high quality maritime and coastal habitats supporting rare and declining species; nationally significant ecological, geological and topographical features; localised pressures from development (including industrial) and recreational use; threat of pollution from offshore and onshore sources, including localised eutrophication of coastal streams and waterbodies; exploitation of offshore mineral resources (eg sand); agricultural intensification of hinterland right to cliff edge; potential for inappropriate anti-erosion measures; localised adverse impact at eastern end due to Cardiff Barrage construction

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; protect against degradation by development, pollution, inappropriate recreational use etc; encourage relaxation of agriculture in immediate hinterland area (eg, buffer zone of $\geq 200\text{m}$), through appropriate agri-environment scheme; maintain/enhance anti-pollution measures.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
--	---	--

The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	
--	---	--

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- review/extend protection through appropriate designation (SSSI, SNCI, LNR etc)
- encourage appropriate management through agri-environment schemes such as Tir Cymen
- review management of recreational use to focus impact away from sensitive/undisturbed areas
- develop strategy for 'managed retreat' in erosion vulnerable areas
- enhance water quality through appropriate offshore-discharge improvement measures
- maintain/review risk assessment, control and emergency measures to deal with offshore pollution events
- maintain/review offshore and coastal development policies to ensure protection of habitats

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/02

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Ogmore Down, Old Castle Down and the Lower Alun Valley

How would you classify this area?

Open sheep-grazed grasslands and scrub, with semi-natural woodlands on slopes to south-east, flanked by river valley system in enclosed valley to the east

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Mosaic of neutral, calcareous and acid grasslands; limestone heath; small area of calcareous ancient semi-natural woodland; riparian habitats; scrub and bracken slopes

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Old Castle Down SSSI

Coed y Bwl SSSI

Cnap Twt SSSI (geological)

Pant & Ewenny Quarries (geological)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- Coed y Bwl GWT Reserve
- part of, and continuous with, larger Ogmore Common
- three designated SNCIs (Bridgend County Council)
- rare plants and invertebrates present, including rare and protected butterfly associated with light bracken cover
- disused (and some active?) quarries with skeletal and ledge plant communities, and peripheral scrub habitats
- important for nesting and wintering birds
- rare and protected mammals (otter, ?water vole) present
- Lower Alun Valley forms part of a larger riparian habitat system extending throughout the western Vale

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Large area of high quality limestone habitats, supporting rare, scarce and protected species; part of a major, largely unmodified river system of high ecological value; variable grazing regime (common land), with potential for bracken/scrub invasion where undergrazed; woodlands grazed by stock from commons; possible impact from quarrying; localised intensive recreational use, fires, litter etc; woodland managed by GWT; river potentially vulnerable to low summer flows and compromised water quality

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; protect against degradation by inappropriate recreational use etc; more controlled grazing; control of scrub and dense bracken, although the latter is an important habitat for rare butterflies where not too dense; review quarrying activity?

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			*
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			*
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- extend protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- ensure continued grazing of grasslands
- supply infrastructure to allow controlled grazing of commons (cattle grids, fencing etc)
- investigate possibility of temporary fencing to contain stock where most needed
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing (on block rotation basis), with removal of cuttings

- encourage appropriate agricultural management in adjacent areas through agri-environment schemes such as Tir Cymen
- maintain high water quality in river system
- manage woodlands for nature conservation through appropriate incentives, such as Tir Cymen
- periodic scrub clearance management on downs
- commission research into habitat and management needs of protected butterfly on this site
- suitable bracken management may include annual mowing on block rotation, annual mowing of glades etc
- guard against fire in late summer

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/03

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Pysgodlyn Mawr

How would you classify this area?

Small area of wetland within forestry setting

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Open water; sedge swamp; acid bog

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Pysgodlyn Mawr SSSI (same boundary)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- rare plant present
- rare and scarce invertebrates present, including dragonflies
- contained within larger feature of high ecological value (see 23)

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Nationally significant wetland site, supporting rare and declining species; uncommon habitat (bog, acid marsh) in Vale of Glamorgan; surrounded by largely coniferous forest; remote and largely undisturbed; potentially vulnerable to pollution of water sources; potentially vulnerable to drying-out/succession to drier habitats if water supplies fail; rare dragonfly species associated with adjacent conifer cover; need to balance nature conservation interests against recreational use (mainly angling) and forestry

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; protect against degradation through deteriorated water quality (ie within catchment)

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
--	------	-------

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*
--	---

The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- enhance where possible by sensitive management of surrounding area
- protect key water sources from pollution
- remove trees from nearby marshy areas in surrounding area and encourage development of supporting wetland habitats
- do not encourage greater access

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/04

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Nant Whitton Woodlands

How would you classify this area?

Broadleaved ancient semi-natural woodland on Liassic limestone slope

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Ash/oak woodland with mixed understorey and calcareous ground flora.

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Nant Whitton Woodlands SSSI (same boundary)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- contains Coed Garnllwyd GWT Reserve
- scarce plants and invertebrates present
- small streams draining through woodland
- part of larger woodland system of high ecological value (see H17)

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Nationally significant woodland habitat, supporting scarce species; requires sensitive woodland management; largely managed by GWT.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Continue appropriate woodland management; protect/maintain present range of high quality woodland habitats, including mature timber/deadwood habitats.

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly Desirable* *Desirable*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected *

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced *

The key qualities and elements are subject to change *

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- continue present conservation management, including small-scale coppicing and open glade/ride management

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Upper Ely River

How would you classify this area?

Lowland river system in shallow valley.

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Open flowing, meandering river, variously flanked woodlands or open grasslands

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Ely Valley SSSI (part only)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- Gwern Rhyd GWT Reserve
- rare plant present
- rare and scarce birds, invertebrates and mammals occur, including otter, water vole and kingfisher
- forms part of larger system including riverside 'moors' (see 15,16), semi-natural woodlands and scrub habitats, riverside flood-meadows and marshy grasslands
- continuous with Lower River Ely (see 22)

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Major river system of national ecological significance, supporting rare and declining species; many unmodified sections; some sections modified by adjacent development (eg M4 motorway); water quality may be compromised by run-off from adjacent developed areas; moderate-high recreational use in some sections; potentially vulnerable to low summer flows.

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
------------------------	--------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality riparian habitats; prevent further encroachment/modification by adjacent developments; maintain water quality and water flow dynamics; encourage sensitive riverside land-uses and management; maintain suitable buffer zones with adjacent agricultural land

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
-----------------------------------	------------------	-------------------------	------------------

<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
--	------	-------

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
--	---	--

The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- encourage appropriate agricultural management in adjacent areas through agri-environment schemes such as Tir Cymen
- encourage enhancement of marshy grassland habitats of flood plain
- maintain water quality through Local Environment Agency Plan, with periodic review
- extend protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR) of adjacent high quality habitats
- avoid further canalisation/hard engineering to control erosion

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/06

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Cwm Cydfin

How would you classify this area?

Wooded tributary of the Lower Ely River

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Broadleaved semi-natural ancient woodland; riverine habitats; brackish mud

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Cwm Cydfin SSSI (same boundary)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- tidal riverine mud banks ('saltings')
- Nant Cydfin stream
- exposed cliffs and rocks
- forms part of larger system of semi-natural woodlands (see 21)

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Small area of nationally significant semi-natural woodland and river system; partially modified by recent road development; suburban location - some inappropriate 'recreational' use, vandalism etc; water quality variable, receives run-off; tidality will be lost with construction of the Cardiff Bay Barrage

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain high quality woodland and riverine habitats; prevent further encroachment by adjacent developments; manage/control adverse recreational use; maintain water quality

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- extend protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR) of adjacent areas
- maintain woodland with appropriate management for nature conservation
- retain present range of woodland habitats, including mature timber/deadwood habitats

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/07

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Cosmeston Park and Lakes

How would you classify this area?

Country Park on former quarry, containing large lakes and other habitats

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Lakes with open water, reed swamps and adjacent marshy grasslands, carr and scrub; other habitats chiefly broad-leaved plantation, scrub and calcareous grasslands

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Cosmeston Park SSSI (same boundary)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- forms part of larger Country Park containing habitats of high quality (see 14)
- supports rare and scarce plants, invertebrates, amphibians, birds and mammals
- important bird nesting and wintering habitats

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Area of nationally significant wetland and associated habitats; high levels of recreational use; suburban location, prone to vandalism.

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; manage recreational pressure so as to maintain habitat quality; limit/control adverse recreational use/vandalism.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- develop comprehensive management plan for whole park
- continue/extend appropriate interpretative and educational use

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/08

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Ogmore Commons

How would you classify this area?

Extensive area of common land alongside Ogmore River

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Chiefly semi-improved calcareous grassland, with some areas of acid and dune grasslands, neutral grasslands and bracken

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- adjacent to the similar, but rather richer, habitats of Ogmore and Old Castle Down (see 02)
- supports rare and protected butterfly associated with light bracken cover
- important for nesting and wintering birds

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Large area of high to moderate quality limestone habitats; variable grazing regime (common land), with potential for bracken/scrub invasion where undergrazed; grazing potential limited by lack of infrastructure and adjacent land uses; localised intensive recreational use, fires, litter etc.

Area's intrinsic value

Outstanding

High

Modest

Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance habitats; protect against degradation by inappropriate recreational use etc; more controlled grazing; possible control of scrub and dense bracken, although the latter is an important habitat for rare butterflies where not too dense.

Importance of achieving objective

Essential

Highly Desirable

Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

*

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

*

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- ensure continued grazing of grasslands
- provide infrastructure for controlled grazing (eg cattle grids, fencing etc)
- investigate possibility of temporary fencing to contain stock where most needed
- continue to confine vehicles to selected parking areas by use of natural barriers (ditches, boulder rows etc)
- periodic scrub clearance and bracken management
- commission survey for protected butterfly on this site and manage bracken cover accordingly
- suitable management may include annual mowing of blocks on rotation, annual clearance of rides etc

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Ogmore and Ewenny Rivers

How would you classify this area?

River valley system discharging at the coast

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Lower Ogmore River tidal, with saltmarsh, sand and shingle communities downstream. The tributary Ewenny River is more enclosed, freshwater, with flanking woodlands and scrub.

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- Ogmore River is designated SNCI (Bridgend County Council)
- both are important linear habitats used by nesting and wintering birds
- forms part of a larger system extending outside of the Vale

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Part of major river system of high ecological significance; largely unmodified; moderate-high recreational use in some sections; potentially vulnerable to low summer flows and compromised water quality;

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
------------------------	--------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance riparian habitats; maintain water quality and water flow dynamics; encourage sensitive riverside land-uses and management; maintain suitable buffer zones with adjacent agricultural land

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
--	------	-------

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*
--	---

The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*
--	---

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- encourage appropriate agricultural management in adjacent areas through agri-environment schemes such as Tir Cymen
- maintain water quality through Local Environment Plan
- extend protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR) of adjacent high quality habitats
- avoid canalisation/hard engineering measures to combat erosion

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Clemenstone Meadows

How would you classify this area?

Series of grasslands alongside Clemenstone Brook

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland and marshy fen-meadow

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Clemenstone Meadows SSSI

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- adjacent species-rich grasslands and marsh (non-SSSI)
- section of Clemenstone Brook, a tributary of the Alun River

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Traditionally managed fen-meadow; species-rich grasslands

Area's intrinsic value

Outstanding

High

Modest

Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; maintain traditional grassland/meadow management

Importance of achieving objective

Essential

Highly Desirable

Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

*

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

*

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- continue seasonal regime of mowing and grazing and extend to adjacent areas
- encourage enhancement of adjacent non-SSSI grasslands through non-intensive agriculture
- support non-intensive agricultural management through incentive schemes such as Tir Cymen

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/11

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Mynydd Ruthin

How would you classify this area?

Open common land

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Light bracken cover; neutral grassland; scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCLs, other landscape features)

- rare and protected butterfly present, associated with light bracken cover
- important bird site

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Important habitat feature supporting rare butterfly; largely ungrazed and unmanaged; some adverse recreational use; vehicle parking; litter and fly-tipping

Area's intrinsic value

Outstanding

High

Modest

Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; management for rare butterfly; extend/maintain open grasslands; control adverse recreational use

Importance of achieving objective

Essential

Highly Desirable

Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

*

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

*

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- limit bracken to specified areas
- provide infrastructure for controlled grazing (eg cattle grids, fencing etc)
- reintroduce grazing, or if impractical, mowing regime with cuttings removed from site
- mow blocks of bracken and rides through dense bracken on annual rotation to maintain light open cover
- use natural barriers (ditches, boulders) to limit vehicular access
- clear scrub periodically to maintain light cover of scattered trees and clumps at edges
- regular clearance of litter and refuse
- guard against fires in late summer

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/12

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Thaw and Kenson River Valley system

How would you classify this area?

Main natural river valley system in the Vale

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Riparian habitats; semi-improved and unimproved neutral grasslands and marshlands; tall fen/swamp; semi-natural woodlands; saltmarsh

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- important linear habitat system used by nesting and wintering birds, including kingfisher
- lower portion tidal and brackish, important for birds, plants and invertebrates
- rare and protected mammals (otter, water vole) present
- rare and scarce invertebrates present, including dragonflies
- most of catchment contained within the Vale

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Major river system of high ecological significance; extensively unmodified except near coast and urban areas; potentially vulnerable to low summer flows and compromised water quality; associated wetlands and grasslands vulnerable to change/loss; major habitat losses incurred in estuary through development; possible impact to nationally-significant coastal habitats

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance riparian habitats; maintain water quality and water flow characteristics; ensure minimal impact from future development; encourage sensitive riverside land-uses and management; encourage appropriate management of associated wetlands; maintain suitable buffer zones with adjacent agricultural land; appropriate woodland management

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?	True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- encourage appropriate agricultural management in adjacent areas through agri-environment schemes such as Tir Cymen
- encourage suitable grazing of riverside marshes and grasslands
- generally encourage enhancement and/or creation of wetland habitats
- maintain high water quality through Local Environment Agency Plan
- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SSSI, SNCI, LNR) of river and adjacent high quality habitats
- manage adjacent woodlands for nature conservation through appropriate incentives, such as Tir Cymen
- ensure no further loss of habitats in estuary
- encourage restoration of habitats in estuary where feasible

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Morfa Ystradowen

How would you classify this area?

Small area of valley mire

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Lowland bog; dry and wet heath; marshy grasslands; carr woodlands; scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCI, other landscape features)

- only significant area of peat bog habitat in the Vale
- former SSSI
- important bird site
- supports scarce invertebrates, including dragonflies

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Unusual and restricted habitat in Vale; some areas degraded by agriculture; vulnerable to further improvement and drying-out; encroachment by scrub

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; prevent further degradation; increase area of bog habitat

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cymen
- investigate potential for increased hydrological control to encourage recovery/development of bog
- periodic scrub clearance from open bog
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding fields

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/14

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?
Forest Fach and Talygarn Farms

How would you classify this area?
Unintensively managed lowland farmland

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?
Mosaic of unimproved/semi-improved neutral grasslands and marsh; swamp; open water; semi-natural woodland and scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?
If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?
If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?
If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?
[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- large population of rare butterfly
- scarce marshland plants

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:
Declining grassland/marsh habitats of high value; traditional non-intensive agriculture; mosaic of other habitats

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:
Retain and enhance high quality habitats; extend areas of species-rich grassland and marsh; continue traditional management

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>		
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cymen
- continue traditional management of grasslands/marshlands with winter grazing by cattle
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing with clearance of cuttings
- periodic scrub clearance from open marsh
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding fields
- encourage conversion of coniferous and non-native broad-leaved plantations in immediate vicinity to native broadleaves
- encourage management of woodlands for nature conservation (glades and rides etc)
- periodic clearance of encroaching scrub from swamp areas

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/15

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Crynalft ('Bosch Factory')

How would you classify this area?

Unintensively managed lowland farmland

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Mosaic of unimproved/semi-improved neutral grasslands and marsh; semi-natural woodland and scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNClS, other landscape features)

- large population of rare butterfly
- scarce marshland plants
- falls within River Ely valley (see 05)

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Declining grassland/marsh habitats of high value; traditional non-intensive agriculture; mosaic of other habitats; pressure from development of adjacent industrial area

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; extend areas of species-rich grassland and marsh; continue traditional management

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCl, LNR)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cymen
- continue traditional management of grasslands/marshlands with winter grazing by cattle
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing with clearance of cuttings
- periodic scrub clearance from open marsh
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding fields
- encourage management of woodlands for nature conservation (glades and rides etc)
- periodic clearance of encroaching scrub from swamp areas
- negotiate with landowner to confine any further development to less-sensitive areas of site

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/16

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Pendoylan and Peterstone Moors

How would you classify this area?

Unintensively managed lowland farmland in floodplain of Ely River (see 005)

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Mosaic of unimproved/semi-improved/improved neutral grasslands and marsh; ditches; semi-natural woodland and scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- important area for nesting and wintering birds, especially waders
- scarce marshland plants
- numerous small ditches and watercourses
- good area for invertebrates
- rare plant (monk's-hood) occurs locally throughout area

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Declining grassland/marsh habitats of high value; traditional non-intensive agriculture; mosaic of other habitats including extensive areas of improved grassland; remote and largely undisturbed location

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; extend areas of species-rich grassland and marsh; continue traditional management

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cyman
- continue traditional management of grasslands/marshlands with winter grazing by cattle
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing with clearance of cuttings
- periodic scrub clearance from open marsh
- generally encourage enhancement and/or creation of wetland habitats
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding improved fields
- encourage management of woodlands for nature conservation (eg managed glades and rides etc)

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/17

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Coed Quinnett, Whitton Rosser

How would you classify this area?

Broadleaved woodland and grassland along course of small stream

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Ash/oak woodland with mixed understorey and calcareous ground flora; semi-improved neutral grasslands and marsh; swamp

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Nant Whitton Woodlands SSSI (same boundary)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- continuous with, and adjunct to, Nant Whitton Woodlands SSSI
- scarce plants and invertebrates present
- ponds with protected amphibian (great crested newt) recorded
- small streams draining through woodland

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Valuable woodland and grassland habitat, supporting scarce species; requires sensitive management; grassland vulnerable to improvement

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; continue traditional non-intensive agricultural management; extend areas of species-rich grassland and marsh; continue traditional management

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>		
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*				
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*				
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*				
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cymen
- continue traditional management of grasslands/marshlands ideally with winter grazing by cattle
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing with clearance of cuttings
- periodic scrub clearance from open marsh areas
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding improved fields
- encourage management of woodlands for nature conservation (eg managed glades and rides etc, favouring native species, exclusion of grazing)

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/18

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Porthkerry Country Park

How would you classify this area?

Wooded stream valley opening at coast

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Broadleaved semi-natural woodland on slopes of stream valley; improved/semi-improved neutral/calcareous grassland on valley floor; cliffs, shingle and open sand communities at coast (included in coastal area, 001)

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

contains Cliff Wood - Golden Stairs SSSI (included in coastal area, 01)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

contains Cliff Wood, Porthkerry LNR (included in coastal area, 01)

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- continuous with, and adjunct to, Cliff Wood - Golden Stairs SSSI and nationally-significant coastal area
- scarce plants and invertebrates present
- important site for nesting and wintering birds
- small streams draining through woodland
- important educational and recreational resource

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Valuable woodland, grassland and coastal habitats, supporting scarce species; heavy recreational use, requiring sensitive management; on-site wardens provide management; suburban location

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; balance nature conservation with recreational use; extend areas of species-rich grassland and native woodlands

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile detailed management plan for Country Park
- investigate use of computerised Countryside Management System for park
- concentrate recreational use in less-sensitive (ie non-SSSI) areas as far as possible
- encourage conversion of improved grasslands towards more species-rich swards, away from main parking/recreational areas, setting aside some areas if necessary
- investigate suitable grassland habitat enrichment techniques, such as nutrient depletion, reseeding, transplantation etc
- encourage greater grassland diversity through more varied mowing regimes (eg annual block-mowing on rotation)
- continue to manage woodlands primarily for nature conservation
- consider possible creation of new habitats such as inland ponds and wetlands
- continue acquisition of semi-natural habitats in adjacent lands as opportunities arise
- secure boundaries as far as possible, to discourage vandalism etc
- develop greater 'on-site' presence, possibly through a visitor centre
- centralise biological and research database for Country Park

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Cog Moors

How would you classify this area?

Ancient lowland pasture grassland and meadows

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland and marsh

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- small ponds, ditches and swamp habitats
- scarce plants

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Declining grassland and marsh habitats of high value; non-intensive pasture use

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; extend area of species-rich grassland and marsh; continue traditional non-intensive management

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cymen
- continue traditional management of grasslands/marshlands with winter grazing by cattle
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing with clearance of cuttings
- periodic scrub clearance from open marsh
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding fields
- maintenance of small ponds
- periodic clearance of encroaching scrub from swamp areas

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/20

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Cosmeston Lakes Country Park

How would you classify this area?

Country Park in converted quarry site

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Broadleaved semi-natural woodland; improved and semi-improved grasslands; wetlands and lakes; scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

contains Cosmeston Park SSSI (see 07)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- continuous with, and adjunct to, Cosmeston Park SSSI (see 07)
- scarce plants and invertebrates present
- important site for nesting and wintering birds
- important amphibian site, possibly supporting rare and protected great crested newt
- semi-natural ruderal habitats developing on reclaimed land
- important educational and recreational resource

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Valuable woodland, grassland and wetland habitats, supporting scarce species; heavy recreational use, requiring sensitive management; on-site wardens provide management; suburban location

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; balance nature conservation with recreational use; extend areas of species-rich grassland and native woodlands

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
--	---	--

The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	
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Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile detailed management plan for Country Park
- concentrate recreational use in less-sensitive (ie non-SSSI) areas as far as possible
- encourage conversion of improved grasslands towards more species-rich swards, away from main parking/recreational areas, setting aside some areas if necessary
- investigate suitable grassland habitat enrichment techniques, such as nutrient depletion, reseeding, transplantation etc
- encourage greater grassland diversity through more varied mowing regimes (eg annual block-mowing on rotation)
- continue to manage woodlands primarily for nature conservation
- consider possible creation of new habitats such as small ponds and wetlands
- secure boundaries as far as possible, to discourage vandalism etc
- continue acquisition of semi-natural habitats in adjacent lands as opportunities arise

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/21

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Leckwith Woods Complex

How would you classify this area?

Broadleaved woodlands and grasslands on steep slopes

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Ash/oak woodland with mixed understorey (chiefly replanted ancient woodlands) with generally calcareous ground flora; semi-improved neutral grasslands and marsh; hedgerows and shaws

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

contains Cwm Cydfin SSSI (see 06)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- continuous with, and adjunct to, Cwm Cydfin SSSI (see 06)
- contains Gower Common
- lies in part on upper slopes above Ely River (see 22)
- scarce plants and invertebrates present
- important site for nesting birds
- small streams draining through woodland

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Valuable woodland and grassland habitats, supporting scarce species; requires sensitive management; suburban location, with adverse 'recreational' impacts (eg vandalism, fires); grasslands vulnerable to improvement

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance high quality habitats; manage primarily for nature conservation; continue traditional non-intensive agricultural management of grasslands; extend areas of species-rich grassland and marsh; limit vandalism as far as possible

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			*
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			*
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR)
- encourage appropriate management through incentive/agri-environment scheme, such as Tir Cymen
- encourage management of woodlands for nature conservation (eg glades and rides etc, favouring native species; exclusion of grazing)
- continue traditional management of grasslands/marshlands ideally with winter grazing by cattle
- where grazing impractical, substitute late summer mowing with clearance of cuttings
- periodic scrub clearance from open marsh areas
- encourage non-intensive agriculture in surrounding improved fields

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/22

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Lower Ely River

How would you classify this area?

Tidal river valley

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Riparian habitats; semi-natural woodlands on banks; saltmarsh and brackish mud habitats; saline swamp and scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

- important linear habitat system used by nesting and wintering birds, possibly including kingfisher
- lower portion presently tidal and brackish, important for birds, plants and invertebrates
- rare and protected mammals (otter, water vole) probably present
- continuous with Ely Valley SSSI (upstream)

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Part of major river system of high ecological significance; extensively modified by adjacent development; potentially vulnerable to low summer flows and compromised water quality; suburban location, with adverse 'recreational' impacts (eg vandalism); tidality will be lost with construction of Cardiff Bay Barrage

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain and enhance riparian habitats; maintain water quality; ensure minimal impact from future development alongside; encourage sensitive riverside land-uses and management; woodland management for nature conservation

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>		
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>					
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- maintain high water quality through Local Environment Agency Plan
- recognise value and give protection through appropriate designation (eg SNCI, LNR) of river and adjacent high quality habitats
- manage adjacent woodlands for nature conservation through appropriate incentives, such as Tir Cymen
- seek to reduce suburban impacts through path management, fencing etc

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/23

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Hensol Forest

How would you classify this area?

Plantation woodland

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Coniferous plantation; some broadleaved plantation on ancient woodland site; small streams and marshy habitats; peripheral semi-improved grasslands; scrub

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

contains Pysgodlyn Mawr SSSI (see 03)

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

- important site for nesting and wintering birds, including rare and scarce species such as nightjar

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Extensive area of coniferous plantation; intensive forestry management

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Retain ornithological interest; introduce greater variation in canopy; restore ancient woodland areas to native broadleaves; maintain suitable habitat buffer around Pysgodlyn Mawr

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>

<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- encourage conversion of selected areas of conifer (eg along streams, in wetter areas, around Pysgodlyn Mawr) to chiefly native broadleaved species
- encourage mixed plantation
- encourage removal of non-native species from the ancient woodland site of Coed Leision in favour of native species only
- maintain/create wide rides through plantations which can be rotationally mown in blocks at the edges, to encourage tall flowering plants as nectar sources for invertebrates
- encourage the leaving of a proportion of larger trees within harvested areas for use by invertebrates and birds
- consider designation as SNCI

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/24

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Limestone Vale

How would you classify this area?

Broad areas of lowland farmland on Carboniferous limestone and associated basic (=alkaline) conglomerates

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Mixed farmland (chiefly pasture, some arable); improved grassland

Also contains fragmented semi-improved calcareous and calcareous-trending neutral grasslands; ancient semi-natural woodlands; plantations; minor stream valleys; farm ponds; roadside verges; hedges; stone walls; quarries

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

Numerous features of interest within the larger area, many of which are of High Local or even County significance for nature conservation. Selected sites of higher value include:

- 24a sub-coastal fragments of Ogmore Common (includes Bridgend BCC SNCI)
Pwll y Mar pond (Bridgend BCC SNCI)
Beech Court Farm Woods (Bridgend BCC SNCI)
roadside verges (Bridgend BCC SNCI)
Longlands Quarry (Bridgend BCC SNCI)
Lampha Farm pond (Bridgend BCC SNCI)
Blackhall Farm fields
- 24b Graig Penllyn pastures
Llanblethian Common
St Hilary Down Common
Coed Mynydd Coch/Tair Onen Plantation
- 24e St Lythan's Downs Common
Sledging Field
- 24f Cwm George Woodland Trust Reserve
Upper Cadoxton River
Twyn Pond and woods

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Extensive areas of lowland farmland with moderate intrinsic value, also including numerous features of high value; generally basic and free-draining soils; comparatively few ponds and streams; quarries and rocky exposures

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
	(generally, but including many individual features of <i>High</i> value)			

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Maintain the common features of local ecological value, such as hedges, stone walls, roadside verges; lightly-improved grasslands; fine-grain field pattern; retain and enhance higher quality ecological value of individual sites

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
-----------------------------------	------------------	-------------------------	------------------

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

	True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change	*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile general design guidelines for minor features
- encourage non-intensive agricultural management in more-sensitive areas, through incentive schemes such as Tir Cymen
- discourage removal of field boundaries
- encourage conversion of plantations on ancient woodland sites to native broadleaves, and management in favour of nature conservation objectives
- recognise value of, and give protection to, individual sites of higher value through appropriate designation (eg SSSI, SNCI, LNR)
- develop individual management strategies for each identified site

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/25

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Lias Vale

How would you classify this area?

Broad areas of lowland farmland on Lias marls and clays

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Mixed farmland (pasture/arable); improved grassland

Also contains fragmented semi-improved, generally calcareous-trending neutral grasslands; neutral marshland; swamps and fens; ancient semi-natural woodlands; plantations; minor stream valleys; numerous farm ponds; roadside verges; hedges; quarries

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

Numerous features of interest within the larger area, many of which are of High Local or even County significance for nature conservation. Selected sites of higher value include:

- 25a group of woodlands at Ewenny Priory (Bridgend BCC SNCIs)
Pant y Slade and Cwm Mawr coastal stream valleys (Bridgend BCC SNCIs)
Green Isaf/Uchaf Commons
coastal stream valley ('cwm') woodlands, especially at St Donat's Castle
Upper River Alun stream valleys, with minor brooks, associated marshes and semi-improved grasslands (especially at Llandow, Southmead Paddock)
Highfield Farm (West)
Tyla Gwyn Farm woodlands and grasslands
Llanmihangel Woods
St John's Valley
Coed Hills plantation
Nant Tregof system
Nant Llancarfan system
Upper River Waycock system (especially Walters Farm fields, Little Brynhill fields)
Rhoose Point lagoons
Cwm Talwg LNR
Wenvoe Castle
Pencoedre Farm fields
- 25b northern part of Llandough Hospital grasslands
Cogan Pill
- 25c dismantled railway and associated grasslands

generally hedges, including many ancient and species-rich examples
road verges
farm ponds, often supporting protected great crested newt
small ancient woodland sites, including where replanted with broadleaves
dismantled railways
many areas of 'improved' grassland which are only lightly improved and retain some interest

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Extensive areas of lowland farmland with moderate intrinsic value, also including numerous features of high value; generally calcareous-trending neutral, rather clayey soils, only locally free-draining and obviously basic; numerous ponds and streams; some quarries (into limestone); good hedgerow resource

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
	(generally, but including many individual features of <i>High</i> value)			

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Maintain the common features of local ecological value, such as hedges, roadside verges; lightly-improved grasslands; fine-grain field pattern; retain and enhance higher quality ecological value of individual sites

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				*
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				*
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile general design guidelines for minor features
- encourage non-intensive agricultural management in more-sensitive areas, through incentive schemes such as Tir Cymen
- discourage removal of field boundaries
- encourage conversion of plantations on ancient woodland sites to native broadleaves, and management in favour of nature conservation objectives
- recognise value of, and give protection to, individual sites of higher value through appropriate designation (eg SSSI, SNCI, LNR)
- develop individual management strategies for each identified site

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/26

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Old Red Sandstone Vale

How would you classify this area?

Small area of elevated common and farmland on acid soils

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Bracken dominated common with improved grassland; farmland with areas of neutral/acid-trending pasture

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

Numerous features of interest within the larger area, some of which are of High Local significance for nature conservation. Selected sites of higher value include:

- Stalling Down Common
- Aberthin pastures

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Common and farmland with moderate intrinsic value, including some features of higher value; generally acid, sandy and free-draining soils; bracken encroachment; lack of grazing on common; heavy recreational use of common; adverse uses include vandalism and dumping of refuse

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
	(generally, but including some individual features of <i>High</i> value)			

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Maintain the common land; control bracken and scrub encroachment; retain other features of local ecological value, such as hedges, roadside verges; lightly-improved grasslands; fine-grain field pattern; retain and enhance higher quality ecological value of individual sites

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>		
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				*	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				*	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				*	

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile general design guidelines for minor features
- encourage non-intensive agricultural management in more-sensitive areas, through incentive schemes such as Tir Cymen
- discourage removal of field boundaries
- recognise value of, and extend protection to, individual sites of higher value through appropriate designation (eg SSSI, SNCI, LNR)
- develop individual management strategies for identified site of value
- implement bracken control on common, such as rotational annual clearance of rides and blocks
- provide infrastructure for controlled grazing of commons (eg cattle grids, fencing etc)

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/27

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Glacial Vale

How would you classify this area?

Broad areas of farmland on Glacial boulder clays, sands and gravels

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Chiefly pasture farmland on rising ground; improved grassland

Also contains fragmented semi-improved, generally acid-trending neutral grasslands; neutral marshland; swamp; ancient semi-natural woodlands; plantations; minor stream valleys; numerous farm ponds; roadside verges; hedges; quarries

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

[eg SNCIs, other landscape features]

Numerous features of interest within the larger area, many of which are of High Local or even County significance for nature conservation. Selected sites of higher value include:

- Coed Llwyn Rhyddid GWT Reserve
- Mynydd Forest
- Hensol Lake and Mill Ponds
- Hensol Brook system
- Llwyn-yoy pond
- Nant-y-felin stream system
- Cottrell Wood and grasslands complex
- Hillfield Farm fields
- St-y-Nyll ponds and woods
- Wyndham Park
- Kingsland fields
- Ty Fry marsh
- Coedarhydyglyn plantation
- Drope Marsh and Drope Pasture
- probably the greatest concentration of farm ponds in the Vale
- dismantled railways

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Extensive areas of farmland with moderate intrinsic value, also including numerous features of high value; generally acid-trending neutral, locally rather clayey soils, otherwise free-draining; numerous ponds and streams; frequent hedgerows

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
	(generally, but including many individual features of <i>High</i> value)			

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Maintain the common features of local ecological value, such as hedges, ponds, roadside verges; lightly-improved grasslands; fine-grain field pattern; retain and enhance higher quality ecological value of individual sites

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				*
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				*
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile general design guidelines for minor features
- encourage non-intensive agricultural management in more-sensitive areas, through incentive schemes such as Tir Cymen
- discourage removal of field boundaries
- encourage conversion of plantations on ancient woodland sites to native broadleaves, and management in favour of nature conservation objectives
- recognise value of, and give protection to, individual sites of higher value through appropriate designation (eg SSSI, SNCI, LNR)
- develop individual management strategies for each identified site

VEGETATION AND HABITATS

Area No: VG/VE/28

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Triassic Vale

How would you classify this area?

Broad areas of lowland farmland on Triassic marls and conglomerates

What is the dominant vegetation characteristic in this area?

Mixed farmland (pasture/arable); improved grassland

Also contains fragmented semi-improved, generally calcareous-trending neutral grasslands; neutral marshland; swamp; ancient semi-natural woodlands; plantations; minor stream valleys; comparatively few farm ponds; roadside verges; hedges

Are there any pSACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites or NNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any SSSIs in this area?

If so name them:

Are there any LNRs in this area?

If so, name them:

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance?

(eg SNCIs, other landscape features)

Numerous features of interest within the larger area, many of which are of High Local or even County significance for nature conservation. Selected sites of higher value include:

- Dyffryn Gardens
- Wenvoe Castle golf course
- Pencoetre Woods
- Barry Docks
- Cadoxton Ponds
- Pop Hill lot-meadows
- Cross Common
- Sully Brook
- southern part of Llandough Hospital grasslands
- dismantled railways

Summary of qualities which need to be taken into account:

Extensive areas of lowland farmland with moderate intrinsic value, also including numerous features of high value; generally calcareous-trending neutral, rather clayey soils, locally free-draining and obviously basic; some ponds and streams; some quarries (into limestone); generally good hedgerow resource

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
	(generally, but including many individual features of <i>High</i> value)			

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objectives/recommended state for area:

Maintain the common features of local ecological value, such as hedges, roadside verges; lightly-improved grasslands; fine-grain field pattern; retain and enhance higher quality ecological value of individual sites

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			*
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			*
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			*

Specific Strategy Actions: policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites:

- compile general design guidelines for minor features
- encourage non-intensive agricultural management in more-sensitive areas, through incentive schemes such as Tir Cymen
- discourage removal of field boundaries
- encourage conversion of plantations on ancient woodland sites to native broadleaves, and management in favour of nature conservation objectives

- recognise value of, and give protection to, individual sites of higher value through appropriate designation (eg SSSI, SNCI, LNR)
- develop individual management strategies for each identified site

6.0 Visual and Sensory

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Method
- 3.0 Overview
- 4.0 Key Issues
- 5.0 Further Work

Appendices

- I Component List and Component Assessment Sheets
- II Sample site survey sheets

Figures

Topography and Drainage

Tranquil Areas

Base data - East
Central
West

Components - East
Central
West

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This visual assessment report is part of an overall landscape assessment of the Vale of Glamorgan for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, supported by the Welsh Development Agency. It has been carried out by White Consultants who also lead the overall multi-disciplinary team. The assessment is broadly based on the LANDMAP method [see Section 2.0 overleaf] and is one of seven aspects assessed. The implications of this are discussed in 'Method' Technical Annex Section 2.0. It is hoped that a detailed LANDMAP study will be undertaken for the Vale in due course.
- 1.2 This report set out the method [Section 2.0], gives a visual overview of the Vale [Section 3.0], identifies the key issues arising from the appraisal [Section 4.0], and identifies further work [Section 5.0]. The appendices contain the detailed descriptions and evaluations for each identified component and information on the site assessment sheets.

2.0 Method

- 2.1 A desk study was carried out to form the background to site appraisal. This consisted of:
- ◆ A topographic analysis at 1:50,000 also identifying the main river systems [see Topography and Drainage figure]
 - ◆ A tranquil area map based on information from the 'Tranquil Areas: Wales' study for the Countryside Council for Wales, also at 1:50,000 [see Tranquil areas figure]
 - ◆ Background reading of documentation provided by the client

From map data important viewpoints and broad topographic areas were identified.

- 2.2 A site appraisal was then carried out covering samples of all the identified topographic areas. Photos were taken from numerous viewpoints and at key points observations were made on the assessment sheets [based on CCP423 criteria] including visual, sensory and spiritual judgements.
- 2.3 From the forty six assessment sheets the thirty four visual components [now termed Landscape Policy Areas] were mapped on 1:25,000 plans. The criteria used was based on as per the CCW LANDMAP guidance sheet current in December. A standard Description and Evaluation sheet was filled out for each area and recommendations made for Strategy and Management for each landscape policy area [Appendix I].

The intention is that the map information can be digitised and text entered onto a database in due course to fit in with a GIS based LANDMAP system.

- 2.4 The tranquil area map was prepared using the table of distances for different categories of disturbance [see Table]. This was derived and developed from the ASH Consulting Group report 'Tranquil Areas: Wales' for the Countryside Council for Wales mentioned above. It does not exactly tie in with the 1:625,000 map which formed part of that report. It should be noted that the sensitivity of the technique used was limited and did not recognise the protecting effect of topography or ease of access. For instance, Cwrt yr Ala is tranquil despite being very close to Cardiff because of the Leckwith scarp and restricted access.

3.0 Overview

The Vale of Glamorgan is an attractive lowland landscape bordered by the Bristol Channel to the south and by the Pennant Sandstone scarp of the South Wales Coalfield to the north. To the east is the Ely Valley and to the west the Ewenny and Ogmere Valley. The Vale consists mainly of Lias and Limestones which form plateau landscapes dissected with picturesque valleys to the west and in 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 formed boulder clays and a smaller scale undulating landscape and the Ely valley. The limestone/lia areas are generally intensively managed farmland with a high proportion of arable. To the north there is a more pastoral landscape and limited forestry at Hensol. Commons are rare being confined to near Omore, Cowbridge and Mynydd Ruthin.

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 ridge.

Water bodies are an important element in the Vale landscape. In addition to the breathtaking scenery along the Bristol Channel, the rivers of the Thaw, Ewenny, Ely, Alun, Weycock, Kenson and Cadoxton have created intimate valley landscapes and steep wooded hillsides.

The Vale exhibits the mark of long cultivation and settlement by man. The Romans, the Church and the Normans have made particularly significant marks and patterns on the landscape. Rural settlements such as the country towns of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major are historic centres. Their character has attracted further development for commuters from the nearby urban areas which has, in some places, begun to spoil the important relationship between settlement and the surrounding landscape.

The Vale is hemmed in by large urban centres - Cardiff to the east and Bridgend to the west. These are linked both by the old A48 Roman road which splits the Vale in two but also now by the M4 which forms most of the northern boundary of the Vale. Cardiff is further extended in the south east Vale by several settlements: Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry and Rhose. Development is further extended into the Vale by Cardiff Wales Airport, Aberthaw Cement Works and Power station and RAF St Athan. These form a growing locus of development in contrast to the essentially rural character of the Vale.

The Vale acts as a playground for the surrounding urban centres particularly along the coast. This has led to degradation of the landscape in places.

4.0 Key Issues

From the visual assessment the following key issues have arisen:

The Vale has a **superb landscape and coastal resource** which is complemented by traditional settlement form. The area, particularly the west, has a strong sense of place. The Glamorgan Heritage coast is confirmed as being of outstanding quality.

The **valleys**, particularly where narrow, are particularly attractive landscapes because of their drama, intimacy and the fact that detractors are not generally visible. These are spoilt in places by powerlines such as in the lower Thaw and Weycock valleys.

The most **tranquil areas** are around Monknash and Marcross on the coast and to a lesser extent around the Hensol forest area. The least tranquil areas of countryside are around Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry and associated with the major roads and airports. The total area compares well with South East Wales but unfavourably with Wales as a whole. The issue is the need to protect these tranquil areas from further erosion or even to expand them where possible.

The **settings of historic features** such as castles, forts or listed buildings and conservation areas are critical to the perception of the landscape. These need positive protection and management strategies where possible.

Local distinctiveness is reinforced by the palette of local materials of lias, limestone and white painted render, distinctive detailing and by native plant species. This is well illustrated on the Heritage Coast but is being applied poorly in some other areas or not at all in others.

The **major detractors** are primarily Aberthaw Power station [and its accompanying pylons], Aberthaw Cement Works, Cardiff Wales Airport BA Hangar and the M4 and A4232. To a lesser extent RAF St Athan and Llandow Industrial estate impinge on the Western Vale. The TV masts at Wenvoe and St. Hilary are present in most wide views of the Vale. 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.

Intervisibility across the plateau landscapes mean that detractors are visible from long distances. This means that any development must ensure that appropriate siting and screening measures are taken to reduce visual impact. This could be a particular issue around Cardiff Airport.

Creeping urbanisation is beginning to have an impact from Culverhouse Cross south east including Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry and along the B4265 to Llantwit Major. The urbanisation takes the form not only of development but of the style of fencing, signage, road detailing, street furniture, planting and landscape management practice. These erode local distinctiveness.

The **urban fringe** areas between Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry shown 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 needs to be kept to maintain the rural character while accommodating positive land uses.

Settlement edges have a poor relationship with the surrounding countryside in places. Linear development can look untidy and unsightly. Settlements need clean definition with the countryside and guidelines for addressing the countryside in a positive way.

Tourism and recreation has led to degradation of the landscape, particularly the coast, in places. In particular this includes the coast between Penarth and Aberthaw including Barry and at Ogmore by Sea. This is a function of ageing infrastructure, visitor pressure and inappropriate or insensitive design in places. The coordinated Heritage Coast detailing and visitor management works in a positive way.

Farm management practices have led to a reduction in hedgerows and an increase in discontinuous hedges. Where possible this should be reversed to retain the character of the landscape. Coniferous hedges close to farm buildings are incongruous in the landscape and should be discouraged. Similarly, the layout and design of modern farm buildings is intrusive in places and could benefit from design guidelines.

Semi natural areas such as ancient woodlands and common are important visual elements in the Vale and should be rigorously protected and carefully managed. For instance, the woodlands on steep valley slopes in the Thaw valley are particularly valuable and distinctive.

In areas where development or farm management has eroded the character of the existing landscape serious consideration should be given to the creation of **new landscapes** rather than trying to recreate a pastiche of the old which is irrelevant to present needs. This would require very careful handling and should not be seen as an easy way out in all areas.

Lighting on the major roads is prominent, particularly on ridges. Consideration needs to be given

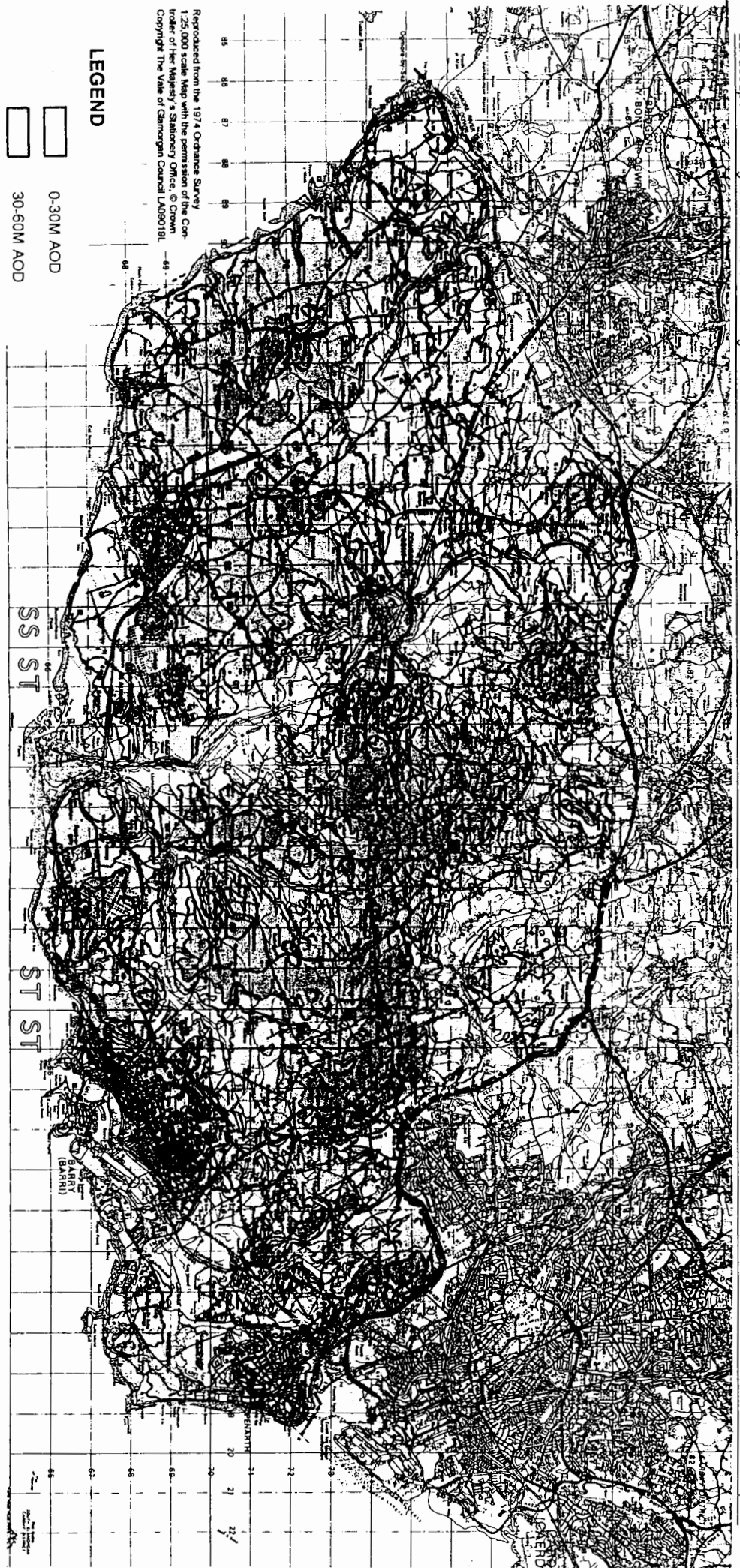
to the necessity of it in places and also to it's design to minimise light pollution both up into the sky and to the sides.

Disturbed land is a minor problem generally. Areas which require attention include the lower Ely valley adjacent to Cardiff, around Barry and at Rhoose.

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 critical to the perception of the Vale and requires mangement to maintain it's pattern of woodland blocks and hedgerows. In addition, the A48 is beginning to suffer an erosion of it's 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.

5.0 Further Work

The visual appraisal has been carried out at a grain appropriate to the needs of the study and the time available. A full LANDMAP appraisal would further refine the findings. Additional viewpoints in less accessible places and an examination of aerial photos would be helpful additional aids. The likely additional product would be a larger number of visual components.



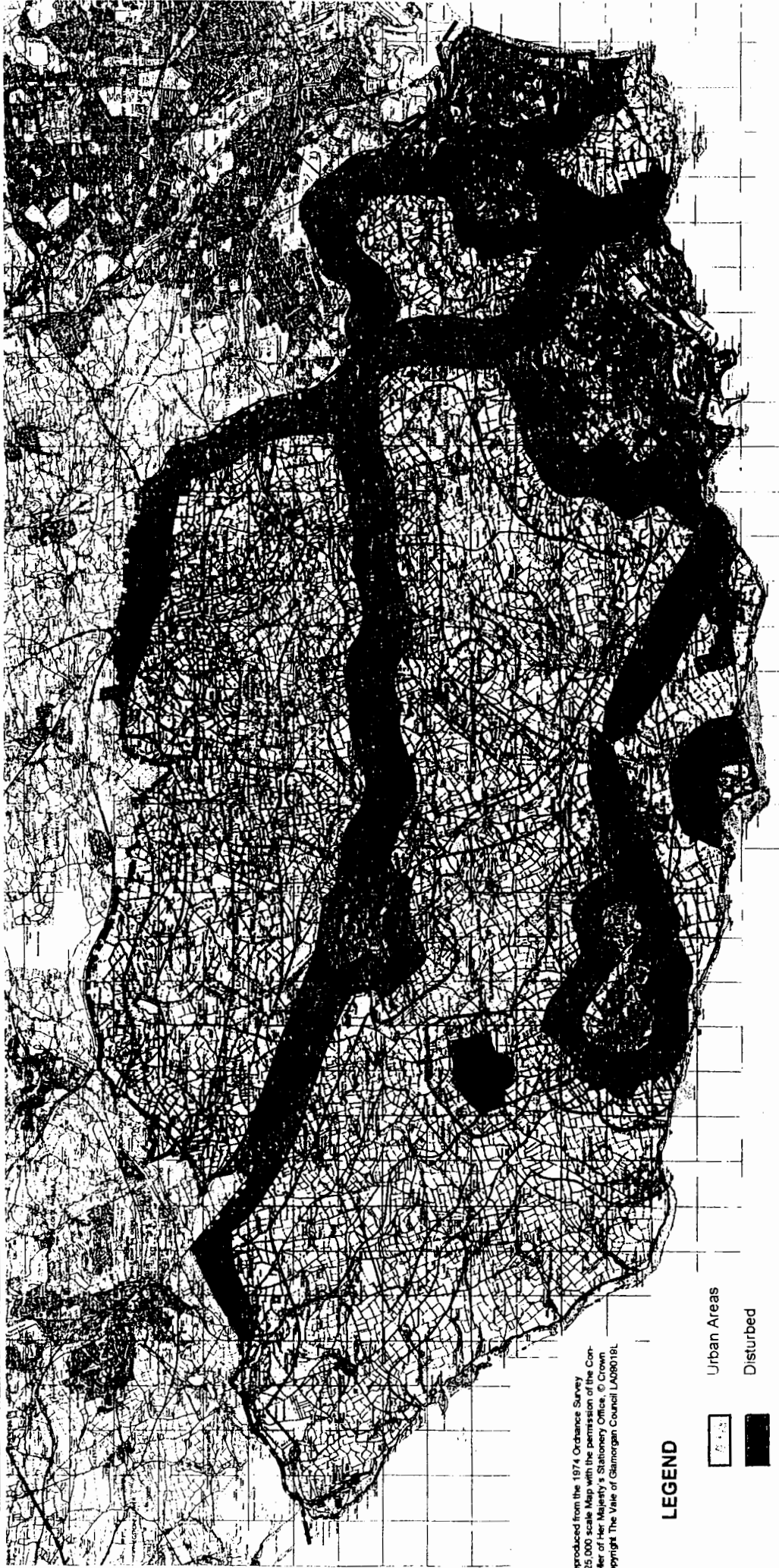
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LEGEND

- 0-30M AOD
- 30-60M AOD
- 60-90M AOD
- 90-120M AOD
- above 120M AOD
- Main River Course






Scale 1km Grid

TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE



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LEGEND

-  Urban Areas
-  Disturbed
-  Countryside subject to significant traffic or other intrusion
-  Countryside somewhat disturbed by light traffic and small settlements [English definition of Tranquillity]
-  Tranquil Area [Intermittent aircraft noise]

Derived from *Tranquil Areas Wales report for CCW by ASH Consulting Group 1997*

Scale 1km Grid

TRANQUIL AREAS






TABLE: Disturbance Categories for Vale of Glamorgan

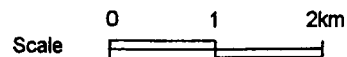
Level	Category	Disturbed (km)	Zone B (km)	Zone C (km)	Tranquil (km)
	NOISE DISTURBANCE				
	ROADS				
4	25,000-75,000 Very high	0.75	0.75	1.50	6
5	10,000-25,000 High	0.50	0.50	1	4
6	5,000-10,000 Medium	-	0.5	0.5	2
7	2,000-5,000 Low	-	-	0.5	1
	RAILWAYS				
5	8 Trains per/hour High	0.5	0.5	1	4
6	5 Trains per/hour Medium	-	0.5	0.5	2
7	2 Trains per/hour Low	-	-	0.5	1
	AIRPORTS (from 70 Leq contour)				
6	Cardiff Wales (estimate only)	-	0.5	0.5	2
6	St Athans	-	0.5	0.5	2
	VISUAL / PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTURBANCE				
	SETTLEMENTS/BUILT UP AREAS				
	approx population				
2	75,000-500,000 eg. Cardiff	1	1	3	10
3	25,000-75,000 eg. Barry	1	1	2	8
4	10,000-25,000 eg. Llantwit Major	0.75	0.75	1.50	6
5	4,000-10,000 eg. Cowbridge	0.50	0.50	1	4
6	2,000-4,000 ie. Large villages	-	0.50	0.50	2
7	1,000-2,000 ie. Small villages	-	-	0.50	1
	INDUSTRY				
6	eg. Aberthaw / Llandow / Ogmore sewage works	-	0.5	0.5	2
	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT				
3	Power stations eg. Aberthaw	1	1	2	8
6	Overhead lines 400 kV/275 kV	-	0.50	0.50	2
7	Overhead lines 132kV	-	-	0.50	1
5	MASTS	0.50	0.50	1	4



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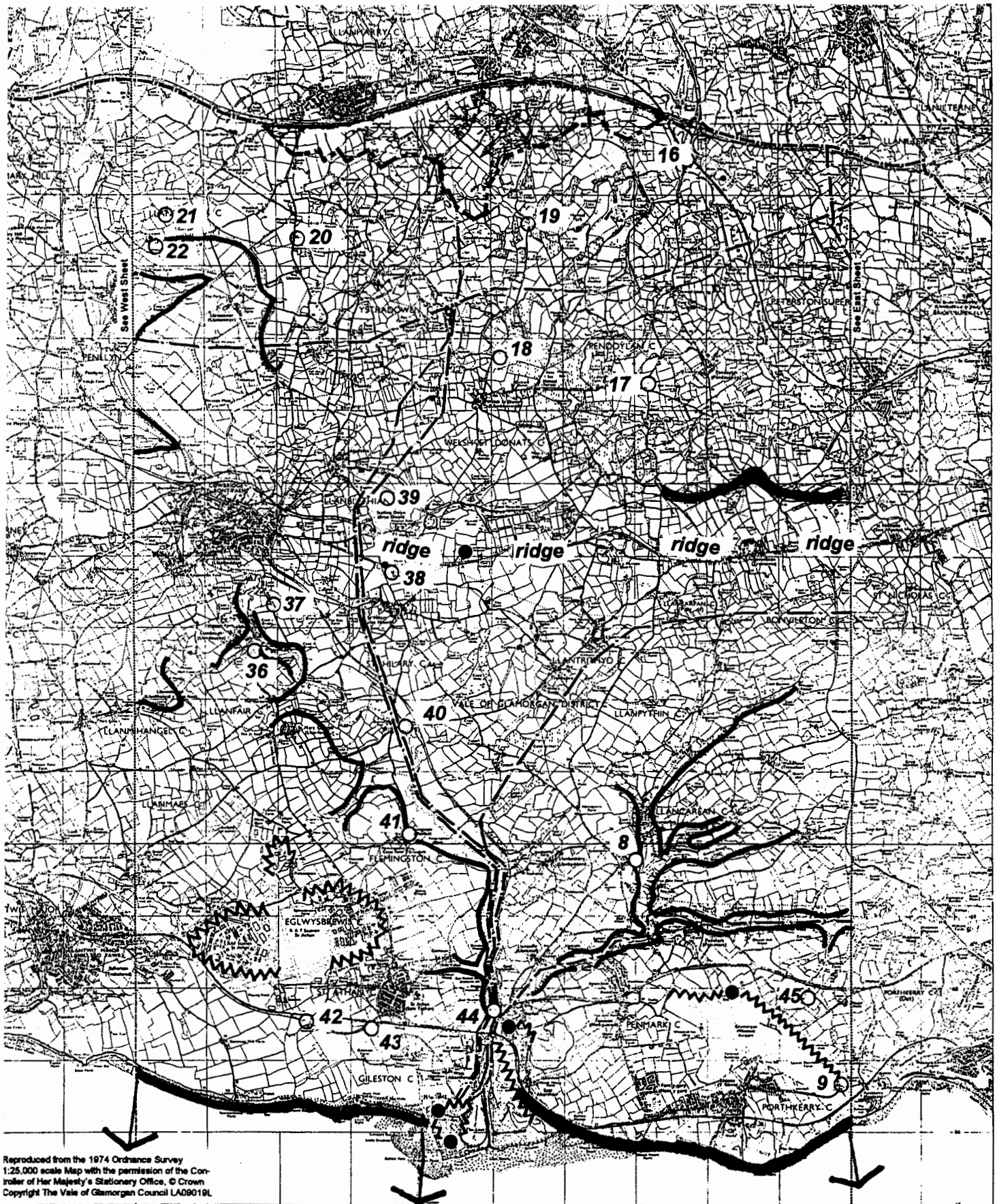
LEGEND

-  Strong Edge
-  Linear Detractor
-  Point Detractor
-  Overhead Power Line
-  21 Assessment View Point








VISUAL-BASE DATA

West



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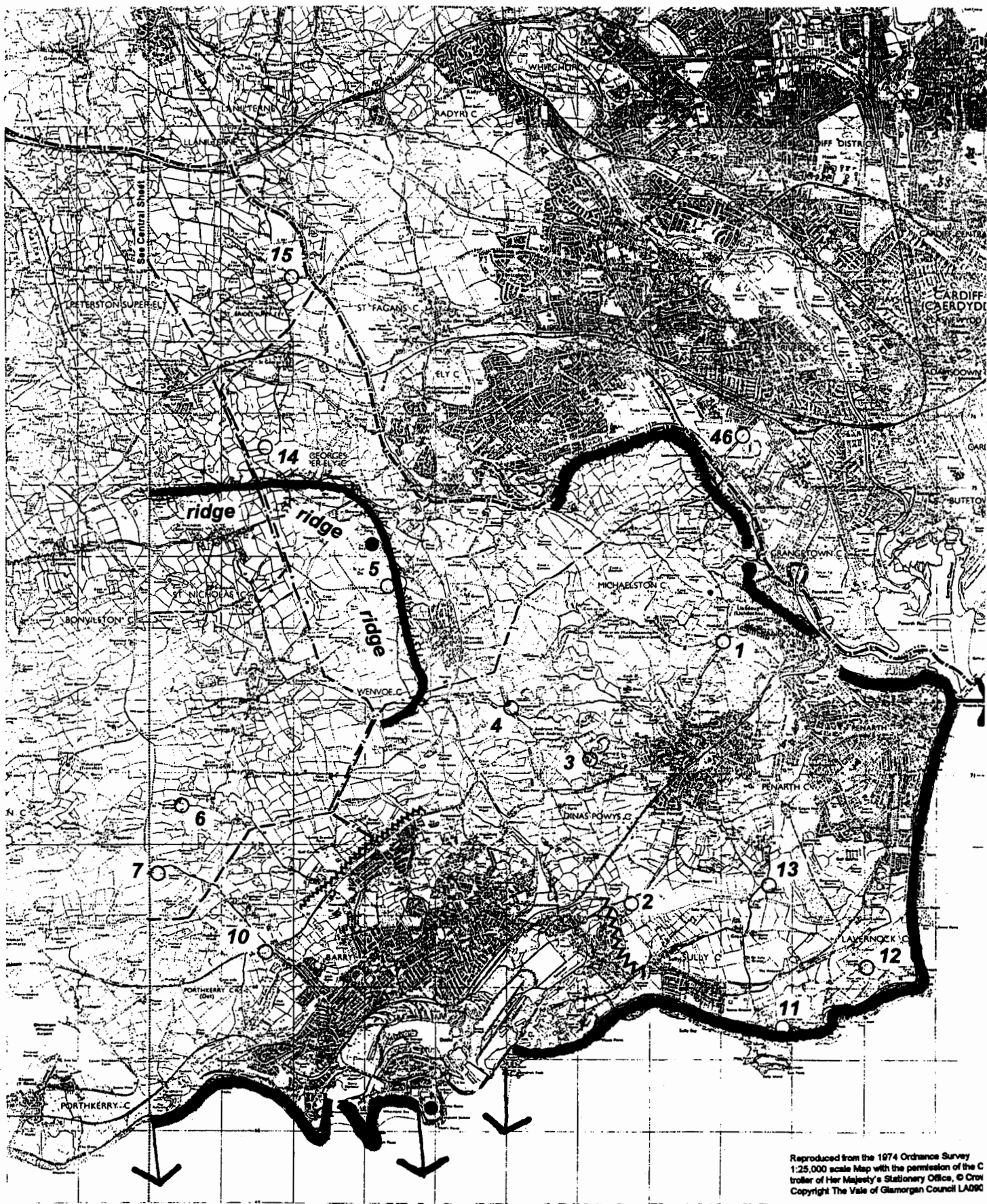
LEGEND

-  Strong Edge
-  Linear Detractor
-  Point Detractor
-  Overhead Power Line
-  19 Assessment View Point

Scale 0 1 2km






VISUAL-BASE DATA

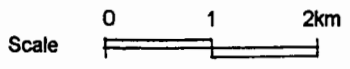
Central



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LEGEND

-  Strong Edge
-  Linear Detractor
-  Point Detractor
-  Overhead Power Line
-  Assessment View Point



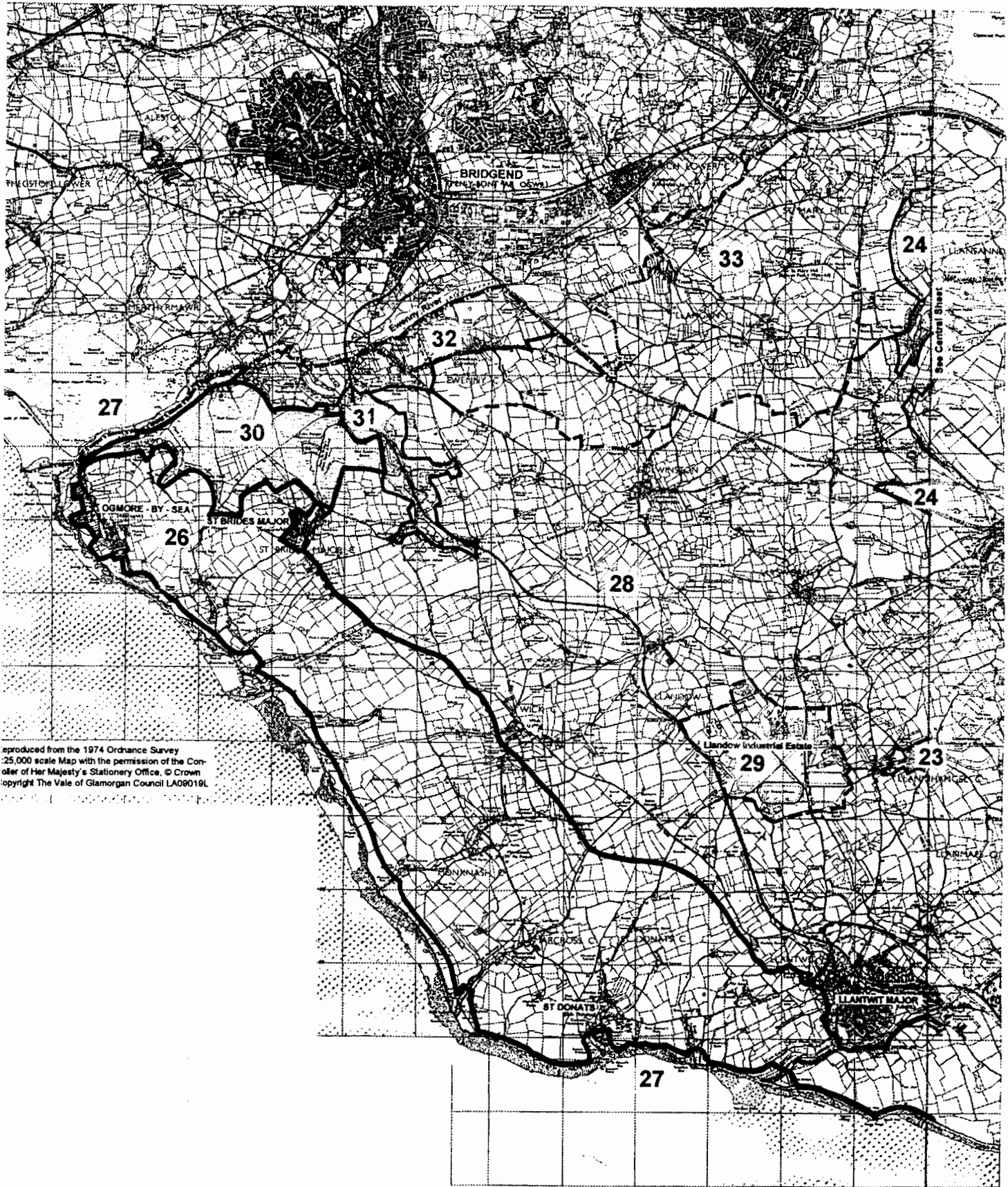
VISUAL-BASE DATA

East

Appendix I





Visual Components [Landscape Policy Areas]

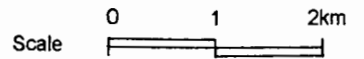
- 1 Southern Ely Valley Slopes
- 2 Cwrt yr Ala Valley
- 3 Penarth and Dinas Powys Urban Fringe
- 4 Cosmeston Country Park and Glamorgan Golf Course
- 5 Lavernock hinterland
- 6 Sully Ridge
- 7 Eastern Vale Coastal Strip
- 8 Cog Moors
- 9 Wenvoe Environs
- 10 St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Slopes
- 11 St. Nicholas and Bonviston Ridge Crest
- 12 Upper Waycock Valley / Dyffryn Area
- 13 Ely Valley
- 14 Central Vale Ridges and Slopes
- 15 Llancafarn and Weycock Valleys
- 16 Rhoose hinterland
- 17 Porthkerry Country Park and Environs
- 18 Cardiff Wales Airport
- 19 Ystradowen/Hensol Area
- 20 Hensol Forest
- 21 Nant Tre Gof Valley
- 22 Lower Thaw Valley
- 23 Mid Thaw Valley
- 24 Upper Thaw Valley
- 25 RAF St. Athan
- 26 Heritage Coast Hinterland
- 27 Heritage Coastal Strip
- 28 Lias Plateau
- 29 Llandow Industrial Estate
- 30 Ogmere and Old Castle Downs
- 31 Alun Valley
- 32 Ewenny Valley
- 33 Northern Vale Lias Slopes
- 34 Stalling and St Hilary Down



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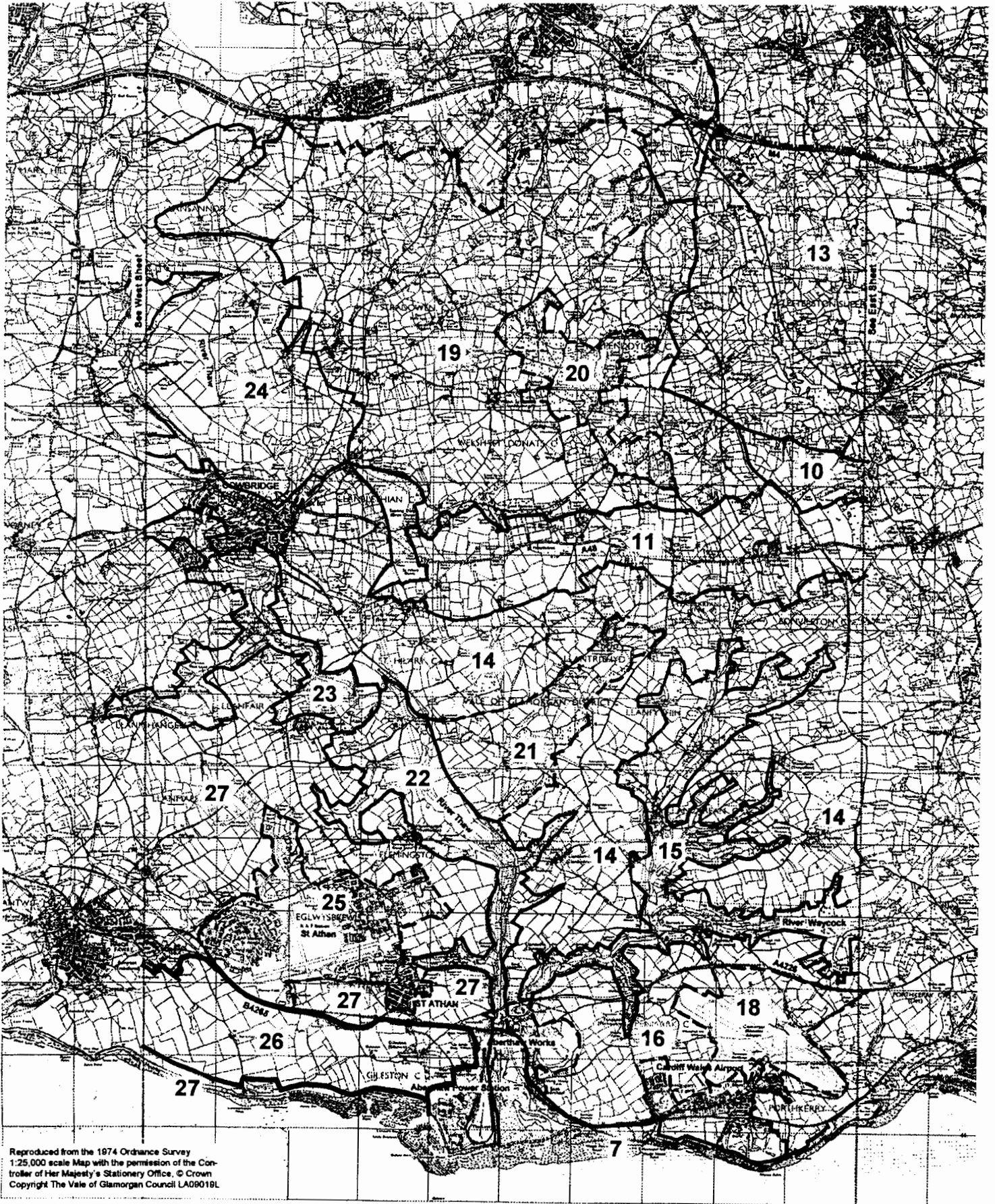
LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







VISUAL-COMPONENTS

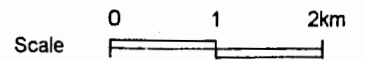
West



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



VISUAL-COMPONENTS





Central

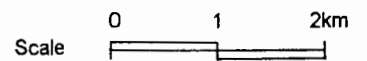


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LEGEND

2 Component Reference Number - see Text

-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



VISUAL-COMPONENTS

East

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/1

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Southern Ely Valley Slopes

Viewpoint[s] No. 46

How would you classify this area? Steep broad leaf wooded scarp slope

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

90m high steep slopes, lias cliffs, one side valley falling to Ely river

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Broadleaf woodland giving way to riverside vegetation and limited commercial development by river

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Dramatic level change enhanced by tree cover but woodland looks unmanaged in parts

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Derelict land at Leckwith Bridge, electricity cable straight up slope clears woodland

Tranquillity rating?

Comments? Disturbed

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Instability of slopes, mature woodland means that woodland management is desirable. This has been carried out by Penarth Marina but not further north.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Woodland managed to maintain continuous tree cover, especially on skyline. Manage planting on river corridor to screen development. Restriction on further development and remove dereliction.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>		True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected		T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		T	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland management initiative with landowner

Possible derelict land action site

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/2

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Cwrt yr Ala Valley

Viewpoint[s] No. 1

How would you classify this area?
Enclosed valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Narrow valley with gentle slopes and stream dammed with ponds in places

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Broadleaf woodland on upper slopes with pasture and arable mixed with hedgerows + trees. Small unspoilt settlement in valley bottom

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Secluded valley with extensive woodlands on valley sides and hedgerows integrating settlement of Michaelston le Pit and Cwrt yr Ala into landscape. The valley is quiet because of its dead end road and restricted settlement. The presence of water in the stream and dammed ponds reinforce the tranquillity.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Wenvoe mast and quarry at head of valley. These have relatively minor impact

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed -Slightly disturbed

Comments? The rating does not reflect the tranquillity of the valley caused by protecting landform and dead end nature of valley

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Vernacular buildings, broadleaf woodland and well tree'd hedgerows complement well managed farmland Wenvoe Quarry should not be exposed further to valley. Recent development in village beginning to unbalance the relationship between settlement and landscape

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
------------------------	--------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain rural qualities of valley with restriction of further development . Improve management of deciduous woodland to maintain cover and access. Maintain hedgerows as strong visual framework.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Consider as LCD

Maintain policies on development restriction

Restrict Wenvoe Quarry expansion in this area

Consider AWAES

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/3

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Penarth and Dinas Powys Urban Fringe

Viewpoint[s] No. 1, 13

How would you classify this area? Urban fringe farmland

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gentle undulating slopes to small streams

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Overgrown hedges around improved grassland with significant proportion of horse grazing

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

The hedgerows are overgrown and fields have an uncared for appearance in parts. Many fields are overgrazed. Poorly built stables are common. Surrounding settlements are almost always in view with attendant disturbance.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Surrounding settlement impinges, small scale detractors include poor fencing, structures and laybys

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed

Comments? Yes

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Overgrown hedgerows and copse cover form a strong element integrating and screening development but need management for longevity.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* ***Modest*** *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Landscape wedge managed to maintain woodlands and hedges separating settlement and acting as a pleasant setting for built up areas with managed access.

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* ***Highly Desirable*** *Desirable*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected T

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced T

The key qualities and elements are subject to change T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland grants

Countryside ranger service to cover access, hedgerow management etc.

Buffer zone for Cwrt yr Ala

AWAES where applicable.

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/4

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Cosmeston Country Park and Glamorgan Golf Course

Viewpoint[s] No. 13

How would you classify this area?

Managed recreational facilities

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Reclaimed quarry now filled with water to form two lakes with surrounding gentle grading rising to low hill of golf club

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Dominant pine skyline on golf club land, highly maintained golf course, new planting around country park, wetland area and managed mown grassland. Some remnant hedgerows. Park facilities, car park and Medieval village next to B4267.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Highly managed, manicured in parts and intensively used landscape with the almost constant presence of people. The lake is the focus of activity for recreation and is visually attractive. Much of the planting is young in the park and some areas still look a little 'raw'. The site is fairly exposed close to the coast.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name.

No

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed

Comments? Difficult to get away from other people in Park, obviously intensively used.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Intensive usage of natural environment especially at water edge, pine skyline
Intensively used woodland, grassland and water needs to be managed to allow for a mature landscape to develop while accommodating visitor use.
Important pine skyline needs conservation and replacement planting.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* **High** *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Optimising the usage of the sites for the public, including interpretation, while protecting distinctive skyline and the intrinsic quality of resource.
Protect some areas from access

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Management Plan for Cosmeston Country Park

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/5

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Lavernock hinterland

Viewpoint[s] No. 12

How would you classify this area? Coastal urban fringe farmland

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gently rolling landscape upto 35m AOD, crossed by dismantled railway

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Small scale fields with overgrown hedges with high elm content, pasture, derelict buildings, poor gates and fencing. Recreational facilities such as the sports ground and caravan park.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Overgrown, rather neglected landscape with urban fringe feel and feeling of gentle decay

Are there major detractors? No, minor as below
If so, name. Derelict buildings and caravan parks, unsightly recreation development

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed, slightly disturbed
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account
Coastal views in higher locations and trees [pines] on the skyline visible along the coast
Hedgerows are also an important structural element
Neglect needs to be reversed

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Positive management of roadside features hedgerows management and for access. Replacement of derelict buildings at Sutton Farm with small scale single dwelling.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Use of dismantled railway positively
Recreation policies to reinforce coastal location
Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines needed.
Caravan Park guidelines needed
Design Guidelines for coastal development
Urban fringe agricultural/access action required – ranger service?

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/6

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Sully Ridge

Viewpoint[s] No. 2, 13

How would you classify this area? Farmland on ridge

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Ridge reaching 50m AOD above Cog Moors

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Well managed arable and pastoral farmland with low hedges with hamlet of Cog and settlement of Sully

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Well ordered agricultural landscape with tight settlement boundaries, vernacular of Cog, continuous hedgerows pattern.

Are there major detractors? No
If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed, Slightly disturbed
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Hedgerow pattern, settlement boundaries, vernacular buildings

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* ***Modest*** *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain current pattern of agricultural use and hedgerows, protecting settlement boundaries from future expansion.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Countryside protection policies

Urban fringe agricultural/access action required – ranger service?

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/7

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Eastern Vale Coastal Strip

Viewpoint[s] No. 11

How would you classify this area? Coast, maritime.

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Low cliffs, Sully Island, rocky limestone wavecut platforms and sandy beaches.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Wind sculpted vegetation, caravan parks, mix of old settlement [Swanbridge] and 20c development and industry close to coast, some dereliction of leisure related structures and 2nd World War infrastructure

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Superb views across Bristol Channel to Somerset and sensory qualities of sea make coast attractive but much development is poorly sited, designed, detailed and is often neglected [possibly because of decrease in recreational popularity of the area]

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Barry Island and industrial hinterland

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed/Slightly disturbed

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Strong hedgerow and copse cover, coastal character, poor relationship of development to coast, vernacular materials, pine skyline [in area V/5], wind-sculpted deciduous woodland, generally poor development quality.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Enhancement policy on all public access and recreational facilities to achieve high quality coastal frontage to complement heritage coast. Also measures to ensure positive relationship between existing development and coast

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Visitor management strategy - parking etc

Review caravan sites - management plans and design guidelines needed to help integrate into landscape

Extend management to cover access. Robust detailing of access.

Swanbridge possible action site.

Palette of materials to be of similar standard to Heritage coast

Design Guidelines on coastal development

Positive management to maintain boundaries and woodland.

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/8

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Cog Moors

Viewpoint[s] No. 2

How would you classify this area?
Low lying floodplain

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Cadoxton River and Sully Brook are main watercourses on grid of rectangular fields crossing flat floodplain

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Medium to Large fields of pasture with discontinuous hedgerows, many growing high and unkempt network of drainage ditches, sewer manholes, poles, road raised slightly above general level, no settlement.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Damp pasture with long views possible to ridges either side and to Barry industrial area. Uncared for feel to fields and to road. Elsewhere a quiet place with limited access and presence of water.

Are there major detractors? Yes
If so, name. Barry Industrial Area, low powerlines

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed/Slightly disturbed
Comments? Depends how close to A4055 – quiet away from road

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Pattern of watercourses, distinctive low lying flat land, no building, unkempt hedgerows, detractors

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* ***Modest*** *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Effective landscape buffer between settlements with strong hedgerows, maintaining watercourse pattern, minimising small scale detractors such as poor fencing

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable	
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Development restraint
Screen Barry Industrial area
Hedgerow management,
Farm management - introduce semi natural vegetation/marshy areas?

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/9

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Wenvoe Environs

Viewpoint[s] No. 3, 4,5

How would you classify this area? Urban fringe mix of farmland and development

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Area sloping from Cwrt yr Ala hill complex to south and east

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Productive arable/pastoral farmland with neat hedges interspersed with villages and scattered settlement, quarries, roads and dismantled railway

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Busy roads and development in the northern and western edges create a landscape under pressure from people. To the east the landscape is more rural and quiet and generally well managed with good woodland and well managed hedgerows.

Are there major detractors? Yes
If so, name. Wenvoe Quarry

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed, slightly disturbed
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The woodland cover, trees on linear features and hedgerows play an important role in screening development. Rising land is sensitive to any development and can be viewed over wide areas. Settlement and detailing tends to be suburban to the west along the road corridor but rural and appropriate to the east.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Effective countryside buffer between Barry and Cardiff. Management of roadside features and hedgerows management to reflect the rural nature of the Vale. Farming and controlled recreation to be encouraged. Management of woodlands on slopes to form positive backcloth and strict control of development on slopes.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Restriction of development on slopes in particular
Reclamation and interim screening of quarry
Design guidelines for street furniture,
Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines.
Review road landscape
Countryside Access improvements

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? St Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Slopes

Viewpoint[s] No. 5, 14,15,16,17

How would you classify this area? Steep ridge slopes

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

North and East facing Steep slopes from ridge to lower gentle valley slopes around 50m high

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Pastoral farmland with low hedges with substantial blocks of woodland in places. Scattered occasional dwellings particularly above Culverhouse Cross/Wenvoe. Also disused quarry above Wenvoe.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Important edge and change in level. Sense of getting away from it all and exhilaration going up slope with broad views over Cardiff and the Valleys to the north. Broadleaf tree cover is old and deteriorating.

Are there major detractors? No
If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed/Disturbed
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Visibility of slopes, Built form has a major impact, alterations can affect this. Woodland and hedgerow pattern critical to integrating settlement on the ridge.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Improved planting of trees/hedgerows to better integrate development into hillside with well managed woodlands to maintain tree cover.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Strict restriction of development
Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines.
Countryside Access improvements

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/11

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? St Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Crest

Viewpoint[s] No. 5, 14,15,16,17

How would you classify this area? Prominent ridge crest

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Limestone Ridge crest upto 120m AOD

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Pastoral farmland with low hedges with substantial blocks of woodland in places. Conservation area linear villages of St. Nicholas and Bonvilston are major positive elements. Scattered occasional dwellings particularly elsewhere. Cottrell Park Golf Course spills over ridge with hedgerows removed/modified to standards.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Highly visible area of land from both north and south. Wide views possible as well. Much of the Vale can be seen from here. This experience is tempered by A48 intrusion and roadside development such as new pubs and garage/vehicle storage which reduce rural charm by inappropriate materials and detailing.

Are there major detractors? TV masts at Wenvoe and Stalling Down
If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed?
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

High visibility of crest makes any development have a major impact. Tree cover and Hedgerow pattern, settlement boundaries are critical, golf course changes nature of landscape pattern.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Balance between substantial tree cover and agriculture and development so coherent ridge line is maintained. Settlement edge to be tightly drawn with no ribbon development. All development to conform to local character.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland management

Strict restriction of development

Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines.

Conservation area guidelines extended along ridge.

Consider LCD designation

Rural road guidelines

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/12

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Upper Waycock Valley/Dyffryn Area

Viewpoint[s] No. 6, 7

How would you classify this area?

Broad valley and ridge slopes

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gentle slopes from surrounding ridges to River Weycock and tributaries

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Arable and pastoral farmland with trimmed hedgerows, scattered settlement of farmhouses/isolated houses with focus on Dyffryn Village. Dyffryn Gardens discreetly hidden by trees. Some broadleaf woodland blocks interspersed across area particularly on southern slopes.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Relatively secluded well managed rural enclave with air of tranquillity. Enclosure of stone walls, hedgebanks, hedges and broadleaf woodland in good condition.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Wenvoe mast, Barry edge on ridge to south and pylons to south and east.

Tranquillity rating?

Comments? Slightly disturbed

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Vernacular buildings, broadleaf woodland and well tree'd hedgerows and stone walls complement well managed farmland
Dyffryn Gardens setting, high intervisibility in basin, Barry edge.

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
------------------------	--------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain rural idyll of valley with vernacular settlement and balance of well managed woodland with productive farmland

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland management

Restriction of development

Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines.

Consider LCD designation

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ely Valley

Viewpoint[s] No. 14,15,16,17

How would you classify this area?
Broad valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gentle slopes from surrounding ridges to south and west to floodplain of River Ely

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Arable and pastoral farmland with trimmed hedgerows, scattered settlement of farmhouses/isolated houses with focus on series of conservation area villages including Peterston, Pendoylan and St Brides. Distinctive low lying floodplain with poorly drained fields and strong linear fields and hedgerows in places. Some urban fringe problems of horsiculture and damage.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Wide views to Valleys to north and some impact from Cardiff on villages such as St George's and intrusion from M4 [Bosch] and A4232. But generally a rural valley with fine settlements. Some hedgerows in farmland in poor state of repair.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. A4232, M4, Bosch [although well sited and designed], Wenvoe mast, pylons to south and east.

Tranquillity rating?

Comments? Disturbed, Slightly disturbed

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

River and corridor, broadleaf woodland and well tree'd hedgerows complement farmland. Conservation areas setting, high intervisibility in valley, creeping effect of Cardiff and M4 and minor detractors of poor hedgerow boundaries and details.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain rural character of valley with vernacular settlement and balance of well managed woodland, hedgerows with river valley

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Conservation area setting review of policies

Woodland management

Restriction of development

Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines, rural road guidelines, farm guidelines.

Consider LCD designation

Countryside access to make most of river and links to ridge

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Central Vale Ridges and Slopes

Viewpoint[s] No. 6, 37, 38

How would you classify this area? Major ridge slopes and minor ridges

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

South and facing slopes of limestone/sandstone ridge and southerly extending fingers of ridges forming remnants of limestone plateau

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Well kept farmland with trimmed hedges and scattered settlement of stone and rendered farmhouses. Occasional woodland on major ridge slopes.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Wide views to south across rural vale towards Bristol Channel and Somerset. Major detractors on coast visible. Exposed to winds. Farming practices changing field boundaries for hedges to fences. Roads on ridges being improved in places giving suburban feel [eg A4226].

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Aberthaw power station and cement works, BA hangar.

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

High intervisibility, rural qualities of well managed productive farmland and scattered rural settlement.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Well managed farmland should be supported with enhanced woodland and hedgerow cover where possible.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected		T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland management initiative with landowners
Development restriction on prominent slopes and ridges
Rural road design guidelines
Farm design guidelines

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/15

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llancafán and Weycock Valleys

Viewpoint[s] No. 8

How would you classify this area? Narrow valleys

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Steep sided narrow valleys cut into limestone plateau, 40m sides in places, generally natural stream courses. Soil slip patterns in places.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Pasture with strong hedgerows and hedgerow trees, woodlands on steep slopes, riparian corridor vegetation, attractive settlements on valley floor and on plateau edge with village ponds etc, fort earthworks apparent, semi natural vegetation invasion in parts, narrow lanes.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Very attractive enclosed small scale valleys with interesting landscape patterns, streams and charming villages. Feeling of tranquillity. Generally good condition of enclosure and features.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Pylons in Weycock valley

Tranquillity rating? Tranquil - Disturbed

Comments? Overriding sense is tranquillity in valleys with some disturbance on valley rim

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Historical landscape with strong small scale pastoral pattern and traditional settlement form.

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retain intrinsic character, support current management of tree cover [woodland and hedgerows] and pastoral landscape and sensitive management of historical sites. Restrict development

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	T		
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Strong restriction on development

AWAES

Positive management to maintain hedgerows and woodland.

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/16

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Rhoose Hinterland

Viewpoint[s] No. 9,10

How would you classify this area?
Plateau farmland on edge of Barry and Airport

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Very gentle slopes towards coast around Porthkerry valley [17] and south of Weycock Valley

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Productive arable farmland with some pasture enclosed by trimmed hedges in medium to large fields. Urban edge detailing near road [railings] and lighting on road A4226/ Trees associated with farm buildings but sparse generally.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

An open area with long views occasionally possible to Somerset but sea only just visible. Views to and noise from A4226, Barry, Airport and Aberthaw Quarry.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Barry on east and Cardiff Wales airport to west

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed
Comments? Aircraft, traffic.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Lack of strong landscape features and flat well drained nature makes area vulnerable to development. However, as plateau it is subject to long views from the north and it plays an important role as link between Weycock and Porthkerry valleys.

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retain as buffer around Porthkerry and a green area between airport, Rhoose and Barry. Enhance hedgerow and tree cover. Plant boundaries of detractors and roads to help integrate existing development.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Green Wedge

Rural management guidance to optimise hedgerow/tree cover.
Consider enhanced woodland and tree cover especially on roads

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/17

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Porthkerry Country Park and Environs

Viewpoint[s] No. 9

How would you classify this area? Wooded valley with open areas

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Steep sided valley cut into coastal plateau with small streams running to sea

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Broadleaf woodland on valley sides with open areas in places. In country park open areas are managed either frequently mown or twice/year. Outside park pastoral fields on slopes. Railway crosses site and there are facilities for visitors and pitch and putt course.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Attractive valleys with impressive railway viaduct. Can be relatively tranquil when few people about, the woods can 'lose' a large number of people.

Are there major detractors? No

If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed, slightly disturbed

Comments? Woodland and steep valleys make area less disturbed than tranquillity assessment suggests

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Woodland cover and natural valley form with access to coast. Viaduct a positive visual asset.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Management could be improved to make park more natural in open areas. Reduce impact of park facilities

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Prepare management strategy for Country Park
Support positive woodland management for area outside
Improve countryside access from Barry outwards.

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/18

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Cardiff Wales Airport

Viewpoint[s] No. 45

How would you classify this area?
Airport with Maintenance Facility and developing business park

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Crowned Plateau reaching 67m AOD

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Airport buildings, security fences and associated business park and facilities such as hotel. BA hangar is large building to west of airfield. Some remnant hedgerows on northern boundaries and undeveloped area of business park. New landscape treatment varies between vernacular and decorative.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Open nature of landscape makes clutter of airport readily visible. Busy area with sense of movement. Most areas are well maintained.

Are there major detractors? Yes
If so, name. BA Hangar and airport clutter

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Plateau landscape gently slopes to north so any business park development will be readily visible. Hedgerows make some screening contribution. Much clutter at ground level.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

If area developed careful siting of buildings required to minimise impact on Vale to north. Strong native species planting landscape framework with the use of landform to be used. B4265 should be separated from development by wide buffer and be planted itself.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			F
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Design brief for airport business park

Landscape Masterplan for airport business park with advance landscaping implementation

Management plan for overall area to look at encouraging tree /hedgerow cover

VISUAL

Area No: VGV/19

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ystradowen/Hensol area

Viewpoint[s] No. 18,19,20,39

How would you classify this area? Undulating landscape of hills and valleys

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Small valleys, ridges and hills culminating in Hensol Forest area [20] with low moors area in Nant Dyfrgi Valley

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Scattered woodland, hedges in small to medium grain pattern, damp valleys, primarily pastoral with scattered settlement, golf course.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Working, varied rural landscape with pleasant views, often small scale landscape. Some minor detractors including inappropriate settlement and pylons. M4 is apparent in the northern parts of the area. Woodland blocks play an important visual role.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. M4, Pylons

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed by M4 through to tranquil around Hensol Forest

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Strong hedgerow and woodland cover, stream valleys and distinctive Nant Dyfrgi character, dismantled railway, rural settlements slightly spoilt by recent development [e.g. Ystradowen].

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Strong positively managed woodlands and hedgerows, stream corridor protection from intensification/drainage, access through area to be encouraged, restriction of anything but very small scale development

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly desirable* *Desirable*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected T

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced F

The key qualities and elements are subject to change T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Positive management to maintain boundaries and woodland.

Stream buffer area management

Extend management to cover access. Robust detailing of access.

Feasibility study for using dismantled railway as north/south footpath between Llantrisant and Aberthaw

Development restraint in countryside.

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/20

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Hensol Forest

Viewpoint[s] No. 18

How would you classify this area? Coniferous forest

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Small scale undulating landform on high ground around 123m AOD. Small lake in centre.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Planted coniferous forest including larch with clearings for rides and lake. Lakeside vegetation.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Forest forms dominant visual enclosure with no views out from forest except on very edge. Area can feel isolated when few people about but can be crowded especially around the lake. This is the most attractive part of the area. Area exhibits 'used' feel in car parks, picnic areas and some tracks. The cleared areas look a little unsightly.

Are there major detractors? No

If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Tranquil/Occasional disturbance

Comments? As recreation area this tends to attract more people so the area is less tranquil than non-recreational area.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Coniferous forest cover and lake, 'worn' detailing of car parks and tracks, and lake edge, unsightly cleared areas

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Improved as a focus for recreation by improvements to car park detailing, lake edge, picnic areas, access and signage. Encouragement to spread the pressure from central area. Encourage links to wider landscape. Replace coniferous forest with broad woodland over time in areas of public access.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Reinforce role as major northern countryside resource

Recreation management review

Small scale improvement schemes

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/21

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Nant Tre Gof Valley

Viewpoint[s] No. 40,41

How would you classify this area? Gentle sloping valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gentle sloping valley as tributary to the Thaw with steep slopes to south

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Predominantly pastoral farmland with tall hedgerows and hedgerow trees, the hamlet of Llantrithyd and scattered farm buildings, broadleaf woodland on slopes [Coed Arthur, Coed Colwn]

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Contained views within broad valley, attractive rural landscape and settlement, feeling of tranquility.

Are there major detractors? Pylons
If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Significantly disturbed by pylons
Comments? Limited traffic mean this area is still and relatively quiet

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Strong woodland cover on slopes and hedgerow pattern, rural stone detailing

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* ***Modest*** *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain rural character and policies of restraint on development including more pylons, encouraging hedgerow management and positive woodland management schemes

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced				F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change				F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland management
restriction of development
Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines.
Rural settlement guidelines
Farm guidelines

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/22

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Lower Thaw Valley

Viewpoint[s] No. 40,41,44

How would you classify this area?

Lower reaches of valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Valley cut through limestone plateau, wide at confluence with Nant Tre Gof narrowing to south above estuary. Flat bottomed and poorly drained with small river with modified course and drainage ditches, marshy in places. Steep sides to valley upto 50mAOD reducing to 15m to south.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Marshy pasture, discontinuous hedges in limited places, fences, no settlement, broadleaf woods on steep slopes. Dismantled railway now overgrown.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Dramatic valley whose attractiveness is spoilt by pylons, 3 abreast in lower reaches close to Aberthaw power station. B4265 crossing and cement works are located near coast

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Pylons, cement works to south

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed, significantly disturbed

Comments? Pylons, B4265, aircraft. Limited traffic means the area is still and relatively quiet north of the A4265

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Low lying poorly drained character and dramatic wooded valley slopes, potential for dismantled railway

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain rural low key character of valley with network of drains, remove pylons in due course, maintain strong wooded slopes, improved countryside access along dismantled railway.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Woodland management

Restriction of development

Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines.

Improved countryside access- dismantled railway?

River Thaw trail?

Consider LCD designation

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/23

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Mid Thaw Valley

Viewpoint[s] No. 36,37

How would you classify this area? Narrow valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Small steep sided enclosed valley and tributary valley 40-50m sides cut into limestone plateau with flat bottom and natural sinuous river course

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Poorly drained pasture on valley bottom, broadleaf woods on steep sides in parts and pasture/well maintained hedgerows elsewhere on slopes. Llandough village is perched on hillside and Llanblethian straddles river. Llanmihangel and Old Beaupre also historical settlements. Lias stone walls and detailing.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Picturesque enclosed valley with dramatic side emphasised by woods, relatively unspoilt. Settlement generally complements rather than detracts from valley views with stone wall enclosure. Superb buildings including Llanmihangel group.

Are there major detractors? No
If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed to disturbed
Comments? Valley is tranquil due to strong valley enclosure

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

River and corridor, broadleaf woodland on valley sides and pastoral farmland. Relationship between landscape and old settlement

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain rural character of valley with restricting further settlement expansion, maintain and improve rural detailing and balance of well managed woodland on valley slopes, reinforcing hedgerows in river valley and maintaining natural river course

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

- Conservation area setting review
- Woodland management
- Restriction of development
- Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines, road edge signage guidelines, rural road guidelines.
- Consider LCD designation
- River Thaw trail?

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/24

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Upper Thaw Valley

Viewpoint[s] No. 21,22,39

How would you classify this area? River Valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

River valley rising at Brigam Farm and swiftly becoming a relatively flat bottomed valley broadening out at Newton Moors north of Cowbridge. River modified course in Newton Moors with drainage ditches. Contained by well defined steep slopes upto 60m high predominantly on the west side. Diffuse tributary valleys to east.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Predominantly pastoral farmland, some arable, with trimmed hedges in valley bottom and upper valley area sides. Hedges discontinuous in parts. Broadleaf woodland on steep slopes. Settlement on edge of valley bottom and plateau edge overlooking valley.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Very attractive valley particularly by City with strong enclosure provided by wooded valley sides especially to the west. Rural farmland well maintained. Feeling of remoteness and tranquillity in stretch around City. This diffuses to north towards M4 and to south towards Cowbridge with wider views and expansion onto settlements.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name.

M4, Pylons [which cross rather than run up valley]

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed - disturbed

Comments? M4, Pylons and Cowbridge reduce tranquillity to the north and south but tranquil in around City

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Woodland on valley slopes are important, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, contribute on valley floor but need strengthening, river course/riparian corridor with trees

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Management of broadleaf woodlands to maintain cover is essential, well managed farmland should be supported with enhanced hedgerow cover where possible. Managed river corridor for tree cover/buffer area. Access could be enhanced.

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly Desirable* *Desirable*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected T

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced F

The key qualities and elements are subject to change F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Riparian corridor management

Woodland management

Restriction of development

Hedgerow and boundary treatment guidelines, road edge signage guidelines, rural road guidelines.

Consider LCD designation

Access along dismantled railway/River Thaw trail?

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/25

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? RAF St Athan

Viewpoint[s] No. 42

How would you classify this area? RAF airfield and associated settlement

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Flat coastal plateau around 50m AOD

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Tarmac runway, mown grass surrounds, scattered hangars and military buildings, security fencing, associated housing areas

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Cluttered seemingly incoherent mass of buildings and large structures sprawling across plateau, widely visible, highly maintained grass areas, unsettling.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Airfield itself

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Lack of any substantial tree cover

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Landscape management plan for site and for housing to introduce large planting blocks where not operationally problematic but which can reduce visual impact of site.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			F
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Landscape management plan production

Improvements to approaches and surrounding roads to minimise views in

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/26

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Heritage Coast Hinterland

Viewpoint[s] No. 28,31,32,34

How would you classify this area?
Coastal plateau farmland

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Lias Plateau gently sloping towards coast from high points of around 97m AOD, incised with small hanging valleys, springs.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Productive arable with some pasture farmland enclosed by trimmed hedges in medium to large fields. Trees associated with farm buildings but sparse generally except in incised valleys. Some nucleated settlements such as Monknash, Marcross focussed on Llantwit Major, scattered farm buildings. Some historic landscapes such as at Monknash. Some inappropriate village expansions. Hedges and stone walls. East of Llantwit landscape changes east to less tree cover and reduced hedgerow cover

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

An open area with superb long views occasionally possible to Somerset and to sea, maritime influence. Tranquil, rural with historic settlement cores but with less desirable additions. Changes to east near Power Station.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. No

Tranquillity rating? Generally tranquil, disturbed near Llantwit.

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Strong sense of place with lias walls, hedgebanks and stone buildings, superb long views to sea, hidden wooded valleys, narrow lanes.

Area's intrinsic value **Outstanding** High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Manage area as Heritage coast strongly restricting development and ensuring that settlement qualities and detailing are improved and management of woodlands ensures continual cover.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Apply Heritage Coast policies to hinterland including area up to high points.

Review management to see if improvements to settlements can be made

Strong development restriction

Recreation management/access review

Interpretation of historic landscape

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Heritage Coastal Strip

Viewpoint[s] No. 29,30,33

How would you classify this area? Coast, maritime.

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

High lias/limestone cliffs [50m in parts], sweeping wavecut platforms and sandy beaches, small incised valleys with streams, some hanging, maritime influenced Ogmores valley as far as Ogmores Castle

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Wind sculpted vegetation, pasture/arable to cliff edge, stone walls, very limited buildings - St Donat's, lighthouse, leisure related structures, Ogmores Castle, woodland and scrub in incised valleys, iron age forts

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Superb views across Bristol Channel to Somerset and sensory qualities of sea make coast very attractive. Generally detailing of access very good but occasional poor buildings especially at Ogmores by Sea, Nash Point. Litter and signs of visitor pressure such as damaged stiles and worn paths detract from remote feel of area.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. No

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed/Slightly disturbed in east /far west to tranquil centrally

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Erosion and treatment of edges including fields adjacent to cliffs, restricted access to sea, stone wall detailing, remote scenic nature of area.

Area's intrinsic value **Outstanding** High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Strong positively managed coastal strip with standard detailing relating to place and managed access. Continued development restriction

Importance of achieving objective **Essential** Highly Desirable Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected T

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced F

The key qualities and elements are subject to change T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Maintain Heritage Coast designation

Strong Development restriction

Recreation management/access review including litter/parking etc

Interpretation of historic landscape

Positive management to maintain boundaries especially walls and woodland.

Ogmores by Sea possible action site.

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/28

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Lias Plateau

Viewpoint[s] No. 25,26

How would you classify this area?
Plateau farmland

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gentle undulating Lias Plateau around 80m AOD in Alun catchment gently sloping towards incised valley in west.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Productive arable with some pasture enclosed by fences, trimmed hedges/hedgebanks being replaced by fences in places in medium to large fields. Trees associated with farm buildings but sparse generally. More tree cover towards Penllyn. Some nucleated settlements such as Colwinston, Wick, scattered farm buildings. Some inappropriate village expansions. Sparse access into countryside. Surrounding development of Llandow and St Athan with modern extensions have a visual impact on this area.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

An open area with high intervisibility, flat horizons, exposed, limited tree cover, functional well kept farmed landscape with 'sterile' areas. All development including Llandow highly visible especially as white is usual colour chosen. Reduction in quality of field boundaries and built form

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Llandow Trading Estate

Tranquillity rating? Generally tranquil, disturbed near Llandow and A48, St Athan B4265
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Intervisibility, visually sterile productive farmlands, limited access, field boundaries, narrow lanes

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Introduce blocks of woodland/shelterbelts to integrate settlement, farms and detractors and to match scale of landscape and farming needs. Focus planting on minor stream valleys. Settlements need sensitive improvement. Integration of new development on farms need to be carried out.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>				True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.
AWAES to encourage woodland planting and retain hedgebanks/hedgerows

Village edge design guidelines

Farm building design guidelines

Review management to see if improvements to settlements can be made

General Development restriction

Recreation management/access review

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/29

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llandow Industrial Estate

Viewpoint[s] No. 35

How would you classify this area?
Industrial and Trading Estate

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Crowned Plateau reaching 84m AOD

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Reused Second World War Aircraft hangars, new steel clad industrial and commercial buildings, radio masts, security fences, parked vehicles [Red Rockwool containers], tarmac access roads/runways, go-kart race track. Some remnant hedgerows on boundaries.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Open nature of landscape to west makes larger buildings of site and masts readily visible particularly from the west. However, clutter at ground level only visible close to on adjacent roads. Busy area with sense of movement. Most areas are poorly maintained. Signage, fencing and landforms are detractors on rural roads. Dispersed parking of Rockwool lorries is particularly unsightly.

Are there major detractors? Yes
If so, name. Hangars, unscreened commercial buildings clutter and Rockwool lorries

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Site located on highest part of plateau so any further business park development will be readily visible. Hedgerows make some screening contribution but more needed. Much clutter at ground level.

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Strong native species planting landscape framework with the use of landform where necessary. Reduce clutter on/near road, organise lorry parking in tight discrete area well screened from landscape and B4270.

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			F
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Landscape Masterplan/Management plan for overall area to look at encouraging tree /hedgerow cover
Design guidance on buildings, signage, enclosure and ancillary features
Road edge improvements

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/30

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ogmere and Old Castle Downs

Viewpoint[s] No.

How would you classify this area? Common and Golf course

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Carboniferous limestone outcrop split by Pant St Brides and bounded by Alun Valley to north. Active quarry cuts into landform.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Limestone and acid heath, gorse, bracken, maintained grass of golf course, rough grazing. Trees on valley sides

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Texture of common semi-natural vegetation and wide views, unfortunately including to Bridgend in parts, also views into quarries which puncture landscape. Although the area is criss-crossed by paths there is feeling of isolation

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Quarries, Bridgend in distance

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed
Comments? Quarries, Bridgend

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Semi natural vegetation cover, quarry, grazing regime, access

Area's intrinsic value **Outstanding** High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Positively managed common and golf course to maximise semi-natural vegetation, restrict limestone quarrying so does not become more widely visible.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Management Plan

Consider as LCD

Restriction on limestone quarrying to limit visibility

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/31

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Alun Valley

Viewpoint[s] No.

How would you classify this area? Narrow valley

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Incised narrow valley cut through limestone plateau with around 50m sides running from gentle lias plateau to River Ewenny. Disused Quarry cut into valley side and mineral railway runs up valley on embankment/cutting

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Wooded valley sides generally with semi natural vegetation such as Ewenny Down, including bracken in places, mineral railway.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Attractive, enclosed valley with feeling of remoteness except for views west from plateau edge to Bridgend. Stream acts as strong visual focus

Are there major detractors? No

If so, name.

Tranquillity rating? Slightly disturbed

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Woodland cover and other semi-natural vegetation on valley sides, natural stream course in parts

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Semi-natural vegetation management and management of broadleaf woodland for continuous cover

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			F

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Management plan in conjunction with landowners

Consider as LCD

Woodland Grant Scheme?

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/32

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ewenny Valley

Viewpoint[s] No.

How would you classify this area?

Valley and lower valley slopes

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Lower reaches of Ewenny River, with gentle valley slopes to the north [27mAOD] rising to steep slopes by Kings Wood upto 80m AOD, Alun confluence.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Prominent woodland of Kings Wood, pasture on gentler slopes with hedgerows. Suburbanised settlement close to Bridgend, quarries, nurseries, Schwill Pumping Station. Isolated Ewenny Priory by river

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Agricultural landscape with strong hedgerows and woodland belts interspersed with commuter settlement of Ewenny. Pontalun Quarry disturbs landscape with lorries/industrial use, some stone walling.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name.

Bridgend, Pontalun quarries

Tranquillity rating?

Disturbed

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Kings Wood and valley side woodland and hedgerows are essential landscape elements integrating existing development. Development and detailing on roads is becoming suburban. Quarries cause noise and disturbance and grey colouring on vegetation and roads. The setting of Ewenny Priory is important.

Area's intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Reinforce screening effect of hedgerows ensure Kings Wood and valley side woodland is managed to ensure continuity of woodland cover, improve detailing of road approaches and settlement, minimise impact of quarries, protect Ewenny Priory setting

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			F
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Settlement design guidelines for new development and detailing

Quarry restriction to minimise visual impact

Ewenny Priory setting protection

AWAES

Woodland Grant Scheme

VISUAL

Area No: VG/V/33

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Northern Vale Lias Slopes

Viewpoint[s] No. 24

How would you classify this area?
Valley slopes and hills

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Gentle upper slopes of Eweny Valley and of tributaries sloping west and St Mary Hill Down rising to 120m AOD

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Mainly pasture with some arable, well tended but low hedges, occasional trees and limited woodland. Scattered settlement focussed on Treoes and Llangan.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

An open area with high intervisibility focussed on Bridgend and, dominantly, the Ford factory. Wider views possible from St Mary Hill Down to north and valleys and the south. Urban development and M4 impinge on rural character.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Ford and Bridgend, M4

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed to slightly disturbed

Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Intervisibility, visual dominance of Bridgend, scattered hedgerow and woodland cover

Area's intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Introduce blocks of woodland/shelterbelts to integrate settlement and detractors and to match scale of landscape and farming needs. Focus planting on minor stream valleys. Screening of Ford would be desirable and any associated development

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable	
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?				True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected				F
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.
 Agri-environment schemes to encourage woodland planting
 Village edge design guidelines
 General Development restriction

VISUAL

Area No: VGN/34

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Stalling and St Hilary Down

Viewpoint[s] No. 38,39

How would you classify this area? Common on ridge

What are the dominant landform qualities and elements in this area?

Sandstone outcrop at west end of limestone ridge with rounded top and steep sides to north more gently sloping sides to south and west. St Hilary Down higher at 134m AOD, sloping to Stalling Down at 120m AOD.

What are the dominant landcover qualities and elements in this area?

Managed open improved grassland on flat tops with bracken, gorse on north facing slopes. Trees limited with distinctive copse by Roman Road. Area split by Roman Road and by parallel A48. Adjacent development of road related uses such as garage and Indian restaurant. Car parks for recreational visitors.

Key distinctive visual or sensory qualities and their condition

Superb wide panoramas to south and north from the higher St Hilary Down and to the north from Stalling Down. Semi natural vegetation and Roman road changing direction on crest and it's visible straight line continuation to west beyond Cowbridge is a distinctive landscape feature. Exhilaration of high point spoilt somewhat by detractors below.

Are there major detractors?

If so, name. Pylons, twin aerials on St Hilary Down, by A48 and also associated adjacent development.

Tranquillity rating? Disturbed by A48
Comments?

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Semi natural vegetation, recreational function of area, common, superb views, detractors

Area's intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Managed semi natural area accomodating recreational and other common needs and uses, removal/screening of adjacent detractors

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			T
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Management Plan

Designs for low key visitor facilities such as parking areas
Interpretation related to Roman Road and Cowbridge

Appendix II

VISUAL ASSESSMENT SHEET : FIELD SURVEY FORM

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

[Sensory Appreciation, Spiritual Value, Seascapes]

Location *Cog Meadows*

Viewpoint No. <i>2</i>	OS ref. <i>ST47692</i>	Direction of view <i>SE</i>	Surveyed by <i>SW</i>	Date: <i>8/1/18</i>
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Photo

**Brief Description** - Landform, Landcover, Views, Eyecatching features, detractors, attractors, sensory qualities, spiritual qualities

Low lying alluvial floodplain with drainage ditches, overgrown broken hedgerows, improved pasture, subject to flooding. Crossed by low voltage lines which detract + raised sewer covers. Pleasant when viewing towards Sully ridge (see photo above) but less so looking towards Barry (works) which are a detractor and also towards Dinas Pumps/Wenroe to N/E. Development on slopes begins to intrude when unbroken and near skyline. Tranquillity disturbed by road.

Strategy Issues - Desirable landscape policies, management or design guidelines, action programme sites

Floodplain - protect from development.

screen Barry industrial area.

Tightly control development around Dinas Pumps on slopes.

Hedgerow management / ditch improvement / water quality?

Landform

flat ✓	vertical	plateau	coast	estuary
undulating	plain	hills	cliff	broad valley
rolling	rolling lowland	scarp	beach	narrow valley
steep	upland	sea	dune	deep gorge

Landcover

settlement	pylons	field size [small]	walls	motorway
vernacular buildings	masts poles	field size [medium]	fences in places	railway
churches	arable	field size [large]	banks	sea
farm buildings	pasture	fields-irregular	woodland [type]	lake
ruins	rough grassland	fields - regular	plantation	reservoir
industry	common	fields - rectangular	shelterbelt	pond
mineral working	heath	fields - linear	hedgerow trees	river
mineral working -disused	marsh	hedges [continuous]	isolated trees	stream ditches
dereliction	orchards	hedges [broken] overgrown	footpath	canal
reclamation	parkland	hedges [high]	track	waterfall
urban fringe	scrub	hedges [low]	road	mudflat

Aesthetic Factors

SCALE	intimate	small	large	vast
ENCLOSURE	tight	enclosed	open	exposed
DIVERSITY	uniform	simple	diverse	complex
TEXTURE	smooth	textured	rough	very rough
FORM	vertical	sloping	rolling	flat/horizontal
LINE	straight	angular	curved	sinuous
COLOUR	monochrome	muted	colourful	garish
BALANCE	harmonious	balanced	discordant	chaotic
MOVEMENT	dead	still	calm	busy
PATTERN	random	organised	regular	formal
UNITY	unified	interrupted	fragmented	chaotic

Perceptions/Impressions

RARITY	ordinary	unusual	rare	unique
SECURITY	comfortable	safe	unsettling	threatening
WILDNESS	domestic	managed	natural	wild
BEAUTY	boring	interesting	attractive	inspiring
FAMILIARITY	ordinary	familiar	unusual	striking
MANAGEMENT	derelict	disturbed	tended	manicured
PRODUCTIVITY	barren	sparse	productive	lush
NOISE	noisy	disturbed	slightly disturbed	tranquil
SPIRITUALITY	wordly/mundane			spiritual

7.0 Historical

Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Strategy

Historical/Archaeological Aspects

Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan, otherwise known in Welsh as *Bro Morgannwg*, is a distinctive lowland landscape formed on a gently rolling limestone plateau dissected by shallow picturesque valleys. In many ways the Vale is geographically an extension of the English lowlands into Wales, which has attracted agricultural settlers from similar lowland fertile areas. The Vale is a border area, open to influences both from the lowlands of England and the uplands of Wales. As an area accessible from the sea it has also been influenced by sea-faring peoples and immigrants from the western Atlantic sea-board.

The Vale extends from the outskirts of Cardiff to the east, practically to Bridgend in the west. In its broadest sense the Vale is traditionally taken to embrace all the lowland area from the coast, including the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, to the prominent Pennant sandstone scarp in the north, which effectively marks the hard boundary with the 'Blaenau' or less fertile uplands of Glamorgan.

However, the Vale can be subdivided geographically to include the area of maritime influence, the important river valleys of the Ely and Thaw and the 'Border' Vale area, which retains a distinctive Welshness. Yet the more typical and geographically uniform area of the Vale lies south of the modern A48 (originally the key regional Roman road from Caerleon in the east to Carmarthen in the west). This area lies between Barry and the River Ogmore, where the historic character of the landscape, including the large churches and the settlement pattern, is generally untypical of Wales, reflecting more the similar landscapes and archaeological components across the border in England.

Archaeological Sites in the Landscape

It is axiomatic that the varied and distinctive landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan is both the product of natural forces and the discernible impact of man over the last 10000 years. No part of the region's landscape has been unaffected by man's past activity, which has left an enormous and valuable imprint on the present day. Prehistoric burial mounds and hill forts, Roman villas, deserted medieval villages and industrial monuments, for example, have been left by our ancestors and are familiar landscape features in a wide variety of locations and habitats. Very many more sites, often indistinguishable above ground, but no less important, lie buried or only partly visible. These sites are the storehouses of information on past societies, are finite in number, vulnerable to modern development and are irreplaceable.

Countless generations of people have worked, lived and died in the Vale of Glamorgan countryside and have left tangible traces of their activities, which are highly valued today as sources of learning, enjoyment and inspiration, providing modern communities with a quality of life and an important sense of place.

The cumulative effect of these historic processes is the landscape we know and live in today, which is enriched by the diverse archaeological presence. Moreover, these historical and cultural dimensions are part of the valued whole, which also includes many other important considerations such as landscape, natural and visual beauty, folklore, environment and wildlife habitats. Therefore, any consideration of historical and archaeological issues should be taken in a holistic and interdisciplinary way.

Pressures on this archaeological resource presently come from a wide variety of sources including farming and forestry practices, large-scale industrial and infrastructure development, quarrying and increasing residential and leisure requirements. Many ancient monuments have already been damaged or completely destroyed with a consequent loss of heritage and information. Currently only about 5% of the archaeological record in the countryside is protected as scheduled ancient monuments (under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979). However, it is the other 95% which gives the landscape its historic texture or characterisation; the protection of this important resource is among the responsibilities of the Unitary Authorities acting closely with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

The Historic Environment of the Vale of Glamorgan

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. This was attested by Rice Merrick in the 1580s, who described the Vale as an area consisting of *'pleasant meadows and fruitful pastures, the plains fertile and apt for tillage, bearing an abundance of all kinds of grain'*.

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, Llancarfan 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 12th century.

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 Llancarfan was included in *Part 2.1: Landscapes of Exceptional and Great Historic Interest* as being exemplary of the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole.

Therefore, the historical aspect of the Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Strategy should appraise, albeit at a 'broad brush' level, the entire area from the point of view of the archaeological landscape and historic environment dimensions. This study and strategy should ensure that the tangible remains and assets of our rich and diverse historic past are recognised, considered, enhanced and deployed for future public benefit.

Clearly, this appraisal of the historic or archaeological interest of the Vale would need to be both comprehensive and holistic in approach, dovetailing into the other identified aspects of the Landscape Strategy.

Objectives

The aim will be to identify as far as is archaeologically feasible within the agreed methodologies, current state of knowledge and time constraint those areas where there are significant or thematic historical or archaeological interests that need special consideration within the diversity of the project as a whole. In essence the selected areas may have a higher historical/archaeological interest or intrinsic value than the average for the whole study area. These values will, however, vary and calibration will be attempted. However, due to the relatively high historic landscape value of the Vale of Glamorgan, which is universally recognised, this area probably presents a greater challenge than many other areas of Wales.

Methodology

This survey work will involve a rapid trawl of the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (henceforth RSMR), and other readily available sources, in order to identify areas where there are significant historical/archaeological concerns that need special consideration within the diversity and multi-disciplinary approach of the project as a whole.

As a result of this rapid survey areas, having a distinct or higher or more significant archaeological interest than the average for the whole study area,

have been provisionally identified for the purposes of Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Study and subsequent management issues and proposals. It is not intended at this stage to propose management prescriptions for these identified areas on the basis of this preliminary work.

The Curatorial Division of The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust maintains and enhances the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (RSMR), an official database containing c25000 primary record numbers of sites and monuments in the former counties of Glamorgan (South, Mid and West) and Gwent. The relevant records for the study area have been officially adopted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the purposes of the General Development Order 1995. The records are held in a computerised index, backed up by individual further information files and 185 quarter sheet 1:10000 maps.

With the resources of finance and time restricted the historical aspect or component of the project has relied on a rapid map-check appraisal of the quarter sheets for the Vale of Glamorgan area of the RSMR. Where considered essential the more detailed further information files have been consulted. More general works and articles and other readily available sources were consulted and these are included in the select bibliography. It was not possible to carry out any original research or landscape characterisation.

In general there has been very little modern landscape characterisation and parish survey work carried out in the study area. The area has seen little detailed academic study and current survey is largely restricted to desk-based assessments commissioned as part of the modern planning process. None of these desktop assessments, carried out for planning purposes, have been of a scale and detail that would contribute to the wider landscape issues of this project. In addition, the area has not yet benefited from many threat-led surveys, funded by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments or from the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales other than the coastal survey (Locock, 1996).

This lack of modern heritage audit and landscape characterisation survey has clearly led to deficiencies in the heritage record and in our understanding of that resource. As a result areas that seem void of archaeological interest on paper may in fact be better represented in archaeological sites and the landscapes of past human endeavour than is currently apparent or recognised

In order to understand and appraise the general landscape character and relative quality for the purposes of this survey a day visit was made to selected key areas.

The Archaeological Periods (Figs 1- 12)

Palaeolithic (c 38000 B.C. – c4000 B.C.)

The earliest evidence for human occupation in South-east Wales comprises finds of animal and human bone and artefacts from the Upper Palaeolithic, which began some 38, 000 years ago during a warm phase of the Pleistocene. No sites or findspots from this period have been found in the Vale. Evidence for palaeolithic activity largely comes from cave sites to the west in the Gower peninsula or in the Wye valley to the east. The dearth of sheltered sites in the Vale, changes in coastal configuration and the hunter-gatherer subsistence economy of nomadic or semi-nomadic population may in part explain this current absence.

Mesolithic (c10000 B.C. – c 4000 B.C.)

Major climatic improvements from c 10000 B.C. led to afforestation and amelioration in living conditions. No archaeological evidence for settlements of the prehistoric population has yet come to light in the Vale of Glamorgan, though sporadic finds of early mesolithic tools (microliths) occur in the lowland areas. Hunting, trapping and gathering, both of terrestrial and marine resources, sustained a population that probably expanded at the same time as rising sea levels reduced the availability of landscape.

Neolithic (4000 – 2000 B.C.)

By c 4000 B.C. there is evidence in South Wales for food production in the form of domesticated animals and cultivated cereals. Pottery, an innovation, and new stone tool forms, typical of the Neolithic, also occur. Environmental evidence indicates a reduction in woodland caused in part by these early farmers.

No settlement site has yet been found in the Vale of Glamorgan, though the megalithic chambered communal tombs, exemplified by the sites at Tinkinswood, St Nicholas and St Lythans, testify to these early agricultural communities on the coastal plains of the Vale.

Bronze Age (c 2000 B.C. – 600 B.C.)

This period saw the appearance, first, of copper and later of bronze metallurgy. This period witnessed the introduction of round barrows or cairns, examples of which are widespread in the Vale. The early Bronze Age saw an innovative pottery form with distinctive, often fine decoration, the BEAKER, which is found across much of Europe. In the Vale beakers have been found with individual inhumed burials beneath mounds or cairns, such as the excavated site at Sutton Barrow, Llandow or cremations such as at Breach Farm, Llanblethian, where evidence of social status and hierarchy is evident in grave goods. The diversity of

these structures is well illustrated in the Vale where the barrows are variously built of a combination of earth, turf, stone and timber. They are often sited with great care, sometimes in impressive groups, and are notable and obvious features of the landscape, which are extremely vulnerable to modern farming methods.

However, while both animal husbandry and cereal cultivation are known, evidence for settlement continues to be scarce and ephemeral.

The later Bronze Age saw advances in aggressive weaponry which may have been accompanied by the introduction of defended hill-top settlements, which testify to social tensions, possibly resulting from economic pressures generated by the impact of climate deterioration. The earliest defended enclosure, currently known in the Vale of Glamorgan, is Coed y Cymdda, Wenvoe. Built on a hillside, it probably dates between 900 and 800 B.C.

Pre-Roman Iron Age (c 600 B.C. – c 50 A.D.)

Society in the region continued to evolve during the first millennium B.C. into a structure which probably fits the descriptions of Celtic peoples of western Europe described by Roman commentators in the 1st century B.C. – 1st century A.D. The Vale of Glamorgan was by the first century A.D. occupied by a tribe known to the Romans as the Silures having a tribal hierarchical society, based on kingship, economic and military ties. Iron objects first appeared in the region from c 600 B.C.

The focal points of this society were the large number of dominant hillforts, such as Castle Ditches, Llancafán, Caer Dynnaf, near Cowbridge and the Bulwarks, Porthkerry and other defended enclosures. Some may have been proto-urban in concept, being political centres for trade, religion and community defence. The numerous defended enclosures, many probably no more than farms, may indicate a tradition of petty warfare or raiding in a factious society

The major coastal defended enclosures in the Vale of Glamorgan, such as Dunraven at St Brides Major, Nash point at Marcross, Castle Ditches and Summerhouse Camp, Llantwit Major, could have exploited marine resources in addition to the fertile hinterland.

Late first millennium B.C. circular timber buildings at Biglis, St Andrews Major, and Moulton, Llancafán indicate a form of undefended settlement, probably in a patchwork of rectangular fields, open pasture and managed woodland.

In the century before the Roman invasion of Britain (in 43 A.D.) small enclosures, containing circular buildings, such as at Whitton Lodge, St Lythans, continued to be built and were probably farmsteads

The Roman Period (c 50 A.D. – c 500 A.D.)

The initial Roman advance in lowland Britain stopped at the Severn, though the Roman historian Tacitus records that a legion was severely mauled in A.D. 52 whilst foraging in Silurian territory. In the mid-50s A.D. a legionary fortress was built at Usk, Gwent, and a fort placed at Cardiff to establish a forward base. In the 70s A.D. there was a renewed Roman interest in extending control over South Wales and before 78 A.D. the Silures had been subjugated. Advances along the Glamorgan coast, probably using naval support, and inland led to the construction of a number of permanent bases, such as at Neath and Loughor. The site of one of these documented forts (*Bornium*) possibly awaits discovery in the Vale of Glamorgan. Perhaps the most enduring landscape feature of the Roman military, and later civilian, presence in the Vale is the line of the Roman road, recorded in the 2nd century A.D. Antonine Itinerary. This important landscape feature is now marked by the straight stretches of the A48.

Following the conquest of Glamorgan no major town, such as Caerwent or Carmarthen was built in the Vale, though important settlements, such as Cowbridge, villas, such as Llantwit Major, Moulton, Llancafán and Whitton Lodge, near Bonvilston, and other civil sites, such as Cold Knap, Barry, attest to the high degree of 'romanisation' and agricultural exploitation of this part of Wales.

The later Roman period is marked by the construction of a major stone fort at Cardiff in response to increasing coastal raiding and unsettled times. A decline in Roman rural settlements is attested from the first quarter of the fourth century. The fort at Cardiff was abandoned, probably some time after 375 A.D. and by 410 A.D. Rome had abrogated responsibility for the defence of her provinces of Britannia. The remains of thirty seven mostly male skeletons, several apparently showing signs of violent death, scattered amongst the still-standing walls of the Llantwit Major villa, could date to the very late or immediate post-Roman period, demonstrating the breakdown of central authority and the reversion to more unsettled social conditions.

Early Medieval ("Dark Ages") (5th – 11th Centuries)

Relatively little is known of the Vale in the period between the 5th and 11th centuries A.D. i.e. from the breakdown of centralised Roman government to the arrival of the Normans. Known settlement sites are few, though the defended settlement at Dinas Powys was shown by excavation to have been of a high status site from the 5th to the 7th centuries. In general, excavation has shown that there was a reoccupation of the earlier Iron Age hillforts in a period of political fragmentation and increased insecurity.

Early medieval burials and artefacts have been found at a number of Roman sites suggesting some form of continuity of occupation. Other large burial sites

have been found at the Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry and more recently at Llandough, Penarth. Even so, there remains much to be discovered about the activities and settlements of the post-Roman population of the Vale in this period of poor documentation.

The early part of this period was the 'Age of the Saints' and in the Vale, in the late 5th and 6th centuries, tradition places early Christian monastic communities of St Illtyd at Llantwit Major and St Cadoc at Llanancarfan. The traditions and dedications of these and other Early Christian Celtic saints, and the memorial stones associated with this cultural phase, are significant influences in the development of the Vale. However, the archaeological information of these early Christian communities in the Vale, which may have originated in local late Romano-British estates, is still largely obscure.

The visible remains of the first six centuries of Christianity consist of the early Christian monuments, carved stones, grave markers, grave slabs and standing crosses. It is these remains, rather than the yet to be discovered church or *clas* sites, together with early dedications and documents, which have indicated the important ecclesiastical centres such as St Dochdwy's at Llandough, Penarth and those mentioned above. These early religious centres are very important historical and cultural characteristics of the Vale, which largely endure.

In this period regional kingdoms emerged, Gwent by A.D. 500 and then Glamorgan, which had split into two at the end of the 9th century.

Between the 9th to the 11th century the South Wales coast was subject to Scandinavian raiders from their bases in Ireland and Scotland. As a result of their sporadic raids many churches and Celtic monasteries were desecrated. However, the most lasting and positive evidence we have of these Viking influences in the Vale of Glamorgan is to be found in surviving place names. In the parish of St Nicholas Horni, whose earliest form was Homeby, is found, whilst the two islands of Flatholm and Steepholm are of undoubted Norse origin. Whilst Norse settlement in and around Cardiff is illustrated by the personal names of the citizens of Dublin at the end of the 12th century, when the Dublin roll of names included "forty to fifty burgesses from Cardiff", the location and intensity of settlement in South Wales is currently unknown.

Medieval (11th – 15th centuries)

When the Normans invaded South Wales in the late 11th century they encountered Welsh kingdoms with their ruling dynasties, lesser hierarchies and church making up their social organisation. From a base at Cardiff, earlier re-fortified by William the Conqueror, Robert Fitzhamon quickly overrun the Vale in the 1090s and settled his principal allies in a series of knights fees. Families like the de Londres of Ogmere, the de Umfravilles of Penmark and the de Someries of Dinas Powis were themselves substantial landowners and the backbone of the Anglo-Norman settlement of lowland Glamorgan. In the bordering upland area of

Glamorgan the Welsh lords retained their lands and titles until the 13th century. The northern Vale (the so-called 'Border Vale') effectively became a frontier zone and 'welshry' during this period.

The Anglo-Norman settlement of the Vale and its lowland geography gives the area one of its main characteristics and clear distinctiveness over the rest of Wales. In no part of South Wales was the Norman domination more complete than in lowland Glamorgan. Here, the fertile lands were subjugated to the manorial system of land cultivation, and the population to the feudal relationships that were necessary to sustain it. Within this distinctive socio-economic framework many of the Glamorgan estates and villages, such as Dinas Powys, Wenvoe, Sully, St Fagans, Cogan and Cosmeston, came into being.

The most visible indication of the Norman Conquest in the Vale is the relatively large number of castles, both of earth/timber and stone construction. These castles signify the subjection of the native Welsh who had been replaced by an alien peasantry. The Norman fortresses, with their military, residential and administrative functions, dominated not only the landscape in a physical sense but also the cultural and spiritual life and subsequent development of the Vale in the medieval period.

Associated with the military organisation of the Vale was the reorganisation by the Normans of the Welsh church, which was in time divided into dioceses and parishes. The physical change to the landscape came with the construction of churches, which are such a significant and characteristic part of the Vale's landscape. The Norman conquerors also introduced Latin monasteries, which they endowed with their lands and wealth. For three or four centuries after their foundation the monastic houses, of varying orders, were instrumental in changing the character of large swathes of the Vale, both from their structures, such as at Ewenny, and from their granges and land exploitation, such as at Monkash.

The majority of the nucleated villages of the Vale were probably established by the 12th century with many taking their names from their Norman founders, such as Walterston, Flemingston and Colwinston. These existing nucleated settlements and those long deserted such as Highlight, Barry and Cosmeston, near Penarth, still preserve much of their original appearance and place within the modern landscape. Together with the castle, church, monastery and manorial economy, they are among the most lasting memorials of the Anglo-Norman conquest, the influence of which has had an indelible affect on the development of the Vale landscape to the present day.

The Border Vale

This area of the Vale retains a landscape pattern that is distinct from the 'Englishry' or true 'Bro' to the south of the modern A48. The area is partly defined as the demesne lordship of Talyfan, which has different characteristics to the Shire-Fee Vale in the south. Unlike the nucleated settlement structure to the south, this 'Welshry' has all the hallmarks of a scattered or dispersed landscape.

This border clay region was probably thickly wooded in the medieval period for the lordship was held on a tenure of '*sergeanty of hunting*'. Today, place names, such as Allt-y-rhiw, Coed- y-mwster, Pencoed and Cefn Hircoed mirror the ancient wooded character of this Welshry. Welsh place names are dominant in this area with the A48 demarcating, as does the landskar line in Pembrokeshire and its equivalent in Gower, regions of Welsh and English influence respectively.

Post-Medieval and Modern

By the beginning of the Tudor period many of the medieval settlements and buildings, castles, monasteries, granges and nucleated settlements were to lose their significance with the changing social fabric and agricultural practices.

However, the agricultural prosperity of the Vale of Glamorgan continued in the 16th and 17th centuries, developing under a large number of wealthy families such as the Stradlings of St Donats and the Carnes of Ewenny, who invested heavily in their large gentry houses. This continuing prosperity is also reflected in the surviving farmhouses, many, even the smallest, having good quality constructional detail, which reflect in materials as in planning the closer cultural links with Somerset and Devon than with the rest of Wales. These typical Vale farmhouses sometimes cluster in loosely textured villages such as Llantwit Major. The area is also characterised by windmills, which appeared in the dry limestone areas of the Vale that lacked the alternative power source of rivers and streams of the adjacent upland areas.

The area also has significant Parks and Gardens, which have been placed on a provisional register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Wales. They are:

Dyffryn Gardens, St Nicholas	ST 0972
Fonmon Castle, Barry	ST 0468
Llanmihangel Place, Cowbridge	SS 9872
Llantrithyd Place	ST 0472
Old Beaupre Castle, Cowbridge	ST 0072
St Donat's Castle	SS 9368
Wenvoe Castle	ST 1271
Dunraven Castle	SS8872
Ewenny Priory	SS9077
Coedarhydyglyn	ST1075
Cwrt-yr-ala, Michaelston-le-Pit	ST1473
Hensol Park, Miskin	ST0478
Alexandra Park, Penarth	ST1972
Italian Gardens, Penarth	ST1871
Windsor Gardens, Penarth	ST1871
Pwll y Wrach	SS9575

Enclosure

In the Vale of Glamorgan the enclosure of land went on quietly for centuries before the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts were introduced and it is probable that the majority of the medieval open fields had been enclosed in the first half of the 16th century. In c 1536 Leland reported that the ground by the shore at West Aberthaw had good corn and grass, little wood, but was '*much enclosed*'. By this period the distinctive and intricate patterns, which evolved into the characteristic chequered and hedged field systems of the modern rural landscape, had begun to emerge.

Trade and Industry

In the early post-medieval period the growth in trade, including cattle and wool, expanded, with small ports, such as Penarth, Barry, Sully, Porthkerry and Colhugh (Llantwit Major) shipping to places like Bristol and the West England. Perhaps the most significant and interesting port in this pre-industrialised period was Aberthaw, which traded with Minehead, Bristol, Ilfracombe and Bridgewater. Aberthaw once had not only sea walls, a harbour, built by Sir Edward Stradling, and boat-yard, but also its own customs house

For the most part the Vale, lacking the mineral resources of coal, iron ore and limestone, was spared the rapid industrial expansion of the valleys to the north from the later 18th century. However, the 19th century there saw a rapid expansion of the outlet ports of Barry and Penarth, which exported huge quantities of coal around the world. Yet in spite of the Industrial Revolution and the concomitant population explosion in the neighbouring Welsh valleys, the Vale of Glamorgan has remained largely unaffected, continuing its long and relatively prosperous agricultural history. This has assured that the rich historic palimpsest of the Vale's landscape has survived well for us to read, study and enjoy today.

Recommendations

This report is based on a rapid trawl of the regional Sites and Monuments Records, held and curated by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd, on current knowledge and the resources made available. The historical component of this report has highlighted a number of key issues, which are presented as the following recommendations.

1. The Vale of Glamorgan, as a distinct and archaeologically valuable area, has not benefited from modern archaeological synthesis, evaluation, or landscape characterisation. It is recommended that before more detailed historical work can be carried out with a view to detailed policy proposals, a landscape characterisation project, similar to those carried out for the Lleyn Peninsula and the Gwent Levels, should be commissioned. It is considered that such an

approach is essential prior to a full 'Landmap' survey of the Vale of Glamorgan.

2. 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 recommended 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.
3. The Vale of Glamorgan has not benefited from a Historic Settlement project as is currently being carried out in Monmouthshire. Such a survey can benefit the community in many ways, such as :
 - a) By providing a modern heritage audit
 - b) By providing information for community projects, designed to give residents a better awareness of their settlement's past.
 - c) By giving communities a better 'sense of place'.
 - d) By enabling the protection of the historic environment through the planning processes.

It is recommended that consideration be given to the implementation of such a regional survey.

Conclusion

The Vale of Glamorgan is essentially a homogenous region of historic landscape, which looks more towards the east for its influences than to the adjacent Welsh regions. This distinctive area has had numerous racial influences including Celtic, Roman, Norse, Norman, Saxon and Fleming. These, combined with the influences of geography, geology, soils and vegetation have left an indelible and distinct mark and inheritance on the landscape which is unique to Wales. Broadly speaking the Vale remains a coherent and discreet entity and in historical terms is a very significant and well preserved landscape, which has maintained both the essence and detail of the variety of its past influences.

SPECIFIC RESULTS

As a result of this rapid survey, and based on current knowledge, the following historic areas have been identified.

1. VG/H/1 - River Ewenny, priory and historic landscape
2. VG/H/2 - Glamorgan Heritage Coast
3. VG/H/3 - Monknash and Marcross
4. VG/H/4 - Llantwit Major
5. VG/H/5 - Coastal Developed Zone
6. VG/H/6 - Llancaiach historic landscape
7. VG/H/7 - The 'Bro'
8. VG/H/8 - Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Stalling Down
9. VG/H/9 - The 'Border Vale'
10. VG/H/10 - The A48 (Roman Road)
11. VG/H/11 - The North-western Vale
12. VG/H/12 - The North-eastern Vale and Ely valley
13. VG/H/13 - Penarth-Barry Green Wedge

Works Consulted

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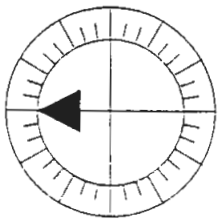


Figure 1. All known sites in the Vale of Glamorgan

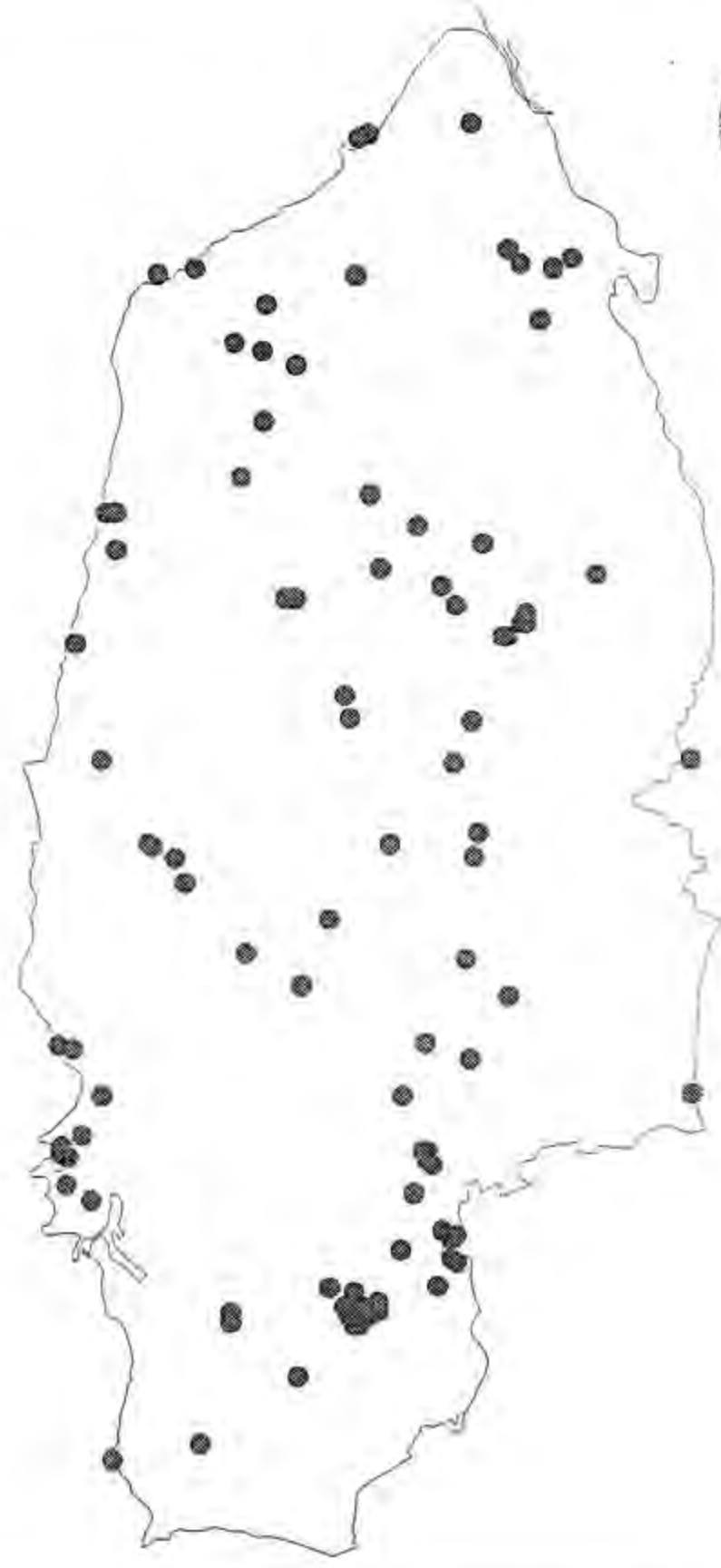


Figure 2. Sites identified as Prehistoric in Vale of Glamorgan





Figure 3. Mesolithic sites in Vale of Glamorgan

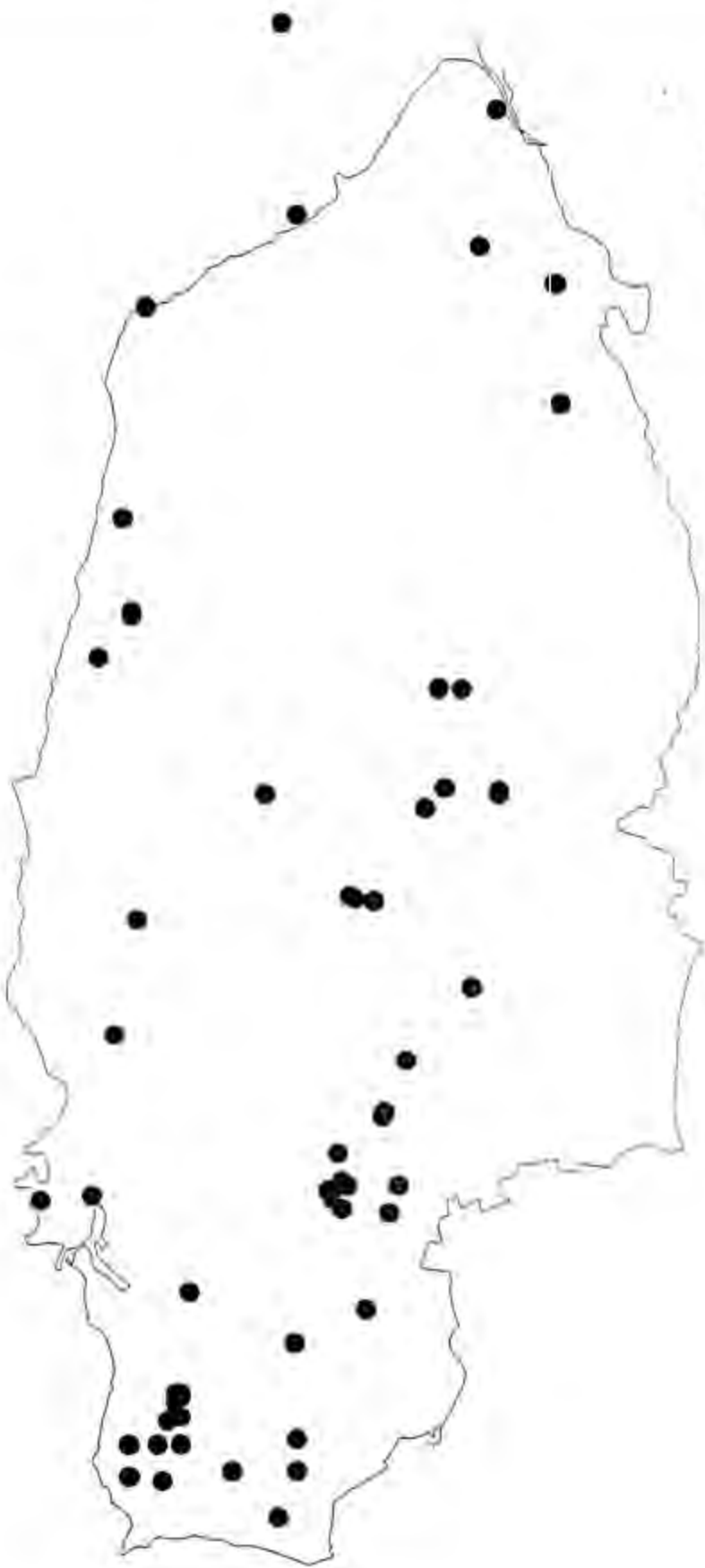
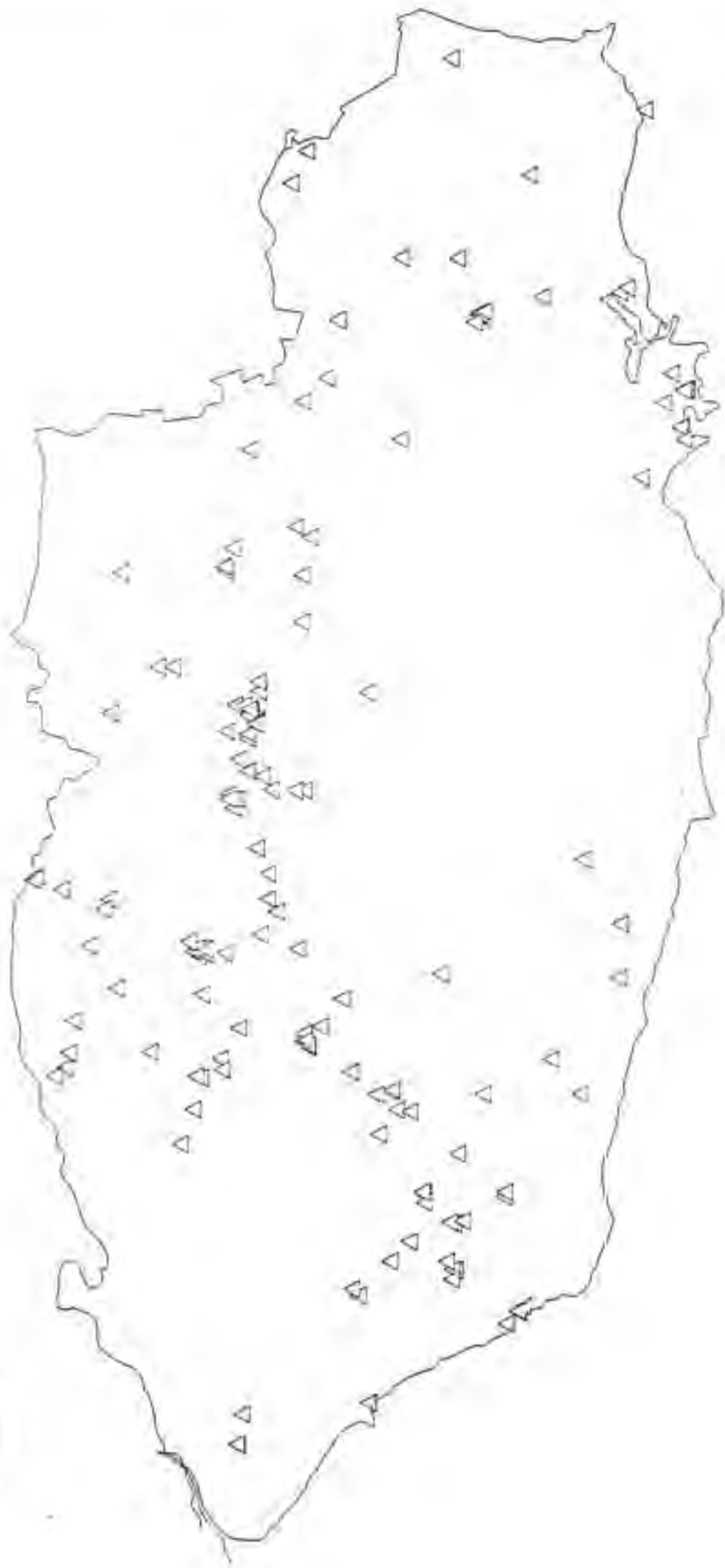
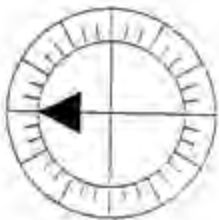


Figure 4. Neolithic sites in Vale of Glamorgan

1:10000
Scale 1:14756
5 Km
10 Km



0 5 Km 10 Km
Scale 1:14756

Figure 5. Bronze Age sites in Vale of Glamorgan

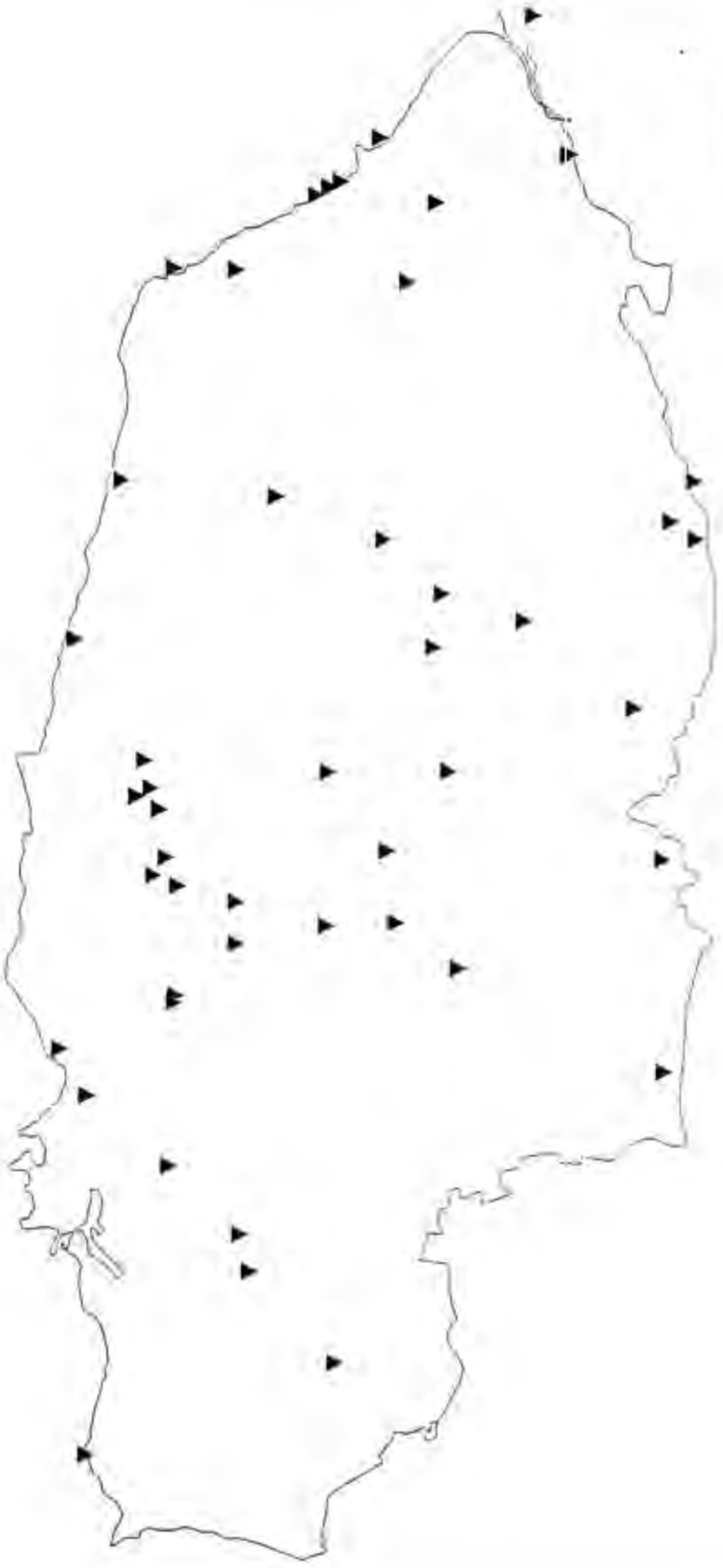
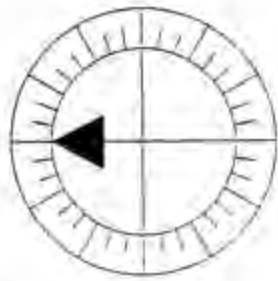
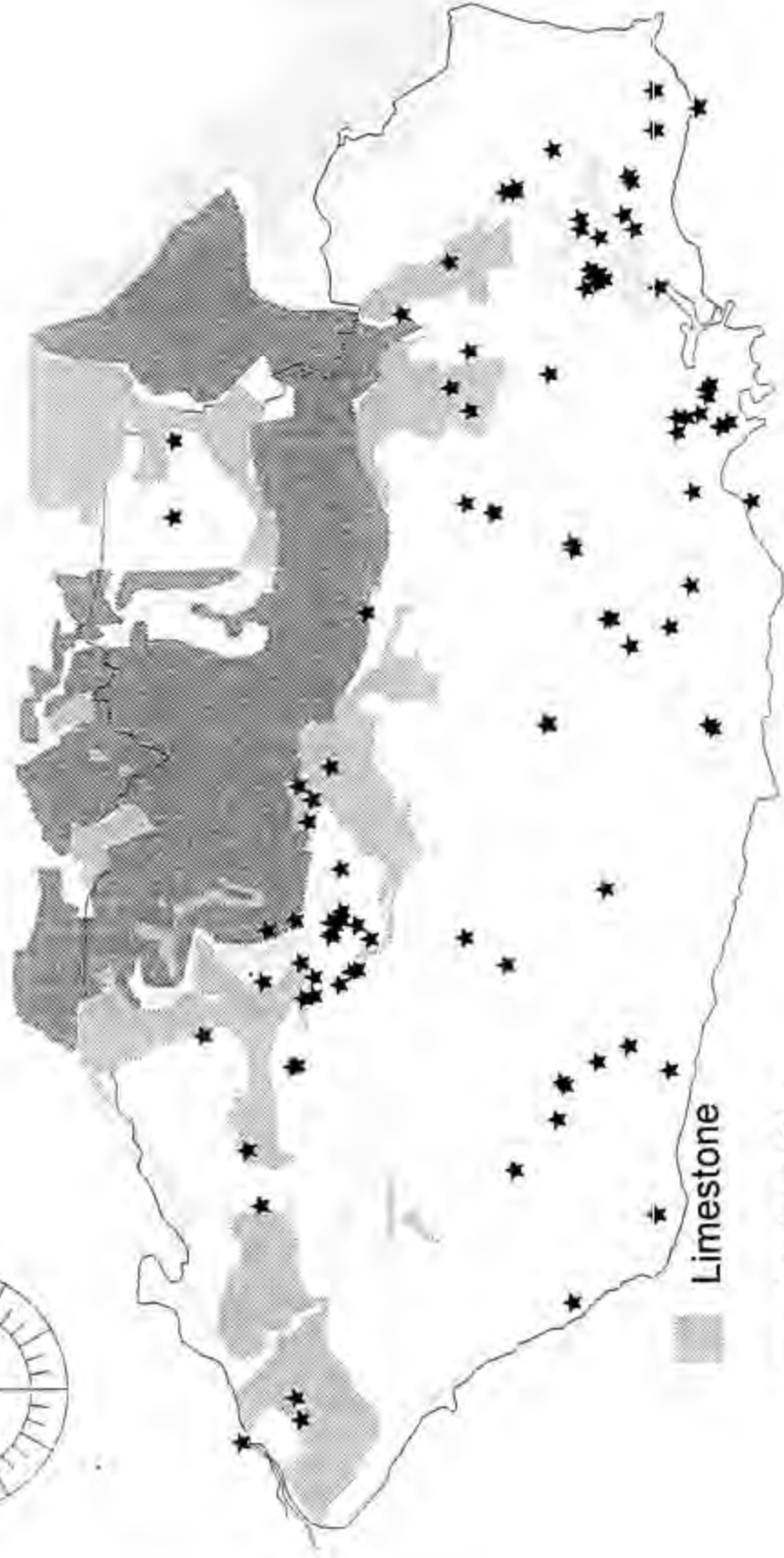


Figure 6. Iron Age sites in Vale of Glamorgan





0 5 Km 10 Km
Scale 1:148710







-  Limestone
-  Boulder Clay
-  Alluvium
-  Lias

Figure 7. Roman Sites in Vale of Glamorgan Showing Geology

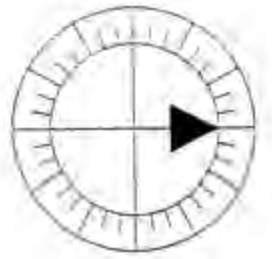


Figure 8. Medieval sites in Vale of Glamorgan



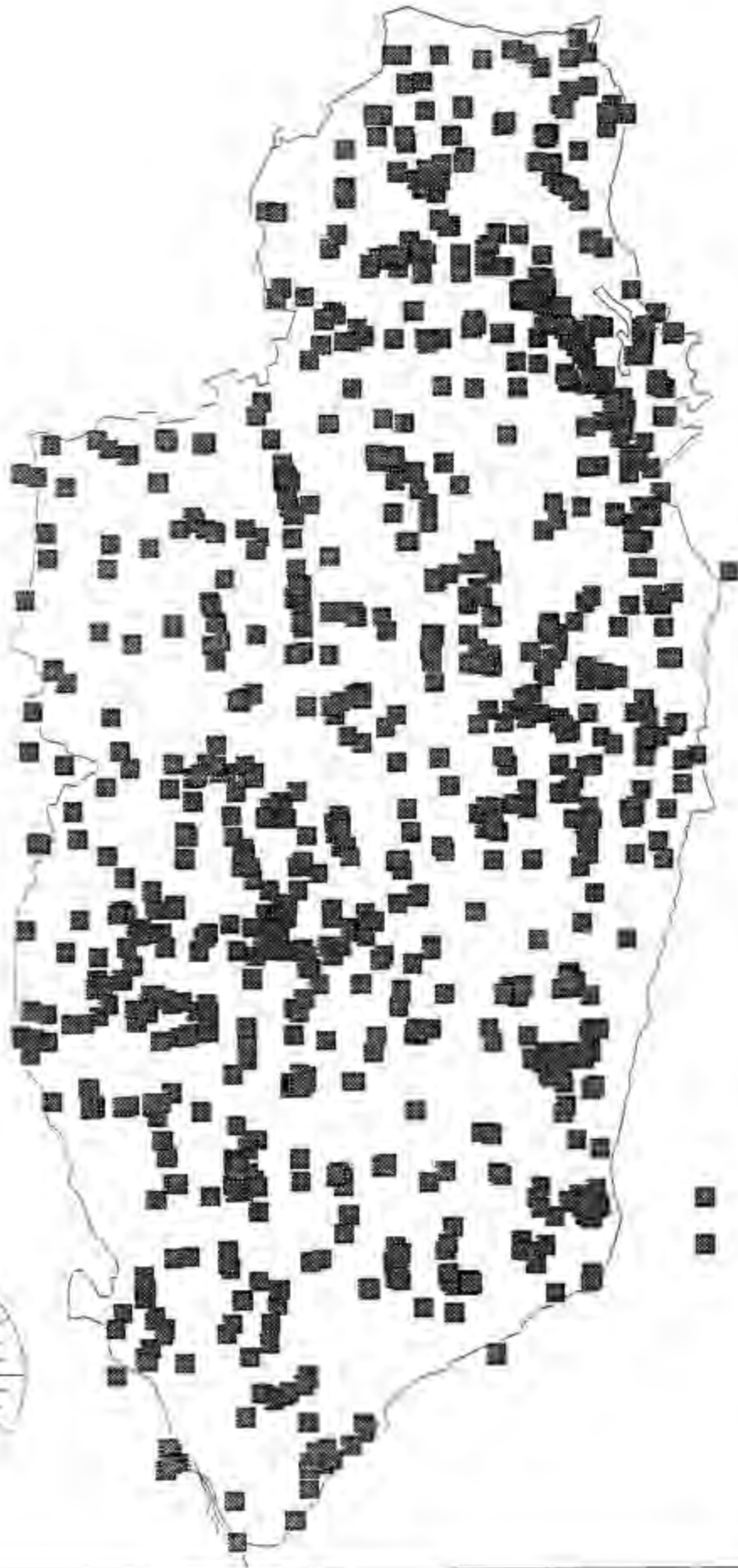
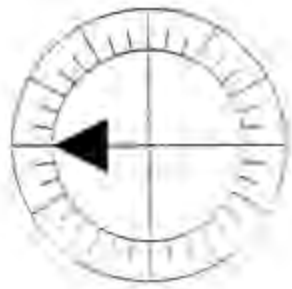


Figure 9. Post Medieval Sites in Vale of Glamorgan

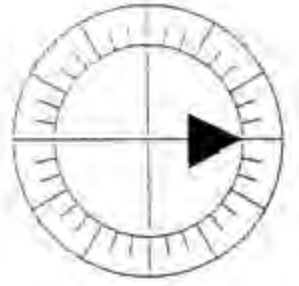


Figure 10. Sites where Period is not known



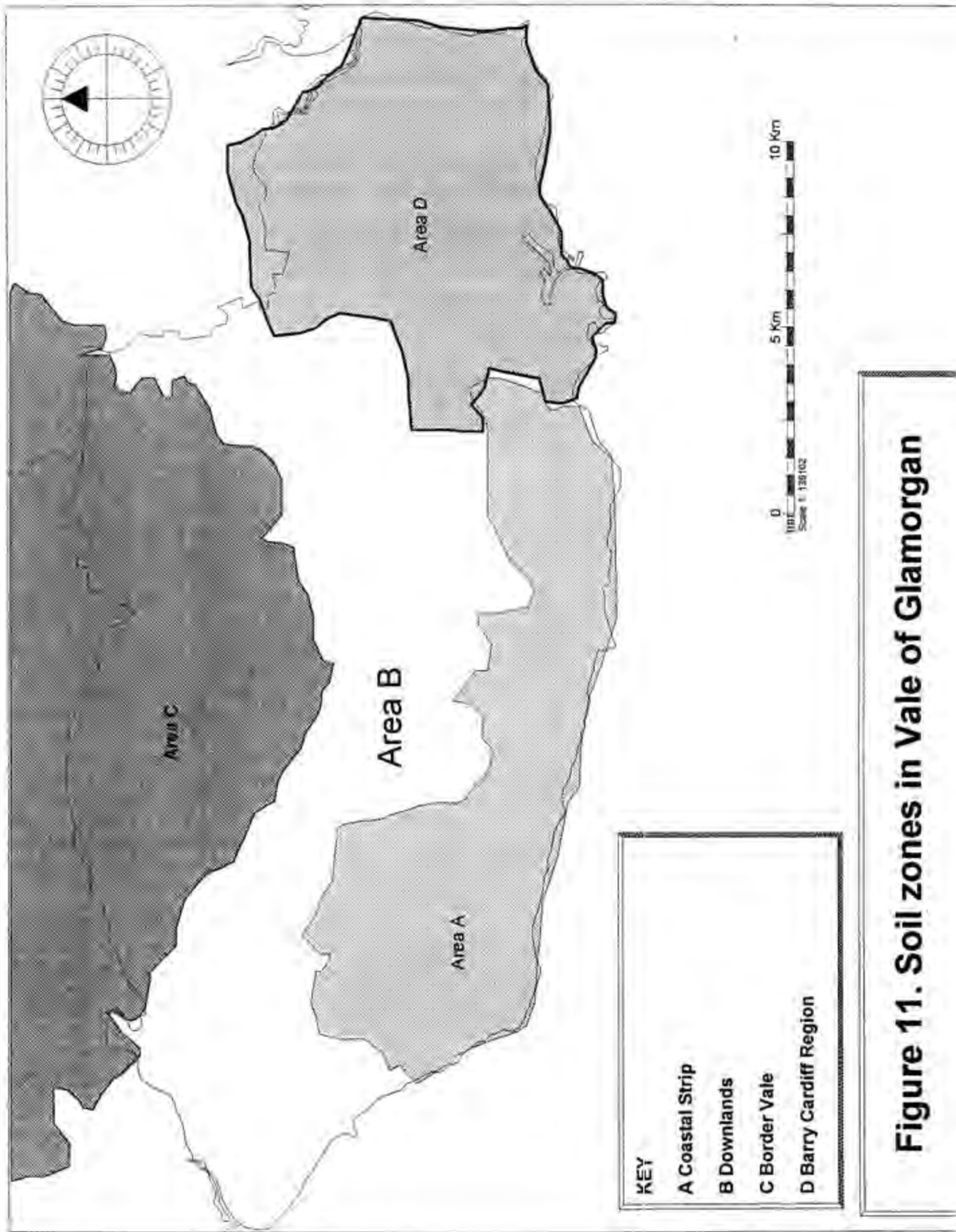
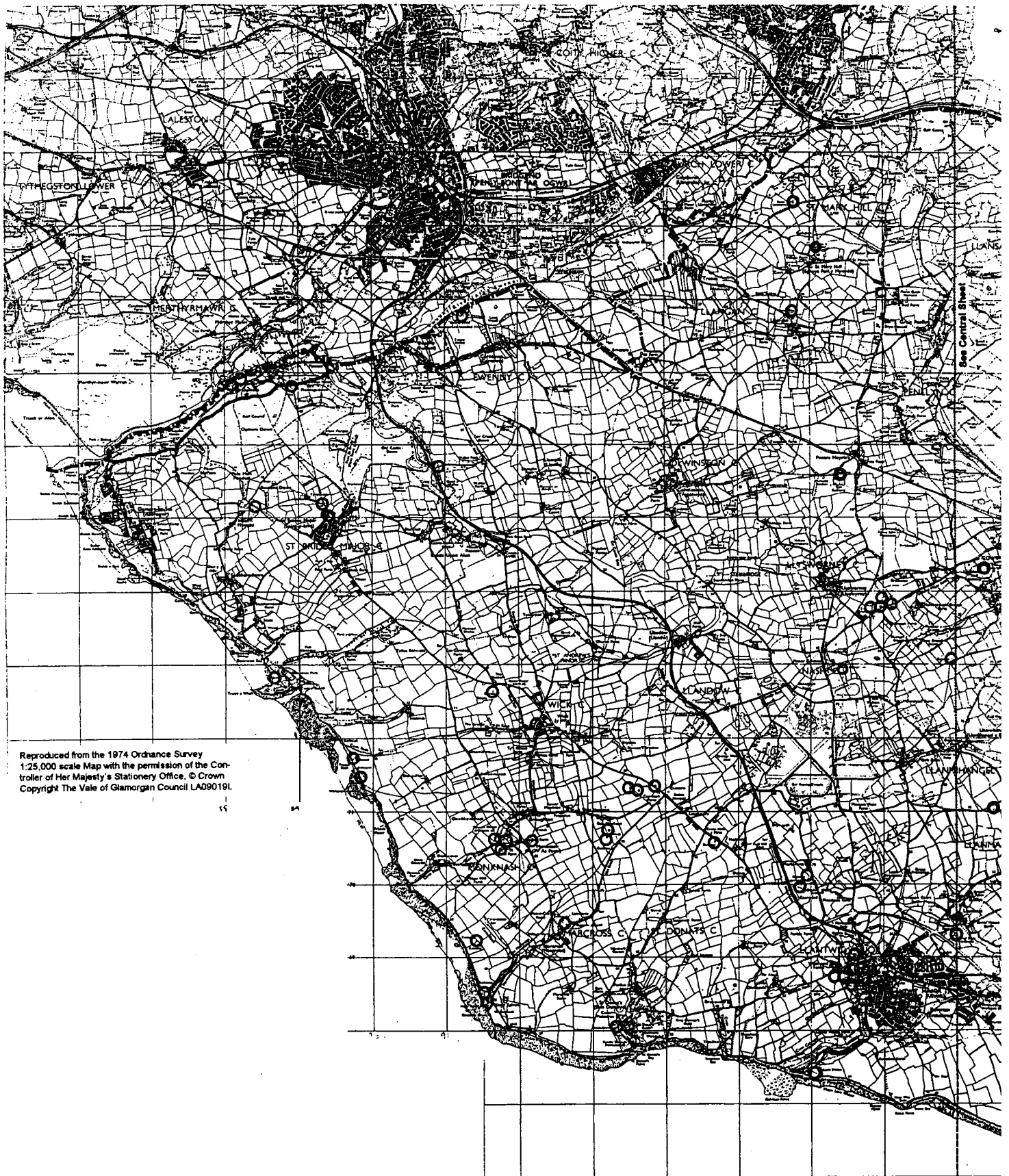


Figure 11. Soil zones in Vale of Glamorgan



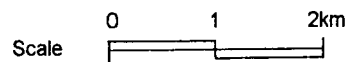
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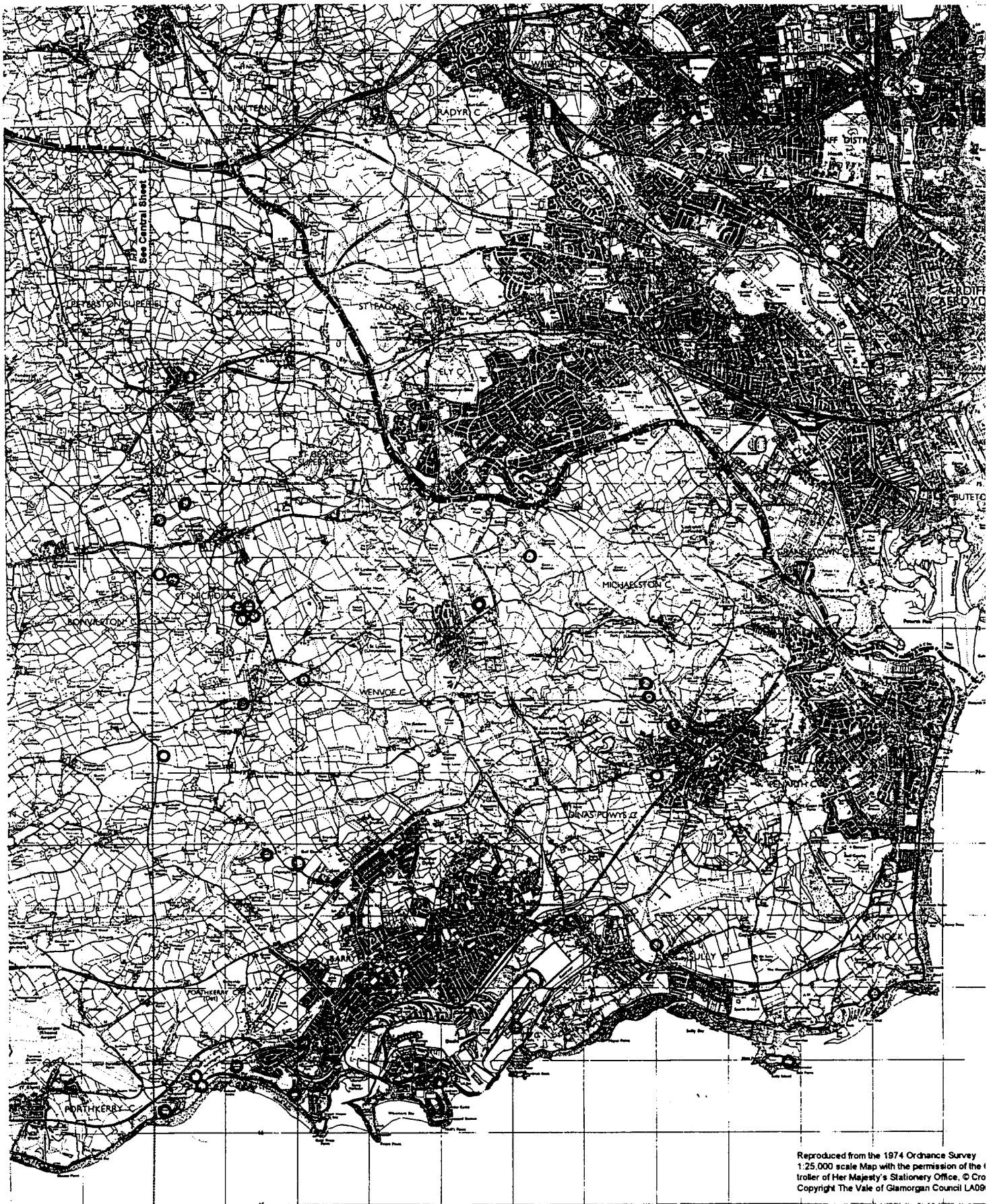
Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Registered Historic Landscape of Exceptional Importance



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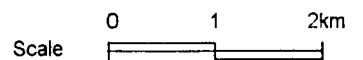


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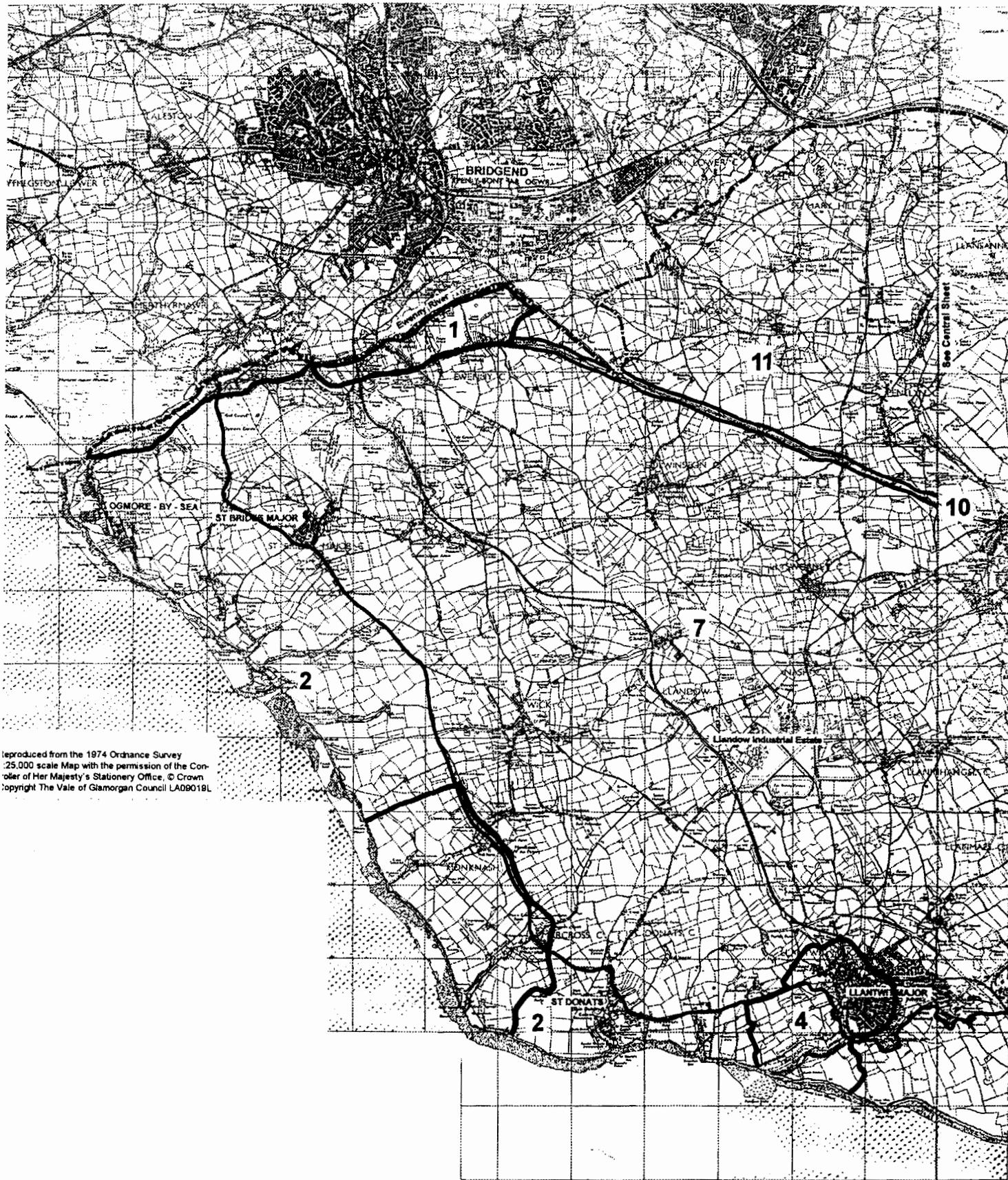
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Registered Historic Landscape of Exceptional Importance



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

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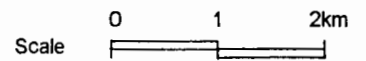


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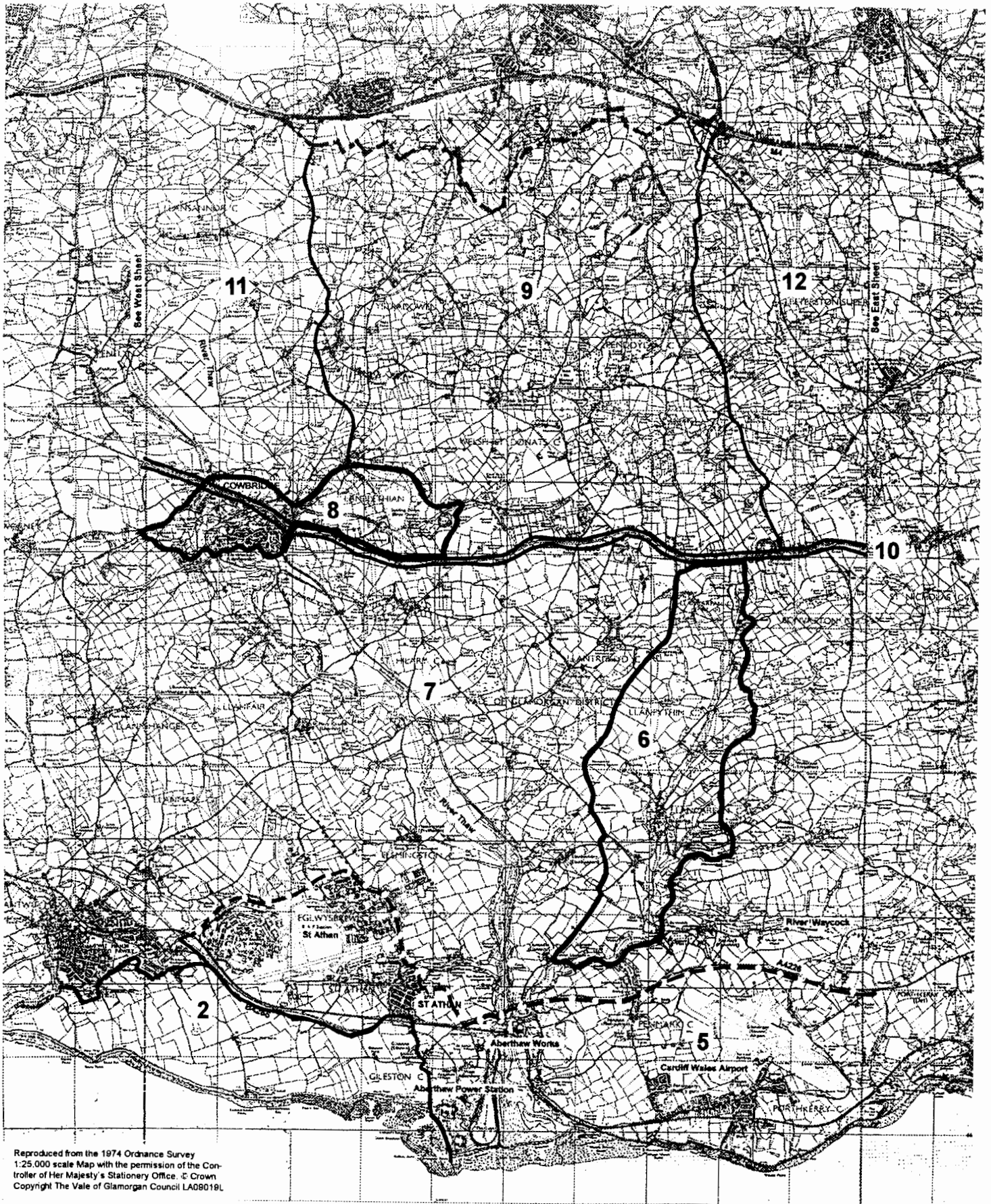
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-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







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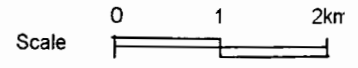
West



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- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
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-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



HISTORICAL-COMPONENTS



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2 Component Reference Number - see Text



Areas of Outstanding Value



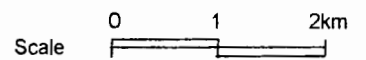
Areas of High intrinsic value



Areas of Modest intrinsic value



Other Areas



HISTORICAL-COMPONENTS

East

HISTORIC**Area No: VG/H/ 1****Description and Evaluation****Component Location?**

River Ewenny and Priory, south of A48

How would you classify this area?

Monastic Establishment and riverside environs

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

Early (founded 1141), well preserved, religious site and riverine landscape. Priory church is one finest examples of early Norman architecture and is the best example of a fortified ecclesiastical building complex in Wales. The presbytery is one of the rare instances in the country of Romanesque vaulting on a large scale. Immediate area was subject to monastic influence.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Ewenny priory precinct

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area?

If so, name.

No, but this area could meet the criteria for the historic landscapes register and be a 'bolt-on' to the Merthyr Mawr historic landscape to the south and west.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

Area is dominated by Ewenny Priory and its environs. Site in private ownership.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Early and very significant ecclesiastical centre, much enjoyed for its historic and tranquil character. Proximity of River Ewenny is also an important landscape feature and no doubt instrumental in original choice of site. Evidence of medieval water management should be evident. Area is intolerant to change, though increased visitor interest must be expected.

Areas intrinsic valueOutstanding

High

Modest

Other

Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Area is intolerant to change and perhaps undervalued. It needs proactive management to preserve its qualities which could be a growing visitor attraction with higher profile, subject to the wishes of the owner. Visual qualities and 'sense of place' must be retained.

Importance of achieving objectiveEssential

Highly Desirable

Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant**True****False**

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Proactive management strategy of area is required to maintain the essential qualities of the site and its landscape environs. Higher level of visitor facilities and intelligible interpretation required should promotion of the site be desirable.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 2

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Glamorgan Heritage Coast

How would you classify this area? Coastal Conservation Area

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

Important area of maritime influence and tradition. Significant archaeological features are the Prehistoric sites – Bronze age burial and the Iron Age promontory forts – and evidence of medieval monastic coastal exploitation.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Castle Ditches, Dunraven, Summerhouse Point

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

Yes at its northern boundary. However, the entire Glamorgan Heritage Coast could meet the criteria for the Historic Landscapes Register.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

The area is characterised by short coastal valleys, providing resources of water, wood and shelter. These still retain significant ancient woodland.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Area retains important archaeological sites and influences, including nationally significant prehistoric and monastic characteristics attracted to a coastal location.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape Objective/recommended state for area

Area is intolerant to change and needs continuing management to preserve its essential qualities which are a growing attraction with discernible visitor pressure. Area would benefit from further archaeological interpretation.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly Desirable	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant

True

False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing proactive management strategy of Glamorgan Heritage Coast to maintain and enhance the essential landscape qualities of the area. Area requires modern archaeological heritage audit project and consideration of historic landscape criteria and status.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 3

Description and Evaluation**Component Location?** Monknash and Marcross**How would you classify this area?** Important Monastic Landscape within Heritage Coast**What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?**

Important area of monastic exploitation, influence and tradition. Area was part of the coastal granges of Neath Abbey. Excellent survival of medieval features and earthworks demonstrate the size and scale of medieval granges. Northern boundary of the area is marked by Clawdd y Mynach, an original feature.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes
If so, name the main ones. Tithe Barn and Dovecot, Monknash; DMV, Marcross

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

No, but this area within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast could meet the criteria for the historic landscapes register.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area? Yes**Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape? [Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]**

The area of monastic coastal exploitation is characterised by short coastal valleys, providing resources of water, wood and shelter. These still retain significant ancient woodland.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Area retains important well preserved archaeological landscape and monastic influence of national importance, attracted to a coastal location.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<u>Outstanding</u>	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Area is intolerant to change and needs continuing management to preserve its essential qualities which are a growing attraction. Area would benefit from further archaeological interpretation.

<i>Importance of achieving objective</i>	<u>Essential</u>	Highly Desirable	Desirable
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant</i>	True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	Yes	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	Yes	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing proactive management strategy of Glamorgan Heritage Coast to maintain and enhance the essential landscape qualities of the area. Improved interpretation to assist public appreciation of the area. Consideration for scheduling enhancement is required and for Historic Landscape status on national register. Area north of Marcross needs integrating into the Glamorgan Heritage Coast to include scheduled medieval earthworks.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 4

Description and Evaluation**Component Location?**

Llantwit Major and Colcough

How would you classify this area?

Southern coastal historic settlement

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

important and early monastic site and religious centre linked by former harbour at Colcough to the sea. Early centre of Christian learning and influence, founded by Illtyd in the early 6th century. Has the largest parish church in Glamorgan. Area dense with early Christian monuments, monastic grange and medieval and post medieval buildings of enormous significance, which lend considerable character to this large open textured ancient community.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Llantwit Major Castle, Dovecot and Gatehouse
Llantwit Major Monastic settlement**Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.**

No, but this area could meet the criteria for the Historic Landscapes Register.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

This area and settlement of early monastic coastal exploitation is enhanced by the former presence of a harbour at Colcough, which though significant is poorly understood.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Area retains important well preserved, though dispersed, archaeological landscape and early monastic influence of national importance. Important 'sense of place'. Core of settlement retains historic qualities, though new housing developments has degraded the urban fringe.

Areas intrinsic valueOutstanding

High

Modest

Other

Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Essential historic core of the settlement is intolerant to further change and needs continuing management policy to preserve its essential qualities which are a growing attraction.

Importance of achieving objectiveEssential

Highly Desirable

Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant**True****False**

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing proactive management strategy to maintain and enhance the essential landscape, historic and cultural qualities of the settlement and area linking to the coast. Area would benefit from conservation of historic components, such as the 'Old Place', and additional archaeological interpretation and promotion to enhance visitor experience. The former Colcough harbour needs archaeological identification.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 5

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Coastal Developed Zone

How would you classify this area?

Degraded Coastal Area between Liantwit and Barry

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

Whilst this area contains important archaeological sites and monuments, such as Cae Summerhouse, the Bulwarks, Porthkerry and Aberthaw, it is a somewhat degraded archaeological landscape through the presence of military and civil airfields, power station and urban sprawl, dismantled railway, etc

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Cae Summerhouse, The Bulwarks, Porthkerry,
Early Cement Works, Aberthaw

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

No.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

Yes, sites such as the Bulwarks and its environs at Porthkerry.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important individual sites and monuments exist in a relatively degraded landscape.

Areas intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* **Modest** *Other*

Strategy and Management

Landscape Objective/recommended state for area

Preservation of scheduled ancient monuments and other known archaeological sites (through the planning process) is recommended.

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly Desirable* **Desirable**

Which of the following statements are particularly significant **True** **False**

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing protection of SAMs and other archaeological sites (through the planning process). Some sites, such as the Bulwarks at Porthkerry, would benefit from improved interpretation due to proximity of communities, schools, etc.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 6

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llancafarn Historic Landscape

How would you classify this area? Central Vale Valley, from Llancadle to A48

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

The area represents the best surviving and most complete, typical historic part of the Vale and contains diverse land-use from the prehistoric period onwards. It includes an Iron Age hillfort, an important Early Monastic site, Llancafarn village, one of the best surviving examples of the characteristic Anglo-Norman nucleated settlements of the Vale with their large churches and distinctive vernacular style.

Are there SAM's in this area? Yes
If so, name the main ones. Castle Ditches

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.
It is a nationally Registered Historic Landscape of exceptional importance.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area? Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?
[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

The whole landscape with all its component parts is recognised to be of national importance, hence its inclusion in the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important early religious origins, individual sites and monuments and vernacular Vale architecture

Areas intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Very important historic landscape which is intolerant to change and requires on-going proactive management policies to maintain essential qualities.

Importance of achieving objective Essential Highly Desirable Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing protection and enhancement of this nationally important historic landscape. Needs of development need to be weighed against historic landscape registration. Protection of key elements required through the planning process

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 7

Description and Evaluation**Component Location?**

The 'Bro'

How would you classify this area?

Southern rural Vale extending from Brigend to Penarth. A48 marks northern boundary.

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

This homogenous historic area represents the traditional rural fertile Vale, based on productive soils above a lias limestone plateau. The agricultural qualities of this area were exploited continuously from prehistoric times. The historic depth and character of the landscape is of exceptional importance and is generally untypical of Wales, reflecting more the landscapes and nucleated settlements across the border in England. Whilst there are clear landscape differences in this area, generally, on the basis of current understanding, this diversity is not clearly represented in the historic or archaeological resources.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Too many to cite

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

None, apart from the Llancafarn valley (see VG/H/6). This entire area was considered for inclusion in the Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens as it would clearly meet many of the national criteria.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

The whole landscape with all its component archaeological and characteristic parts is recognised to be of national importance. The area includes the Thaw Valley for its importance as a landscape feature which acted as an artery for early settlement into South Wales.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important and outstanding homogenous historic landscape of potential national significance.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Very important historic landscape which is intolerant to major change and requires understanding and on-going proactive management policies to maintain the status quo.

<i>Importance of achieving objective</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>

<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	Yes	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	Yes	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change	Yes	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing protection and enhancement of this nationally important historic landscape is required. Needs of development need to be weighed against historic landscape interests. Archaeological landscape characterisation project and study of historic settlements is required to assist further breakdown of area into landscape policy areas.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 8

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Stalling Down

How would you classify this area? Central Vale Area astride the A48

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

An important focal area astride the A48 (formerly a major Roman road), where it meets a crossing point of the river Thaw. A combination of communications network and advantageous river crossing has attracted settlement from earliest times, some of it military in character.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Caer Dynnaf, St Quentin's Castle, Llanquian Castle and hillfort.

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

None, though this area could be considered for inclusion in the Register of Historic Landscapes as it would clearly meet many of the criteria.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

Cowbridge is the major Vale settlement having Roman origins and developing into an important medieval market borough, the burgrave plan and part of the medieval walls of which survive to this day.

The area south-west of Llanblethian has a rare surviving landscape of rectangular 'Celtic' fields, which contrast to the medieval strips which are also present. Stalling Down has an above average density of important archaeological sites of many periods.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important and outstanding historic landscape of potential national significance.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Very important historic landscape which is intolerant to further major change and requires fuller understanding and proactive management conservation policies.

<i>Importance of achieving objective</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>

Which of the following statements are particularly significant**True****False**

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Continuing protection and enhancement of this important central landscape area. Needs of development need to be weighted against the historic landscape interests. Enhancement of the historic and tourist potential is desirable through improved interpretation of sites such as St Quentin's Castle. Guide for the area would offer improved visitor experience and understanding.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/ 9

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

'The Border Vale'

How would you classify this area?

Central Vale area north of the A48 between the Rivers Thaw and Ely.

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

Distinctive borderland area of the Vale formerly the 'Welshry' and Demesne Lordship of Talyfan with its caput at Castell Tal-y-Van. Area is typified by dispersed settlement pattern and Welsh place names, which indicate former medieval woodland and an economy different to the agrarian 'anglicised' Vale south of the A48. Border clay area that may have been shunned by the Romans.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Castell Tal-y Van

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

None, though the area has some potential as a registered historic landscape.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

Currently this distinctive area and its separate development are poorly understood. As a surviving 'Welsh' dispersed landscape, adjacent to the 'Bro', it has significance as a landscape of high intrinsic value.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important and distinct historic landscape of potential national significance.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape Objective/recommended state for area

Potentially significant historic landscape, the archaeological development of which is at present poorly understood. Area requires fuller understanding leading to proactive management/conservation policies to maintain status quo.

<i>Importance of achieving objective</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	Yes	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	Yes	
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	Yes	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Landscape characterisation and heritage audit required to more fully understand and protect this area. Needs of development need to be weighed against the historic landscape and specific site interests, as part of the planning process.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? The A48 (Roman Road)

How would you classify this area? Central Vale trunk road from Cardiff to Bridgend

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

Important road of Roman (or earlier) origin. This was the main Roman road of South Wales linking the forts from Caerleon to Carmarthen. The road is documented in the 2nd century A.D. Iter XII of the Antonine Itinerary. A Roman settlement at Cowbridge on the A48 is known, though the recorded site of *Bomium*, a fort between Neath and Caerleon, has yet to be positively identified.

Are there SAM's in this area? No

If so, name the main ones.

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

None.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area? Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape? [Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

The line of this road, which maintains the straightness of a Roman thoroughfare, effectively divides the 'Bro' from the 'Border Vale'. It is also an approximate dividing line between the lias limestone to the south and the border clay to the north and the different land-use patterns of the past. It is one of the most visually important reminders of the Roman conquest of Wales in the 1st century A.D.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important and distinctive historic landscape feature with high visual quality and settlement pattern significance.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape Objective/recommended state for area

Maintain as a linear landscape feature of early and significant origin. Promote fuller understanding of the road, formerly known as the 'Portway'

<i>Importance of achieving objective</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	Yes	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	Yes	
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	Yes	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Maintain road on existing line with promotion of its historical significance. A well illustrated booklet on the significance of the road and the sites and settlements along its route would be a major tourism contribution.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/11

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? The North-western Vale

How would you classify this area? North-western Vale, north of the A48

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

A significant area north of the A48 (formerly a major Roman road) including the Thaw Valley, which would have been an important artery for settlement. Whilst the area is regarded as part of the 'Border Vale' it is more characteristic as a hybrid area adjacent to both the dispersed landscape of the Welshry and the nucleated English form settlement of the 'Bro' to the south.

Are there SAM's in this area? Yes
If so, name the main ones. Too many to list

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.
None.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area? Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?
[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]
None specific

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.
Important hybrid area of the Vale to include northern Thaw valley.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management

Landscape Objective/recommended state for area
Important historic landscape, which is tolerant to some further change on its western fringe with Bridgend.

<i>Importance of achieving objective</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly Desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>

<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	Yes	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	Yes	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change	Yes	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Area requires archaeological characterisation study and modern heritage audit to assist any further breakdown into landscape policy areas. Continuing protection and enhancement of archaeological landscape components required. Needs of development need to be weighted against the historic landscape interests as part of the on-going planning process.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/12

Description and Evaluation**Component Location?** The North-eastern Vale**How would you classify this area?** North-eastern Vale, north of A48**What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?**

A significant area north of the A48 (formerly a major Roman road) including the Ely Valley, which would have been an important artery for settlement and military penetration. Whilst the area is regarded as part of the 'Border Vale' it is more characteristic as a hybrid area adjacent to both the dispersed landscape of the Welshry and the nucleated settlement of the 'Bro' to the south. The area has had significant English influence from the caput of the Lordship at Cardiff.

Are there SAM's in this area?

Yes

If so, name the main ones.

Too many to cite

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.

None.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area?

Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?

[Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

The area includes the Ely Valley which had played a significant role in attracting colonisation from earliest times. The motte and bailey castle at Felin Isaf and the stone castle at Peterston testify to the Norman military significance of the Ely valley.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important hybrid landscape area of the Vale to include northern Thaw valley.

<i>Areas intrinsic value</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Important historic landscape, which is tolerant to some further change on its eastern fringe with Cardiff

Importance of achieving objective*Essential**Highly Desirable**Desirable***Which of the following statements are particularly significant****True****False**

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

Yes

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

Yes

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Area requires archaeological characterisation study and heritage audit to assist any further breakdown into landscape policy areas. Continuing protection and enhancement of archaeological landscape components is required. The needs of development need to be weighted against the historic landscape interests as part of the on-going planning process.

HISTORIC

Area No: VG/H/13

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Penarth-Barry Green-Wedge

How would you classify this area? Penarth- Barry green-lung and urban fringe

What is the dominant historic landscape characteristic in this area?

A significant 'green lung' area having the characteristics of the 'Bro' to the north. The area includes Romano British interests at Pop Hill, medieval settlement at Sully and Lavernock and the very important deserted medieval village of Cosmeston and its attendant landscape. Cog Moors also has significant archaeological potential. North Barry urban fringe area includes important early medieval nuclei at Cadoxton and Merthyr Dyfan.

Are there SAM's in this area? Yes
 If so, name the main ones. Too many to cite

Are there Registered landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens in this area? If so, name.
 None.

Are there Grade 1 or 2* listed buildings in this area? Yes

Are there any other features of interest which are of importance to the landscape?
 [Archaeological sites, Conservation areas, Listed buildings, other landscape features etc]

Cosmeston Medieval Village, within the Cosmeston Country Lakes Park.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account.

Important landscape area of the Vale, which is under some threat from urban sprawl.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<u><i>High</i></u>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management**Landscape Objective/recommended state for area**

Important landscape, with very significant settlements such as Cosmeston Castle and Cosmeston Deserted Medieval Village, which is intolerant to further major change if it is to maintain its historic character and green wedge qualities.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	<u>Highly Desirable</u>	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	Yes	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	Yes	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		Yes

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme

Area requires proactive conservation policies to maintain the status quo. Needs of development need to be weighted against the historic landscape interests. Medieval component and interpretation of nationally important Cosmeston village needs enhancement, including publication of archaeological work. Cosmeston Castle, Deserted Medieval Village, Dovecot and attendant landscape needs consideration for scheduling enhancement.

8.0 Culture

1 INTRODUCTION

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in partnership with the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) are preparing a comprehensive landscape study for the vale of Glamorgan to provide a framework for a landscape policy and implementation programme and associated design work.

The output of the study will be in two parts:

"Part 1 – a landscape assessment including a suite of landscape strategies dealing with development planning issues, and;

Part 2 – design and management guidelines and an action programme"

The study will be guided by the emerging CCW LANDMAP methodology.

This brief report assesses the cultural associations of the landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan. The proposal by White Consultants proposed the following approach:

"Working with the Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust the specialist will identify significant cultural influences and areas and points of importance in the landscape. A desk study on broad cultural factors including folklore, art and literature would be carried out. Site work would include the identification of key views in paintings, postcards, posters etc. or referred to in literature"

The definition of culture implied by the LANDMAP handbook which focuses solely on artistic and folklore associations is possibly too narrow to produce meaningful results within the Vale of Glamorgan. The main possible error is that the evaluation may give weight in the planning policy formulation process to areas that no longer have cultural value. In addition it will not place any cultural value on large tracts of the Vale. This is clearly wrong. The 'everyday' rural landscape has important cultural significance that should be taken into account in planning decisions.

The results have to be useful as part of a planning tool. Planning is the process of managing change with the aim of ensuring that as much as possible of what is good about the past is carried into the future. The aim of the assessment should therefore be to identify the various layers of cultural association that a landscape has, rather than just one narrow cultural response such as painting.

The definition of culture below as given in the Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought is more relevant to the study and will give more defensible results:

"The 'social heritage' of a community: the total body of material artifacts (tools, weapons, houses, places of work, worship, government, recreation, works of art, etc.) of collective mental and spiritual 'artifacts' (systems of symbols, ideas, beliefs, aesthetic perceptions, values etc.), and of distinctive forms of behaviour (institutions, groupings, rituals, modes of organisation, etc.) created by a people (sometimes deliberately, sometimes through unforeseen interconnections and consequences) in their ongoing activities within their particular life-conditions, and (though undergoing kinds and degrees of change) transmitted from generation to generation".

Using this definition, the whole landscape of the Vale can be seen as an expression of its culture with a whole series of layers of cultural value. In the Vale these include: a general appreciation of quiet agricultural character, religious significance associated with Celtic, Norman and Non-conformist religions, folklore, myth, literature, aesthetic, and tourism/recreation.

2 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

Robin Gwyndaf of the National Folk Museum at St Fagans was consulted. Most data was collected from the Local Studies section of the National Library which has the largest collection of material relevant to the Vale of Glamorgan. The National Museum of Wales, some local galleries and bookshops, tourist information centres and other tourist facilities were visited.

The approach to the study was discussed with Richard Kelly of the CCW. CCW are carrying out a Technical Support Study in 1998 / 99 that will identify data sources.

The study identified both historic cultural associations, and modern contemporary perceptions and values attached to the landscape.

Historic cultural associations were identified by mapping;

- locations influential in the development of art in Wales;
- views depicted;
- other locations popularised by art;
- areas associated with, folklore, myth and legend;
- areas important in the development of literature in Vale of Glamorgan;
- areas important in the development of education in the Vale of Glamorgan;
- important religious sites; and,
- key tourism and recreational sites.

Contemporary cultural associations were identified by mapping:

- locations depicted in contemporary art, and on post cards of the area;
- views depicted; and,
- important landscape attractors, and key tourism and recreational sites.

Contemporary cultural associations will also be identified by the public perception study running parallel to the 'Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan' study.

The base data collected is a preliminary study of cultural associations in the Vale of Glamorgan. It has been limited in extent by the following factors;

- Lack of existing literature and research on cultural associations in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Time constraints.
- Language – the folklore aspect should be reviewed in more detail at a later date by a Welsh speaker.

Description and Evaluation

On the basis of the data collected the study area was divided into distinct areas. The aim was not to distinguish between areas that have either contemporary or historic cultural value, as these values are in reality intertwined. Rather, the aim was to identify distinct areas with which a specific set of cultural values can be associated. Some areas have predominantly historic cultural associations and values whilst others have only contemporary cultural values and associations.

The components identified by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust 'Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan – Historical Aspects' were important in defining the level of cultural value. The other values identified by the base data mapping were overlain on the historical components to create a series of layers of cultural association. These layers are either evident in the landscape, as in the case of a particular building depicted by art, or invisible as in the case of folklore associations.

Each area was evaluated to be one of the following according to how many layers of cultural association exist;

1. Area of outstanding value (national and international)
2. Area of high intrinsic value (county)
3. Area of modest intrinsic value (local)
4. Other areas

For each area (apart from 'other areas') a standard proforma was completed.

Strategy and Management

Preliminary desired strategy and management measures to protect or enhance the identified cultural value of each component were recorded on the proforma.

3 OVERVIEW OF CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

General

The Vale of Glamorgan is an important historic and cultural landscape due to the way in which its physical form expresses various eras of cultural evolution. The landscape can in effect be read giving it enormous cultural significance; the evidence of various human influences on the environment is a history of how the culture of the inhabitants of the Vale of Glamorgan has evolved over time. 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, which 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'.

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 displaced by 'modern' development. Some of this development has wiped the 'slate' clean, replacing a richly layered cultural landscape with a single layer thus reducing cultural value.

Visual Arts

Eric Rowan, 1985 makes the point that until the nineteenth century *"there was no indigenous academy in Wales, no art schools with professional standards, no art societies of high quality, no art societies of high quality, no regular exhibitions, no galleries to hold such exhibitions and virtually no Welsh resident artists of any distinction"*.

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. This was a period in which landscape painting became popular, indicating a hitherto unseen interest in nature. It was also the period of 'The Tour' and following political disturbance on the continent Wales became a popular destination for travellers. William Gilpin, whose observations on the picturesque beauty of the River Wye made it famous, visited the Vale and commented on how the old castle near Cowbridge 'enriched the scene' (Moore).

Travellers often published books of their travels and other travellers followed in their footsteps. These books were often illustrated and the landscape elements that were chosen for illustration are a good guide of contemporary cultural significance. Cowbridge was always popular as a stopping point midway between Cardiff and Bridgend. From here they made visits to St Donats, Llantwit Major, Nash Point, Beupre Castle, Llanblethian, Ogmere and Ewenny. These destinations were popular because they conformed to popular notions of scenic beauty. Moore, 1988 described the ideal view of the time as *"a valley seen in profile, with mountains on the horizon and a river or lake in the middle distance. The handiwork of man would be evident, as a rule in the shape of a venerable ruin or stately mansion set in parkland..."*

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 however the scenic ideal which became popular in the Romantic period is widespread. As Moore says, *"In our modern notions of what constitutes a pleasing view we are very much the inheritors of Gilpin"*.

The two most important painters that visited the Vale are JMW Turner in the 1790's and Alfred Sisley in 1897.

Stewart Williams relates how Turner “was attracted to old buildings, waterfalls and inland scenery, which were the stock in trade of the travelling artists in search of the picturesque”. His painting of Ewenny Priory was “an important landmark in Turners own development as an artist but also an event of outstanding significance in the history of painting”.

Sisley painted at Penarth and completed five pictures, all showing the sea, and with the pier, the cliffs or shipping to enliven it. He also did a view from Lavernock along the coast towards Sully Island. His paintings mark his first and last attempt to paint the sea. He wrote to his friend Gustave Geffron “The country is pretty and the shipping lane with the great boats that go in and out of Cardiff is superb” (Rowan 1985).

During the modern period this century much of the ‘important’ art has been associated with urban issues and abstraction. It is only recently that there has again been a focus on the landscape, mirroring environmental concerns. Terry Setch, an important local environmental artists used material taken from the beach at Penarth to explore environmental issues. One of his most important pieces was ‘Sisley, Marconi – were also present’ (1973) painted at the beach at Penarth alongside six totem like structures made from flotsam and jetsam (Rowan 1985).

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.

Literature

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. GJ Williams writing in the ‘Glamorgan Historian’ summarises the ‘Welsh Literary tradition of the Vale of Glamorgan’. He claims that Welsh learning owes much to the monastic settlements of the Vale of Glamorgan and that Glamorgan Poets were famous throughout Wales. Several of the villages in the produced famous poets and bards, such as Lewys Morgannwg of Cowbridge and Iorwerth Fynglwyd of St Brides Major.

There is undoubtedly a strong literary and educational tradition in the Vale. The Stradlings of St Donats were instrumental in formalising Welsh Grammar and the first Welsh dictionaries and printing presses were produced near Cowbridge. This Century DT Jenkins of St Nicholas school was instrumental in promoting the teaching of 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 Morganwg who felt the same romantic influences that affected English, German and French poets of his day. Williams saw the landscape of the Vale through a romantic haze that seemed to “compel him to manufacture scores of documents which purported to describe the druidic institution, its ceremonies its beliefs and secret teachings” (GJ Williams). His work was important in drawing attention to the landscape of the Vale and although we now know that his work was a fabrication, to some extent we still see the Vale as he wanted us to see it. It was Edward Williams who first referred to the Vale of Glamorgan as ‘The Garden of Wales’ though the Vale has long been renowned “as well for the fertility of the soyle, and abundance of all things serving to the necessity or pleasure of man...pleasant Meadows and pastures, the playnes fruitfull and apt for Tillage...” (Rhys Meurug writing in the second half of the 16 Century).

Folklore

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.

It is recommended that following completion of the CCW Technical Support project in 1998/1999 a Welsh speaker carry out an in-depth study.

Other Cultural Associations

Religion is an important cultural factor in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd. describes the main religious settlements as part of this study.

Regarding the built form of churches, Richards says "*Neither architecture nor sculpture is distinguished...modest and plain the churches may be but they are nonetheless interesting on that account. They have a charm peculiarly their own.*"

Tourism is an important cultural activity, and the places visited indicate a cultural preference for certain landscapes. Key tourist and recreational destinations have been identified and mapped.

4 KEY ISSUES

Culture evolves constantly. Cultural value cannot be preserved but can only be respected as long as it is relevant to present day culture.

The whole landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan is extremely important because it illustrates how the culture of the Vale has evolved over time.

Recent development also has cultural significance. Post-war housing estates for example reflect a period of growth and optimism about the future. The current move towards sustainability is indicative of our current environmental crisis.

The key to maintaining the cultural value of a landscape is ensuring the highest quality of site specific design. All design should take into account the cultural value of the receiving environment and where possible seek to respect the elements that contribute to that value.

Within the Vale the key 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

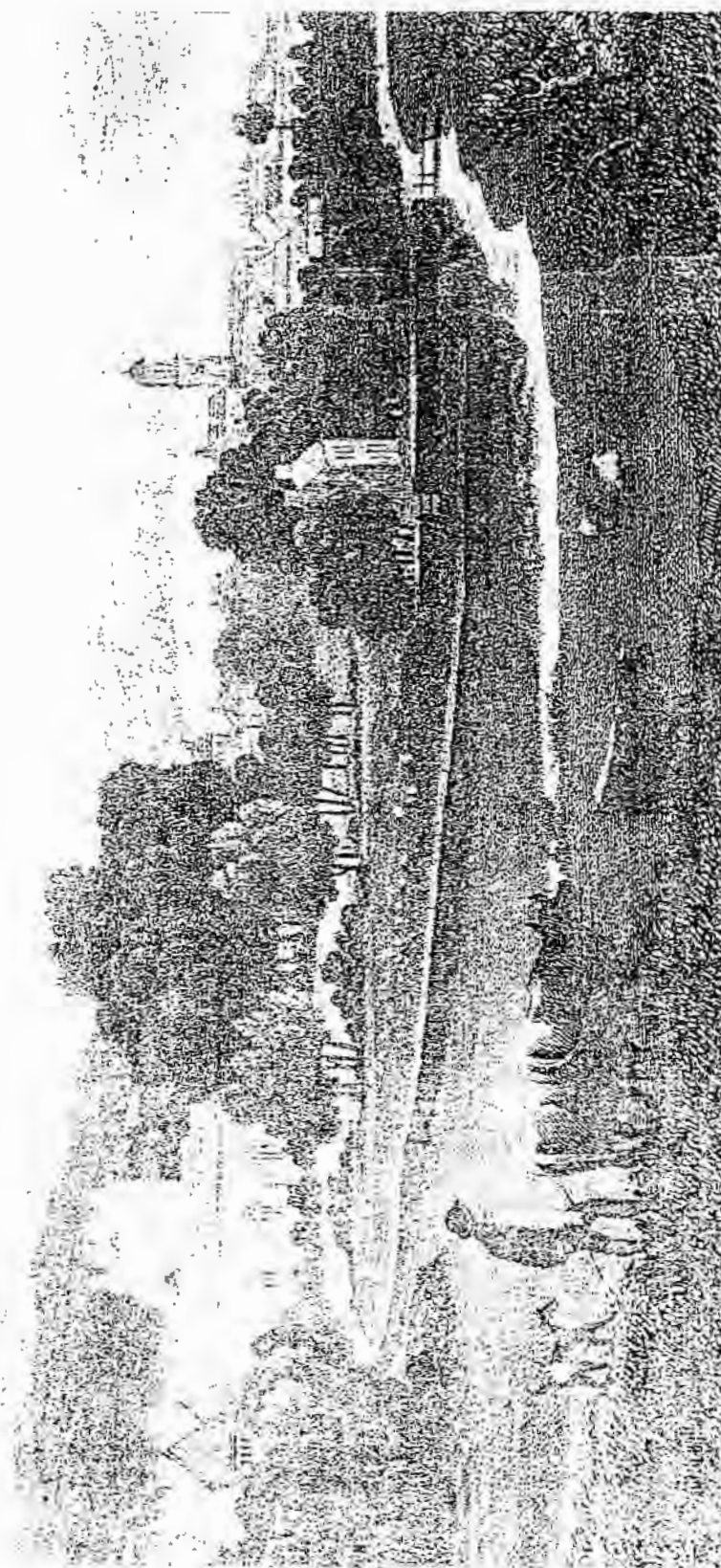
5 IMAGES OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN



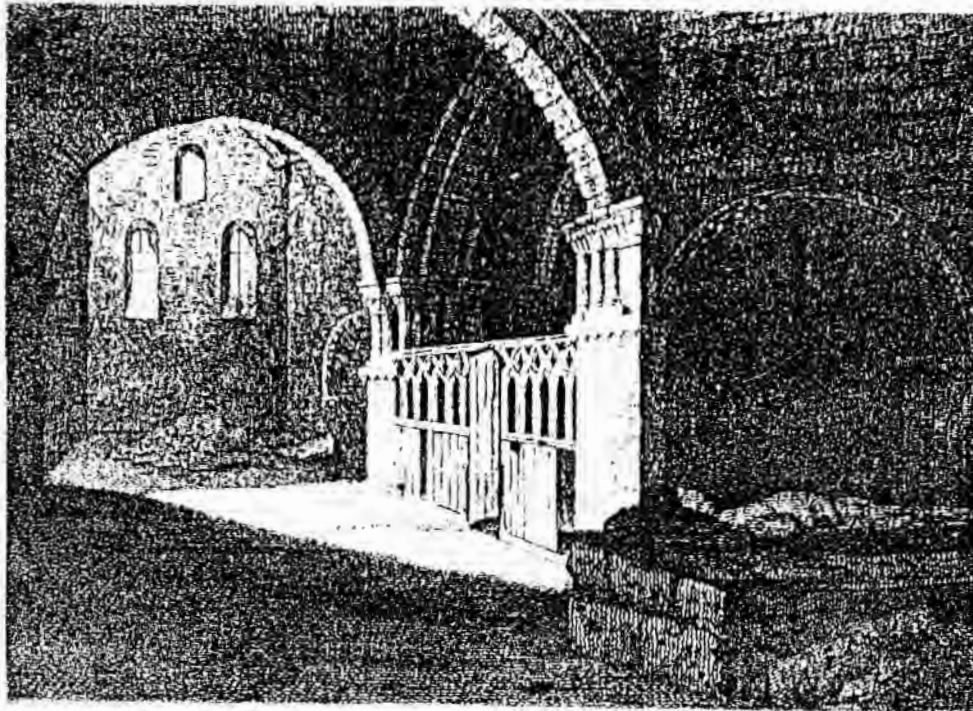
St Donats – Aquatint etching in sepia, P. Sandby, 1775



Town Hall Llantwit Major, engraving by TH Shepherd after Henry Gastineau, 1830.



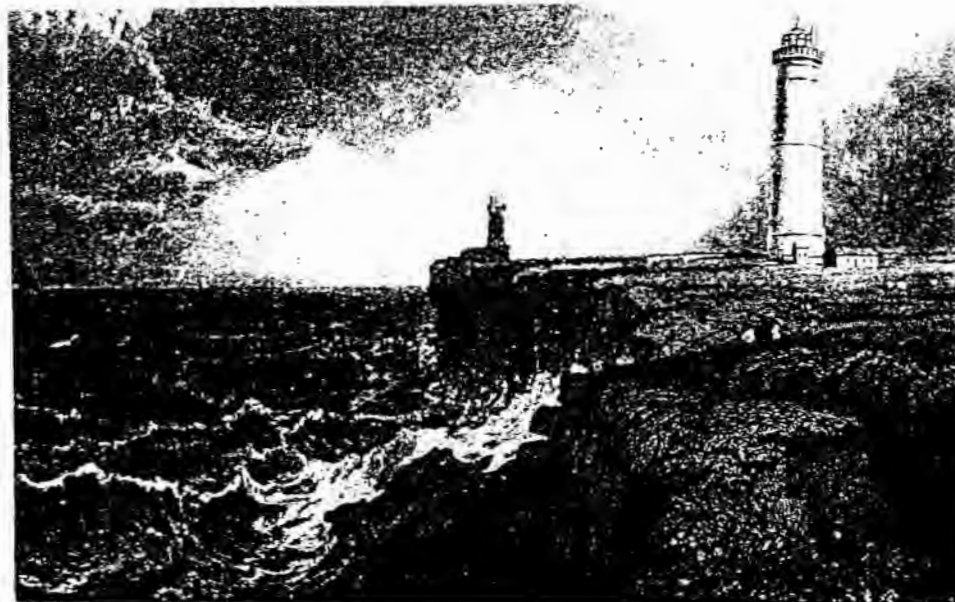
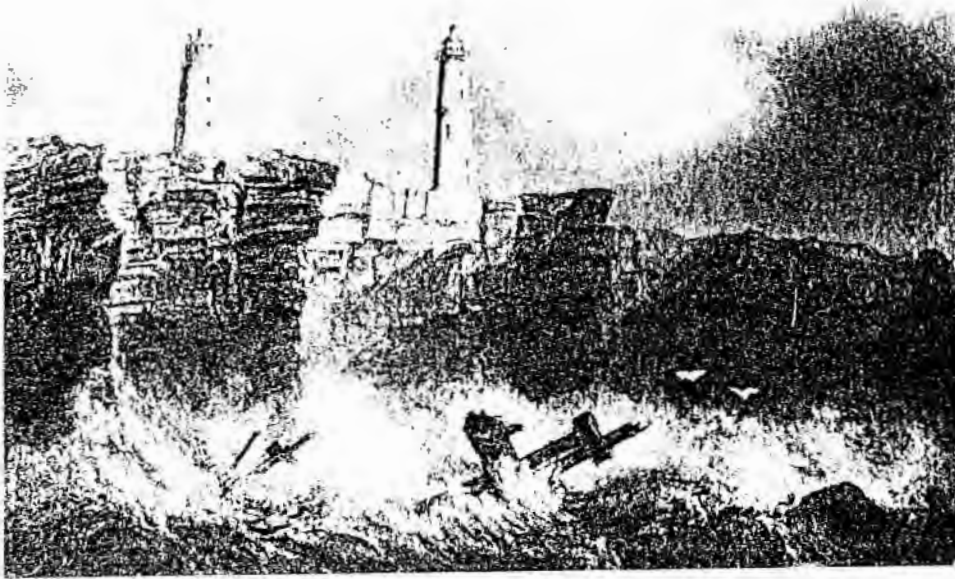
Cowbridge, engraving by HW Bond after Henry Gastineau, 1830



NEAR ST DONATS

Top: Ewenny Priory interior. W Byrne, 1806

Bottom: A windmill near St Donats. Samuel Prout, 1815.



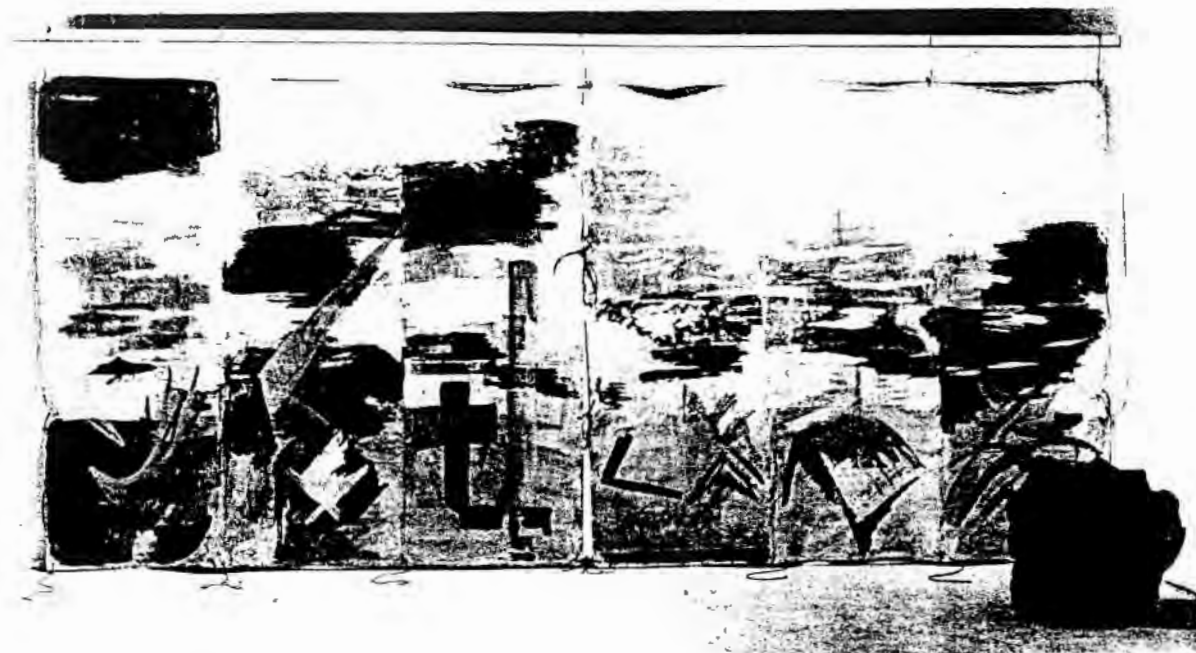
Top: Nash Point lighthouses, FW Topham, 1841

Bottom: Nash Point Lighthouses, J Outhwaite after Gastineau, 1850.



Top: Cardiff Shipping Lane with Penarth Pier, Alfred Sisley, 1897.

Bottom: Bristol Channel Evening Effect, Alfred Sisley 1897 (View towards Sully Island).



Terry Setch, Sisley, Marconi – Were Also Present, 1973.

KEY

CULTURAL ASPECT



Broad area of special value due to cultural associations



Specific area of special value due to cultural associations



Specific artefact/building of special value due to cultural associations



View depicted by culturally significant artist (refer to component text)



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CULTURAL-BASE DATA

West

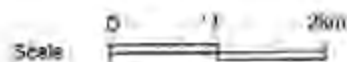
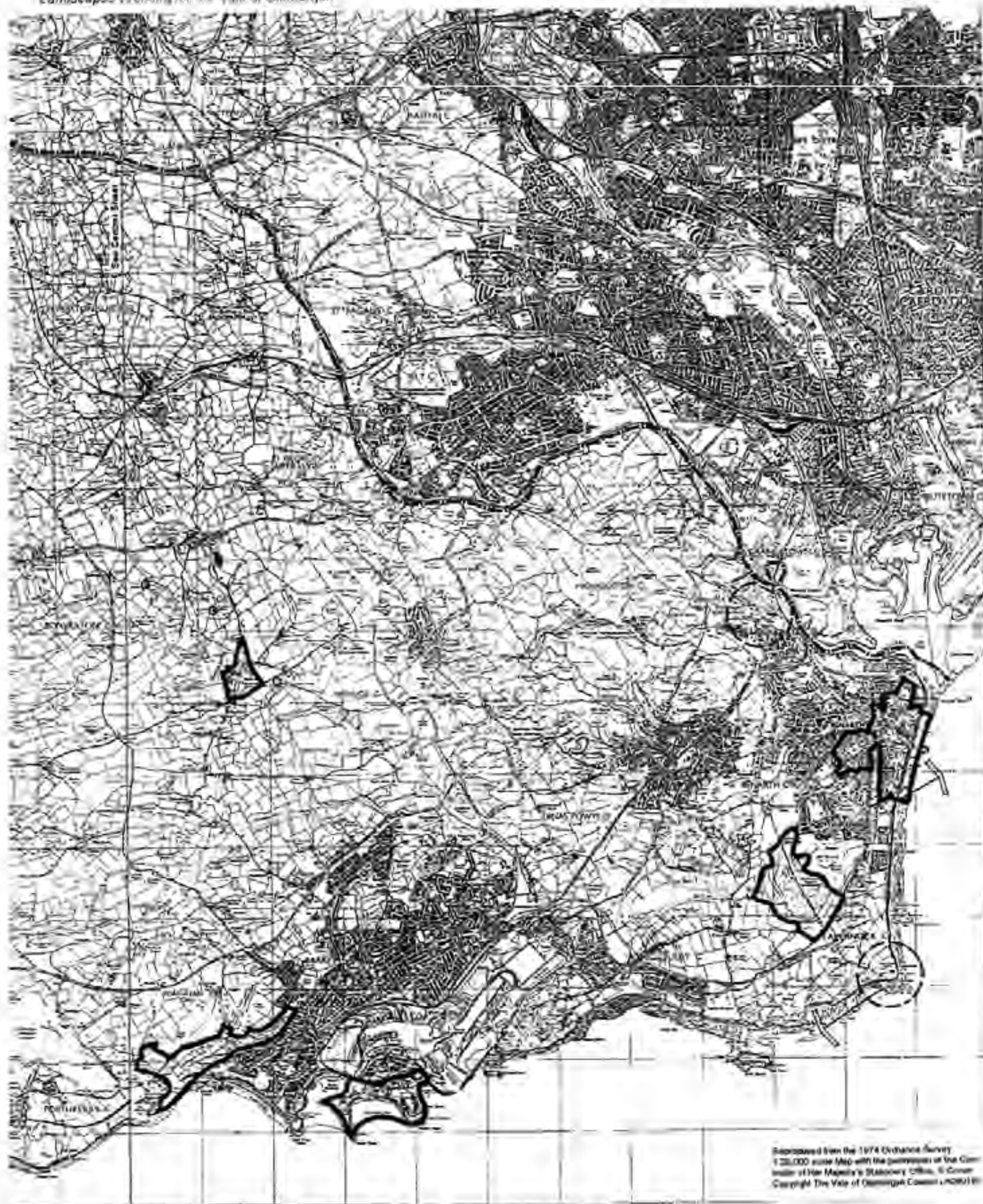


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CULTURAL-BASE DATA

Central



CULTURAL-BASE DATA

East

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6 COMPONENT TEXT

1. The Rural Vale
2. Dyffryn Gardens
3. Coast – Penarth to Sully Island
4. Cosmeston Lakes Country Park
5. Barry Island and Cold Knap
6. Porthkerry Country Park
7. Southern half of catchment of River Thaw
8. Boverton – Aberthaw
9. Cowbridge and Llanblethian
10. Llantwit Major and Cwm Col-huw
11. Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast
12. Ewenny Priory
13. St Donats



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







CULTURAL-COMPONENTS

West



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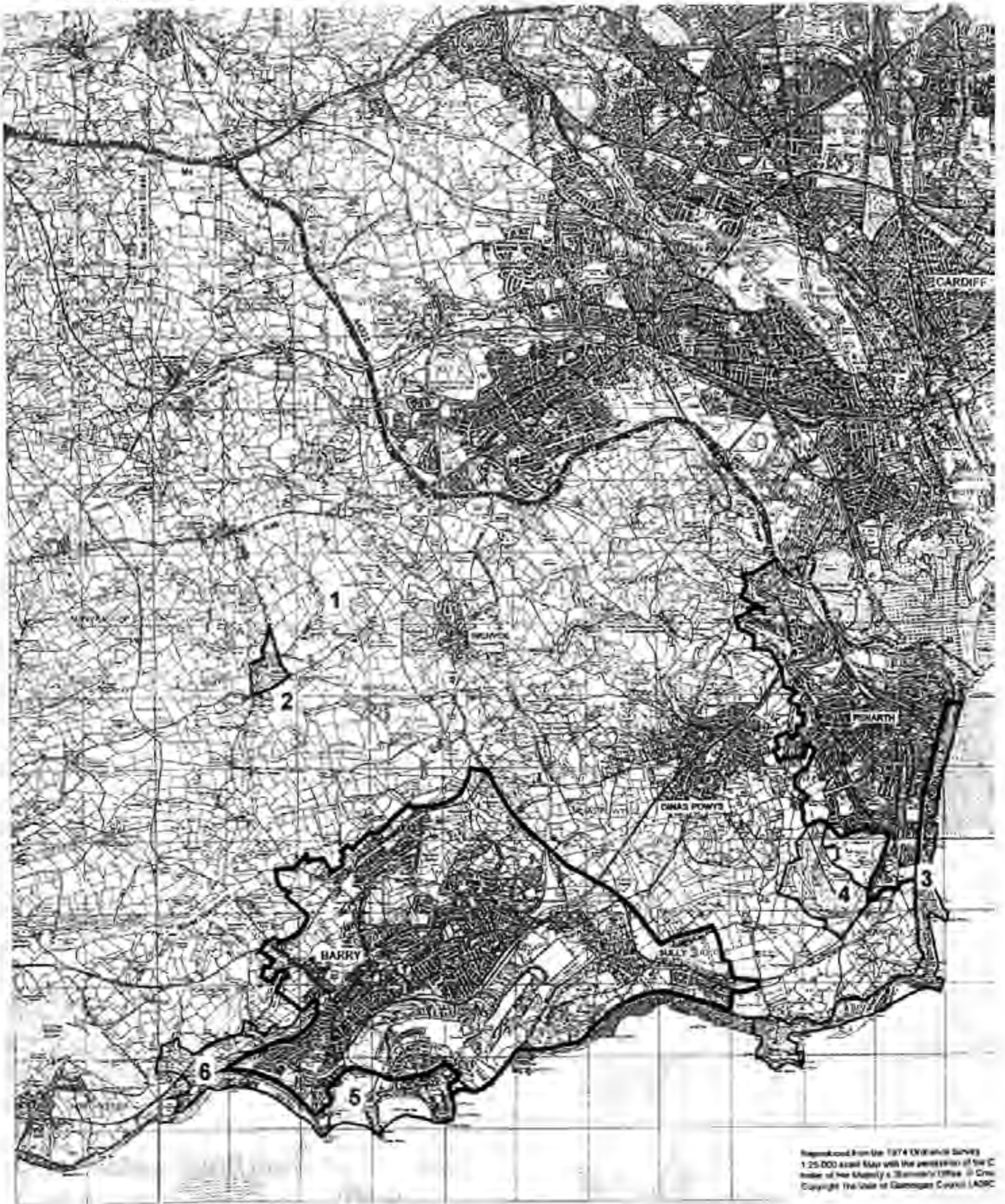
LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







CULTURAL-COMPONENTS

Central



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number (see Text)
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



CULTURAL COMPONENTS

East

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/1

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

The Rural Vale

How would you classify this area?

Extensive area of agricultural coastal plateau with dispersed nucleated settlement.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

Small villages and scattered farmhouses set within a gently undulating rural landscape.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

The area did not tend to attract artists and travellers, who preferred instead more dramatic picturesque scenery and the coast. Gilpin, the important arbiter of picturesque beauty, declared that the division of properties, as seen from St Lythan's Down was 'disgusting'. Local artists frequently paint in the area, and postcards sometimes show the rural landscape, though as with many of the paintings these are often of specific elements in the landscape rather than the broad scene. Ogmere Castle, which lies on the margin of the area was visited by travellers and painters and included in the illustrated guide, Castles of the Lordships of Glamorgan, 1828 published by Jeston Homfray.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Likely to be numerous folklore associations across the area though there doesn't appear to be any particular 'hotspots'. Marie Trevelyan writing at the start of the century collected a large body of folklore related to the area in 'Folklore and Folk Stories of Wales', 1909. Iolo Morganwg placed druidic rituals on St Lythans Down around the two long cairns.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

D.T. Jenkins at St Nicholas School pioneered the teaching of Welsh in schools after the war and was instrumental in reviving the language. Thomas William of Pendoyaln was an important hymn writer associated with the Nonconformist revival from 1735. Llan-gan (founded by a follower of St Illtud) was a 'Mecca' for Methodists who flocked to hear David Jones Preach in the 18 Century. Llandough, near Dinas Powys, was the site of St Docco's Monastic order, one of the three most important orders in the Vale prior to the Norman Conquest.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The gentle rural quality of the area, the visual evidence of a variety of eras of development without the dominance of one, and the physical evidence of the various layers that have built up the landscape we see today such as archaeological remains, common land, field boundaries, evidence of old roads.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

The area should continue to evolve as a predominantly rural area with various layers of development that relate to, and respect, the landscape setting.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Policy should aim to draw attention to the cultural significance of the rural landscape, which, although not scenically dramatic, expresses how the inhabitants of the Vale of Glamorgan have responded to their environment to the present day.

A detailed 'Cultural Associations' study should be carried out to identify, and increase awareness of cultural associations within the Vale. Culturally significant sites should be subtly interpreted to aid local awareness.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/2

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Dyffryn Gardens

How would you classify this area?

Large country house and conference centre with large historic landscape gardens.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

Architecturally impressive house and gardens.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

The Gardens were designed by Thomas Mawson who was influential in landscape design in the Twentieth Century. The area is highly significant as a tourist / recreational location illustrating its current cultural appeal. Both the house and gardens are significant as notable artistic endeavours in their own right. The house also functions as an educational centre. It is frequently illustrated on postcards and is one of the main tourist attractions in the Vale.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Architectural and landscape quality of the house and gardens and relationship to surrounding rural landscape.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

The house and gardens should be managed to retain their architectural and landscape appeal. The gardens have recently received funding for restoration and therefore their future appears to be secure.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>		<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected		t	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		t	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Protect landscape setting from inappropriate development.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/3

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Coast – Penarth to Sully Island

How would you classify this area?

Coastal strip with low cliffs fringed with urban development in the east and rural landscape in the south.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

The beach, Penarth pier and the Bristol Channel.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Penarth was painted by Sisley (leading British Impressionist) in 1887 who completed several pictures and also remarked on the prettiness of the surrounding landscape. Completed his first series of the sea on the cliffs at Penarth. Paintings included one towards Sully Island and one of the Pier and shipping channel. He found the shipping channel fascinating. Terry Setch, local important environmental artist used pieces taken from the beach at Penarth. One piece, 'Sisley Marconi were also present' attests to the cultural history of the area. Penarth and Penarth pier is still a popular subject for local artists and photographers and is commonly illustrated on postcards.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

There may be associations with Lavernock Point.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Lavernock Point, formerly St Lawrence, a prominent saint of Piety and Devotion, was important to the Normans. Marconi carried out his first radio broadcast from Lavernock Point. The area, especially Penarth is a popular tourist and recreational destination indicating a cultural preference for it.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Beaches, cliffs, views to the sea and the strong coastal quality.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Enhance coastal strip and the landscape and seascape qualities that appealed to Sisley.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?	True	False	
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		t	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Clean up and improve landscape management of coastal strip, protect the cliffs and views along the coast from large-scale intrusive development, interpret cultural significance of the area on the coastal footpath.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/4

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Cosmeston Lakes Country Park

How would you classify this area?

Country Park with waterbodies and themed medieval village.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

Waterbodies, native planting and casual recreational space, visitor facilities and the medieval village. The area is secluded from nearby urban areas and is physically and visually linked to nearby agricultural land. The high numbers of visitors, associated parking and recreation makes the area feel busy and under pressure from over use.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

The area is a highly culturally significant as a recreational and educational resource. The reclamation of the site from it's previous use as a quarry / cement works into a Country Park with nature conservation interest reflects culturally significant environmental values.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Semi-natural landscape and rural setting to the west.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Continue existing management regime.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>		<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected		t	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Continue existing management regime.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/5

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Barry Island and Cold Knapp

How would you classify this area?

Urban coastal strip with residential development and holiday camp.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Large scale holiday camp on prominent point; theme park and entertainment facilities with hard 'urban' seafront to Whitmore Bay; semi-natural coastal strip between Friars Point and Porthkerry and a naturally dramatic coastal location. The visual quality of the area is severely reduced by the dull, visually monotonous and highly prominent buildings on Neil Point (ex Butlins Holiday Camp).

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Commonly depicted on post cards. Art and photography has played up the human aspects of the area, fun, entertainment, relationships etc rather than focussing on landscape quality.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Cave or cleft near Barry Island where it is supposed to be possible to hear the sound of smiths at work underground.

Likely to be other association due to the long history of the area as a religious settlement.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Tourism is highly significant' though the appeal of Barry Island as a tourist destination appears to have declined recently. The coastal strip is a very important local recreational resource with high cultural value.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Landscape quality of coastal strip. Given the precedent, tourism development is culturally acceptable.

Areas intrinsic value

*Outstanding**High**Modest**Other***Strategy and Management**

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Improve the visual relationship between development and the coastal strip to maintain the cultural value of the coast.

Importance of achieving objective

Essential

Highly desirable

Desirable

*Which of the following statements are particularly significant?**True**False*

The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected

t

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

t

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Improve landscape management of Friars Point and Cold Knap Point. Interpret the cultural value of the area to add an extra dimension to the tourism experience, reduce the negative visual impact of development on Whitmore Bay.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/6

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Porthkerry Country Park

How would you classify this area?

Country Park in wooded valley in coastal strip.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Wooded valley, coast, railway viaduct and a feel of quiet seclusion due to the enclosure provided by the valley and woodland.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Railway viaduct has been depicted by photographers working locally.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

The area has cultural significance as an area for recreation. Elements such as the railway viaduct add an additional layer of cultural significance.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Secluded semi-natural quality due to topography and woodland.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain existing management regime.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Maintain existing policies

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/7

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Southern half of the catchment of the River Thaw

How would you classify this area?

River valley with wide flat floodplain, small tributary valleys with settlement.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

River Thaw valley with small dispersed nucleated settlements set in tributary valleys. The majority of the settlements are designated as conservation areas. The entire southern river catchment has been included because it is likely that this area was once the heart of the Vale. The small port at Aberthaw was one of the most important in Glamorgan until the 17 Century and would have given the valley considerable strategic importance.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Beupre Castle painted by travelling painters in 18 and 19 centuries, Iolo Morganwg born in Penmon and lived in Flemingston; Penmark and Fonmon Castles were included in the book Castles of the Lordships of Glamorgan 1828; Lithograph of Gileston Manor House and Church by J. Laver.

Rector of St Mary Church collected one of the most important collections of Welsh literature; John Morgan, the last Welsh Poet in the Vale lived in St Mary Church; Rector of Llandough compiled one of the first English – Welsh dictionaries; Lewis Williams, Welsh Poet came from Llanmaes; and, John Williams, a well known Welsh hymn writer came from St Athan.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Some of the conservation areas such as Llanmihangel are popular on local post cards.

Llanancarfan founded by St Cadoc 535, religious and educational centre until given Gloucester Abbey by the Normans.

Llandough was one of the centres for St Docco's, the other main monastery after Llantwit Major and Llanancarfan.

Llanmihangel was dedicated to St Michael, rare in the area.

The agricultural landscape has cultural value associated with centuries of human interaction with nature

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Landscape setting of conservation areas, churches and other elements.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

The small-scale agricultural character of the landscape should be maintained. New development should be sympathetic to the location, scale and form of existing settlements.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Maintain landscape setting of conservation areas.

Preserve visual linkages between settlements and the landscape setting, with a special emphasis on key landmarks such as churches. Investigate the possibility of re-establishing the link with Aberthaw and interpreting the site of the old port.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/8

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Boverton - Aberthaw

How would you classify this area?

Coastal Plateau with very little settlement.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

Cliffs and the sea and the dominant coastal quality. Aberthaw Power Station is visually dominant.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

The area is designated as Heritage Coast indicating a strong cultural desire to protect this type of landscape. The area is a popular tourist and recreation destination and has the Heritage Coast Walk passing through it.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The 'unspoilt' agricultural coastal quality that leads to its recreational appeal.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Continue management regime associated with the Heritage Coast

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

The current management policies of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast should be continued.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/9

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Cowbridge and Llanblethian

How would you classify this area?

Historic market town in a rural landscape setting

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

Long High Street with a visually diverse architecture in form, style, colour and relationship to the Street. Interesting Historic Church and old town walls, livestock market, bypass to the north and attractive rural landscape setting

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Cowbridge was an important stopping point for travellers in the 18 and 19 century and with Llanblethian was frequently painted. Gilpin did a sketch of the castle at Llanblethian and remarked on its picturesque qualities. He particularly commented on how the old castle enriched the scene. Llanblethian castle was illustrated in the book 'Castles of the Lordships of Glamorgan 1828, Cowbridge Church was illustrated by Gastineau in 'Wales Illustrated' and there was a subsequent engraving by HW Bond After Gastineau in 1830. In 1777 P. Sandby, influential in promoting the scenic beauty of Wales, did a water-colour of the Church. An important poet Lwys Morgannwg lived opposite the Duke of Wellington pub in the High Street. The first printing press was set up in the town by the rector of Llandough, John Walters, who produced one of the first English- Welsh dictionaries. Cowbridge is still a popular subject for local artists and photographers.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Likely to be a large amount of folklore not yet identified. Some relates to how Llanblethian received its name, the 'Church of The Wolf.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Popular tourist and visitor destination.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Landscape setting of conservation area and sight lines to key landmarks and townscape elements, townscape quality, diversity of eras of development which importantly show how the town has gradually evolved over time.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Protect and enhance relationship between the conservation area and the landscape setting.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.			

Protect and enhance integrity of the conservation area, identify key view lines to main elements and protect from adverse effects of development, ensure that new development does not detract from the cultural value of the town and the rich history that is illustrated by its urban fabric. Protect and enhance floodplain of River Thaw from development.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Llantwit Major and Cwm Col-huw

How would you classify this area?

Historic urban core and steep sided valley leading to the coast.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

The tight townscape qualities of the town core with narrow streets lined with historic two storey buildings creating a strong sense of enclosure and a steep-sided valley with semi-natural vegetation leading to a stony beach with poor quality visitor facilities.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

The town was often visited by travellers and painters in the 18 and 19 centuries. Town hall most frequently painted, By Gastineau in Wales Illustrated and later by TH Shepherd in 1830.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Important for folklore, particularly associated with Cwm Col-huw

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Extremely important Celtic monastic settlement founded by St Illtud 'The Master of Wales' in 570.

Highly important tourist and visitor destination due to both the townscape quality and the coast.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Townscape, remaining links to its landscape setting to the south and west.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Protect and from further erosion of townscape character, ensure that visitor facilities at the beach do not overwhelm the semi-natural character of Cwm Col-huw and the coast.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Protect townscape quality in the town core, in particular review traffic management to ensure that adverse impacts of traffic calming schemes are minimised. Identify and interpret additional folklore associated with Cwm Col-huw. Ensure that the semi-natural character of Cwm Col-huw is retained and that any new development at the north eastern end of the valley is not visually intrusive, or sympathetically designed.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/11

Description and Evaluation

Component Name

Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast

How would you classify this area?

Coastal plateau oriented towards the sea, with dispersed farms and small nucleated and linear settlements.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Small, dispersed, attractive settlements, often in an exposed location associated with small valleys which lead to the coastline. No woodland apart from in sheltered valleys. Within settlements, buildings all have a similar orientation and a direct visual and physical link with the adjacent agricultural land and the coast. In the north of the area many of the field boundaries are constructed of stone. The area has an exposed coastal quality. Settlements are often located on the plateau and have a stark, open quality.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Coast has consistently attracted travellers and artists since the 18 century. Dunraven House and Nash Point popular locations. Engraving of lighthouse at Nash Point included in Wales Illustrated. Dunraven House visited by Malkin and depicted by engraving by R. Godfrey. The Heritage Coast is still a popular location for artists and photographers and is commonly illustrated by postcards.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

The Heritage Coast designation is indicative of the areas considerable current cultural value. The area is a highly important tourist and recreational destination, particularly the 'honey pots' of Ogmore, Southern Down and Nash Point.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Wild, open coastal quality and the absence of large scale intrusive development. Design of visitor facilities could be improved.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain essentially undeveloped wild open coastal character. Continue management regime under the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Designation.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Continue management as under the Glamorgan Heritage Coast designation with particular emphasis on the tourist 'honey pots' of Ogmore and Southern Down. Improve design quality of tourist facilities. Develop design guidelines for the design and placement of buildings in the Heritage Coast.

Subtly interpret cultural value on coastal path.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/12

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

Ewenny Priory

How would you classify this area?

Historic priory and associated buildings in secluded location in river valley.

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

The ruined priory.

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

Painted by the young JMW Turner and regarded as a turning point in his career when he first learnt to depict light in the way that later became characteristic. The painting is considered nationally important. The priory was rarely missed by travellers and painters in the 18 and 19 centuries and was visited by Malkin who made a plea for people to stop dismantling it. included in Wales Illustrated, 1823. The Turbervilles who later took over the priory produced at least one well known Welsh poet

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Popular visitor destination

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Physical integrity of the priory and associated buildings and secluded landscape setting.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Support preservation of key buildings and protect landscape setting from inappropriate development. Maintain low key visitor facilities.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
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<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
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The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected	t	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		f
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change		f
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Improve interpretation.

CULTURAL

Area No: VG/C/13

Description and Evaluation

Component Location?

St Donats

How would you classify this area?

Area of outstanding value

What is the dominant characteristic in this area?

St Donats Castle picturesquely located on the coast in a small valley

Are there significant artistic associations in this area?

If so, name.

"Seldom overlooked" by artists and travellers, featured in numerous guides of Wales including 'Wales Illustrated' 1823, Castles of the Lordships of Wales 1828. Paintings include aquatint etching in sepia by P. Sandby "who did more than anyone to inform the Welsh of the beauty of their country" and oil on board by Edmund John Nieman, 1870. Popularity largely due to picturesque relationship to the landscape. Visited by Malkin on tour of Wales.

Stradling family important in development of Welsh language, paid for printing of 1500 copies of a book on Welsh Grammar. Library was important. Redwood, 1839, says of St Donats "Everything there is time stricken; all speaks to you of the past; nothing of the present".

Welsh poets and musicians frequently visited St Donats.

Are there significant folklore associations in this area?

If so, name.

Legends and tales associated with Stradling family. St Donats was an important place for Welsh bards to visit.

Are there other significant cultural associations in this area?

If so, name.

Currently 'Atlantic College', for sixth formers, highly prestigious educational centre. Has an Arts Centre, is a popular tourist / visitor destination and is pictured on numerous local postcards. The castle has maintained it's picturesque appeal.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Picturesque landscape setting, and views to the castle, architectural integrity of the key buildings.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Protect picturesque landscape setting and architectural integrity of the key buildings. Ensure that new development contributes to the cultural value of the area.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			T
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			F
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			T

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Protect landscape setting from over development. Interpretation of cultural value on the coastal path.

9.0 Rural Land Use

Rural Land Use

1.0 Preface

When this report was initially written Rural Land Use was considered as an Evaluated Aspect under the then current *LANDMAP* guidance. Since then the guidance has been revised and Rural Land Use is now considered as contextural information, to be described and mapped (ie. permanent pasture, arable/temporary grassland or horticulture) but not evaluated. For the purposes of this study Agricultural Land Classification has been used as the basis of description, mapping and evaluation of Rural Land Use. This remains in the text and maps, but not the proformas of the Technical Annex. Rural Land Use is treated as contextural information in the Strategy: Document: Volume 1. Further detail of the method of evaluation is given in section 7.0 of this document.

2.0 Agriculture

2.1 The Vale is primarily a rural area, with agriculture being the main land use. Taken as a whole the Vale forms one of the most important agricultural regions of South Wales. The Vale has the following natural limitation to its agricultural productivity:

Rainfall The Vale of Glamorgan has moderate rainfall. There is a rapid increase in annual rainfall levels from south to north across the Vale with less than 1,000mm in the narrow coastal belt (similar to southern English levels) and 1,300mm or more in the northern parts of the Vale (similar to mean for Wales). Spring and early summer are the driest seasons while October/November are the wettest months. The higher rainfall of the inland areas leads to waterlogging in places and limits the agricultural potential. Coastal areas, however, do not have such limitations.

Temperature The Vale of Glamorgan enjoys a coastal situation where extremes of temperature are modified by the proximity of the Bristol Channel and the coastal areas are warmer. Increased rainfall and cloud cover inland reduces the average temperatures in the northern parts of the Vale. Only in June is it likely that transpiration rates may exceed rainfall, leading to droughty conditions in the coastal strip.

Wind The prevailing south-westerly winds have a detrimental effect on the coastal plateau, exposed to the Bristol Channel. Crop damage and excessive drying of soils can be a problem on the coastal strip. Here, the wind-pruning of trees and hedges is noticeable, limiting their growth and quality.

Gradient Over considerable parts of the Vale, especially in the south, gradients are moderate and do not pose undue limitations on farming activities. Where slopes are more than 1 in 8 they are unsuitable for ploughing. These only occur on the valley sides of the eastern and northern parts of the Vale. The steep sides of the valleys of the Thaw, Waycock and Alun and their tributaries are up to 1 in 3 and are much wooded, being difficult to farm.

Drainage and Flooding The hummocky landforms of the Bro Miskin area of the north of the Vale impedes drainage, causing temporary flooding. The lower-lying land and basins of the Ely valley, the upper Waycock and Alun valleys in particular suffer from poor drainage. Frequent winter flooding is confined to the valley floors, particularly of the lower Thaw and Waycock valleys and to Cog Moors, south of Dinas Powis. In recent years particularly relating to the upper Thaw, there have been low river levels in summer.

Soils The majority of the soils are **brown earths**, particularly in the south and east. These are naturally acid although often over calcareous bed rock, and are generally well-drained. Brown earth soil depths vary, being rather thin over parts of the coastal plateau, to being deep over the hills and ridges further inland. These soils generally make excellent arable land.

Gley soils occur inland, over much of the moraines of the Bro Miskin area. These are water-logged for long periods and have a tendency to poaching and temporary flooding. Gley soils are acid, and in the basin north of Ystradowen, peaty soils have developed. These soils are generally unsuitable for arable use.

Although there is much limestone in the Vale, areas of **calcareous soils** are limited to areas in the east, north of Dinas Powis and in the upper Waycock basin. These soils are gleyed, with a tendency to water-logging.

Silty alluvial soils occur in the main river valleys of the Thaw and Waycock, the Ely and the Alun. The high water tables in these areas means that the soils are often water-logged.

2.2 Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

The Agricultural Land Classification system for England and Wales provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics, as detailed above, impose longterm limitations on agricultural use. Agricultural land is classified under the following five grades -

Grade 1 - excellent quality agricultural land. Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use.

Grade 2 - very good quality agricultural land. Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivation or harvesting.

Grade 3 - good to moderate quality agricultural land. But still versatile

Sub-grade 3a - good quality agricultural land

Subgrade 3b - moderate quality agricultural land

Grade 4 - poor quality agricultural land

Grade 5 - very poor quality agricultural land

ALC is used as the basis for evaluation and, in planning terms, it is generally regarded that Grade 1, 2 and 3a land should be safeguarded against built and other development which reduces its agricultural productivity potential.

The Agricultural Land Classification for the Vale of Glamorgan was carried out in the 1960s and has not been fully revised since then. It is understood that this was the first part of Wales to be classified and it is now considered that much of the land was graded too highly. For example, recent more detailed resurveys suggest that the extent of Grade 2 land was over-estimated and that, particularly in the coastal hinterland, much of the land should be reclassified as Grade 3a. Nevertheless, the Vale of Glamorgan still accounts for a significant percentage of higher grade agricultural land in Wales.

The reclassified areas include north of Barry and from Wenvoe eastward which were reclassified in 1979, and areas around Cowbridge and Llantwit Major/St. Athans in 1986. In these areas Grade 3 land is subdivided into 3a, 3b and 3c. Since this classification was carried out grades 3b and 3c have been amalgamated and is all considered as Grade 3b.

These reclassified areas are shown on the Rural Land Use base information plan and the inconsistencies are clear. It is not possible to re-classify the remaining areas without further survey but the following generalisations can be made.

Grade 1 There are no areas of Grade 1 land in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Grade 2 There are extensive areas of Grade 2 land on the coastal plateau and further inland between Flemingston and Llandow. The tops of the central ridges, east and west of Cowbridge have considerable areas of Grade 2 land. There are patches of Grade 2 land on the tops of hills elsewhere throughout the Vale.

Grade 3a There are extensive areas of grade 3a land on the plateau areas, adjacent to Grade 2 land. Further inland Grade 3a land occurs on minor ridges and on the gentler upper slopes of small hills.

Grade 3b Probably about half the remaining land is Grade 3b (mainly not re-classified).

Grade 4 The valley floors and other poorly drained areas of the parts of the Vale that have been re-classified are Grade 4. This includes Cog Moors, parts of the Wenvoe valley and the upper Waycock basin and the Thaw valley floor. Elsewhere, the lower-lying areas of the valleys and the poorer soils of Bro Miskin are likely to be classified as Grade 4.

Grade 5 The main areas of common land, at Stalling Down, Ogmore Down and Ruthin Common, were originally, and probably correctly, classified as Grade 5 land. This is due in part to the fact that they have not been agriculturally improved. There are no other significant areas of Grade 5 land in the Vale.

2.3 Man-made Influences on the Agricultural Economy

Although not taken into account in the ALC, the following aspects contribute to the productivity and quality of the agricultural land:

Access and markets All of the Vale is within easy reach of the main transport routes of the M4 and the A48, and to Cardiff, making it accessible for distribution of produce. This accessibility is one of the factors that has made the area popular for commuters to live in and for leisure users to visit. Recently, the M4 corridor has been a factor in making diversification on less productive land more viable. Thus, for instance, there is a vineyard, trout fishing ponds, a farm open to the public and a golf academy all within easy reach of the motorway.

Ownership There are several large estates within the Vale. The exact sizes and extents of these have not been determined here but they include -

- Penllyn Estate, with castle and parkland, northwest of Cowbridge
- Dunraven Estate, based at Southerndown and including surrounding areas of the coastal plateau
- Parts of the Duchy of Lancaster estate
- An area belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall, south of Llantwit Major
- Earl of Plymouth Estates
- Coedarhydyglyn Estates
- Pwll yr Wrach Estates
- Parts of Merthyr Mawr Estates in the western parts of the Vale

The Vale of Glamorgan Council owns about forty smallholdings, mainly in the central and eastern areas of the Vale. About 60% of the farmland of the Vale is owner-occupied. Over the past ten years the number of part-time farmers has increased at the expense of full-time farmers.

Urban fringe and other developments Proximity to urban areas tends to cause degradation of farmland for a variety of reasons including -

Problems with **trespass and vandalism**, especially near housing estates. This occurs to a varying degree south of the Ely area of Cardiff, and between Penarth and Barry. Fly-tipping and litter can also cause problems for farming and other rural land uses. **Severance and fragmentation** of farm holdings has occurred on parts of the plateau adjacent to the airport and RAF St. Athans, and probably around Llantwit Major as areas of development expand. On land which has prospects for development around the margins of settlements there is a tendency for **poor land management** and a lack of investment in longterm improvements of farmland. There are some areas of poorly managed land in the east of the Vale. The **proximity of industrial estates** may threaten farming activities, with problems of trespass and the possibility of expansion. This is the case on the western boundary near the Waterton Industrial Estate, and around the Llandow Trading Estate. Rural land around main settlements of the east caters for **recreational uses** such as horses, golf, country parks. The Vale has a high percentage of agricultural land used for keeping horses and ponies, including riding schools and livery stables. There are, however, an insufficient number of bridlepaths generally. There are many smaller holdings and **partly-used areas** which invite abuse.

Coastal fringes Proximity to the coast can also cause problems as visitor access and cars, trespass, dogs, farm and public safety disrupt farming activity. The popularity of the coast also gives potential for providing visitor facilities.

2.4 Agricultural Land Use

Set-aside Very little land has been 'set-aside' in the Vale.

Livestock More than 70% of the agricultural land of the Vale is grassland. This includes permanent pasture which has been improved, and temporary leys cut for silage or hay in the drier areas, with only about 4% being rough grazing.

Sheep are the most numerous of livestock and numbers have increased by about 40% over the past ten years, reflecting trends elsewhere in Britain which relate to subsidies. Although they are reared throughout the Vale, they are prevalent in the poorer quality parts of the north.

Beef cattle-rearing occurs throughout the Vale. It is expected that the recent problems with BSE will effect numbers.

Dairy cattle account for about 20% of the total number of cattle. Numbers have dropped by about one third during the past ten years. Despite milk quotas, the Vale remains important for dairying.

Other livestock are varied. There is now only a small number of pigs, with few being extensively reared. There is at least one herd of deer in the Vale and some ostrich farming. Poultry numbers have reduced over the past ten years.

Crops More than 20% of the agricultural land of the Vale is currently arable. This is concentrated in the coastal plateau and areas on higher ground inland.

Cereals Wheat and winter barley are the main cereal crops, accounting for more than three-quarters of the cereals grown. Spring barley accounts for most of the remainder.

Other crops Oilseed rape, potatoes and maize are grown, but to a lesser extent than wheat and barley. The acreage of oilseed rape has doubled in the past five years. There are very small amounts of brassicas and other vegetables grown. The amount of soft fruit has increased over the past ten years, with the increased popularity of 'pick-your-own' fruit. There is likely to be an expansion of experimental crops such as linseed and lupins.

2.5 Farm Types and Features

Farm types Farms on the higher grade land of the coastal plateau are primarily arable farms, concentrating on cereals. Those on the ridges and valleys of the central belt are often mixed, with cereals and other crops as well as livestock and dairying. Farms on the poorer lands in the north of the Vale concentrate on sheep and cattle production.

Farm sizes Farms within the Vale are generally of medium size or small by British standards, but above average for Wales with an average unit size of 52.5 ha. (1995). Throughout the Vale there are a few more extensive farms, particularly on the higher grade arable land. Many of the smaller farms are part-time holdings and some 'hobby' farms. As elsewhere throughout the country, there has been some amalgamation of farms to form larger units and some splitting up of original farms for 'hobby' farming.

Farm buildings Most of the farms have a core of older buildings, including the farmhouse, built of local stone. Large modern sheds are generally used to house livestock over winter and for storage of feed. These are sometimes located away from the main farmsteads and can be visually intrusive. Grain silos form part of the farm complexes on the plateau and other cereal producing areas, but they are not generally a major feature. Most farmsteads are sited adjacent to small roads or back from the roads on their own tracks. Most of the smaller villages still have farms on their outskirts. However, many farms in villages have now been converted to dwellings.

Fields are generally small or medium-sized throughout the Vale. There are larger fields on the higher grade, arable land where smaller fields have been amalgamated. This is particularly the case on the coastal plateau and along the ridge on either side of the A48. The wet grazing lands of the river basins also have large regularly-shaped fields.

Field boundaries Large mixed hedges, often on low banks, are a feature of the northern parts of the Vale, both along the roadsides and between fields. On the whole these are well-maintained and laid but some suffer damage from sheep-grazing. The hedges of the arable lands are often severely cut and gappy as they do not need to be stock-proof. Limestone walls are a conspicuous feature of the area around Ogmere and Southerndown. Elsewhere, walls without hedges are not common around fields, but stonework can be seen at field entrances and in association with farmsteads.

3.0 Commons

There are several significant areas of common land in the rural areas of the Vale. These are all classified as Grade 5 agricultural land (original classification). Their low grading is probably due more to a lack of agricultural improvement over a long period of time than to an inherently poor quality of land, although many are now reverting to bracken and scrub through under-grazing. Some villages retain village greens and areas of 'manorial waste', which although important to the village environments, are not considered as rural land use. The main areas of common land are listed in order of size.

Ogmore and Old Castle Down

An area of Carboniferous limestone hills and steep slopes, about 3 square kilometres, plus a narrow coastal strip about 5 kilometres long.

Ownership - Trustees of Dunraven Estate

Uses - mainly rough grazing for sheep
limestone quarrying
former golf course
parking and recreation along coast

Much of the common is of high nature conservation value and recreational value

Stalling Down and St Hilary Down (Cowbridge Common)

An area two hills and their northern slopes, about 1 square kilometre, to the east of Cowbridge, dissected by the A48.

Ownership - several owners

Stalling Down - part owned by a private company, part unregistered

St. Hilary Down - part privately owned, part by investment company

Uses - informal recreation
transmission masts

Stalling Down was ploughed during the war to grow potatoes. Parts which are not mown have become scrubby.

Ruthin Common

An area of about 3 ha. in the north-west of the Vale

Ownership - two conflicting claims to ownership

Uses - Appears little used for grazing or recreation
Quarry adjacent

St. Lythans Down

An area of about 10 ha. near Culverhouse Cross

Ownership - private

Uses - Appears mainly informal recreation

Other areas are Gower Common at Leckwith, Dinas Powis Common, used for sports and recreation, Cross Common south of Dinas Powis, Llanblethian Common, west of Cowbridge and Wick Green.

The ancient laws relating to common land tend to lead to conflicts and misunderstandings by today's users and make improvements difficult. This is apparent on some of the commons of the Vale. Some of the problems that arise are -

- Lack of use by commoners leading to scrubbing over of open ground, as at Ruthin Common;
- Over-grazing by commoners livestock which may be the case at Ogmore-by-Sea;
- Restrictions on enclosure of any kind by commoners or landlords;
- Conflicting uses by commoners;
- Erroneous assumption by public that common land is public land;
- The public right to roam means excessive numbers of horse riders, 4-wheel drive vehicles and motor bikes causing nuisances and erosion;
- High nature conservation value conflicting with recreational uses and commoners rights;
- It is not in commoners' or landlords' interests to consider the longterm health of the land.

4.0 Forestry and Woodland

4.1 Woodland cover increases across the Vale from west to east, being an important element of the landscape in the eastern half. Areas of woodland do not generally exceed about 50 ha, except for the single area of typical Forestry Commission plantation at Hensol. As well as woodlands, there are many small copses and hedgerow trees adding to the generally well-tree'd appearance of the landscape although actual tree cover in the Vale is below the national average.

4.2 Plantations

Forestry is not a major land use in the Vale as the land is generally good farmland. **Forest Enterprise**, part of the Forestry Commission, owns and manages some areas of land throughout the Vale. The major areas are -

Hensol Forest (320 ha) - the only substantial area of coniferous forestry. It was planted in the early 1930s on land of least agricultural value in Bro Miskin. This consisted of Japanese larch in sheltered areas, Corsican pine on exposed sites and some Norway spruce on the wetter land. Much has now been felled and re-planted with some mature areas remaining. There are two parking and picnic areas adjacent to roads on the edge of the forestry and a network of public and permissive paths.

Parts of Coed Caerdydd There is a group of smaller coniferous woodlands north of Barry. This group consists of Pencoetre Wood, now dissected by the A4231 serving the east of Barry, Goldsland and Bears Woods on the Wenvoe Castle estate. All these woodlands are replanted on ancient woodland sites, with Japanese larch, Norway spruce and Scots pine now reaching maturity.

Tair Onen forest nursery - situated on good soils on the Bonvilston ridge. This was established in 1936 and was the largest forest nursery in the country until the 1960s. Now it produces Christmas trees.

There are no major plans to develop or change these areas of forestry although re-planting now includes more hardwoods and there is a general trend towards 'continuous cover' management. Forest Enterprise's considerations towards rationalising and improving parking facilities generally may effect Hensol Forest.

Formerly the Forestry Commission owned various other areas of coniferous and mixed woodland. These have gradually been sold off and are largely neglected. This includes quite extensive areas of mixed woodland north of Dinas Powis, mainly on ancient sites, and blocks of coniferous and mixed woodland near Llantrithyd. The coniferous woodlands around Hensol Park were also Forestry Commission plantations. If properly managed in future they could still yield valuable crops into perpetuity.

4.3 Woodlands

From the Thaw valley eastward the Vale is generally fairly well-wooded with a concentration of woodland on the steep valley sides of the Thaw and the Waycock and tributaries, and on the hillsides north of Dinas Powis. To the west of the Thaw valley there is very little woodland except on the steep sides of the Alun valley, the small coastal valleys and, in the north, the Ewenny valley.

Most of the native woodland is primarily ash/oak woodland. Oak is widespread but occurs mainly as mature specimens. Ash favours deep moist soils and is a fast regenerating species making an important contribution to the stock of saplings and young trees. Sycamore grows better than most trees in the exposed coastal areas. Other species include wych elm (up to semi-mature size), sweet chestnut planted as coppice, and alder on wetter sites.

Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) These are areas of woodland that have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. Also included are continuously wooded sites that have subsequently been re-planted. In the Vale most of the woods are of ancient origin although probably most of them have been at least partially replanted at some time. Most of the areas of re-planted ASNW are in the eastern part of the Vale on current or former Forestry Commission land. ASNW is of high ecological value, and even when recently replanted they retain considerable ecological diversity. Some woodlands in the upper Llancafarn valley and the Alun valley are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Woodland Grant Schemes (WGS) The Forestry Authority administers the Woodland Grant Schemes, now largely drawn up by Coed Cymru. Grants are given for management of existing and new woodland, including thinning, felling, restocking, and for access improvements to assist timber extraction. They are given for work carried out under an agreed five-year Plan of Operations for any wood or group of woodlands. There are also one year woodland improvement grants and the Challenge Fund. The Forestry Authority records show that at least three-quarters of the farm and estate woodlands of the Vale have WGS grants but many of these areas are not actively managed. Not all the ASNW are under WGS. Several new areas of farm and community woodland are being established

with WGS. There are Felling Licenses for several woodlands, mainly those that have been grown as commercial forestry and to be replanted mainly with native broadleaved trees.

Coed Cymru provides expert advice on the use, protection and enhancement of native woodlands by environmentally sustainable management. There is a Coed Cymru officer with the Vale of Glamorgan Council who advises owners and users on the type of management, grant aid and sale of timber. Generally natural regeneration with 'continuous cover' is favoured rather than clear-felling and replanting. Much of the timber coming from the woods of the Vale is poor grade hardwood, and Coed Cymru are helping develop new markets for this timber, especially for flooring and panelling.

The Woodland Trust owns woodlands with a view to conservation and to public access and enjoyment. The Trust has fairly recently acquired 44ha of woodland north of Dinas Powis variously called Park Wood, Coed Clwyd-gwyn, or Cwm George. This is mixed woodland, in parts very steep. This is now open to the public and is within easy reach of Dinas Powis. The Woodland Trust has also purchased the nearby Case Hill Wood, and are also proposing to plant a wood at Wick.

Public Authorities own woodland. This includes the extensive Leckwith Woods which are owned by the Vale of Glamorgan and the City of Cardiff Councils. The woodlands in the country parks at Cosmeston and at Porthkerry are other major areas of woodland in council ownership. Welsh Water are planting woodland around the new Cog Moors water treatment works, and at Llanblethian.

Other woodland include some visually important medium-sized woods on valley sides, small plantations and shelter belts mainly in the western parts of the Vale and scrubby woodland developing into alder woods on wet sites. These are not necessarily unmanaged.

There has been a historic neglect of woodlands generally in the Vale and most are now degraded with a lack of natural regeneration. Some woodland is being lost to cattle grazing and trampling as woodlands are included as annual pasture for the purposes of obtaining agricultural grants. Few woodlands are actively managed as, until recently, it was uneconomic to do so. Even where WGS are in place, management has not resulted in much improvement overall. Now that there more scope for the marketing of farm timber, more interest is being shown in woodland management.

5.0 Other Rural Land Uses

There are two **Country Parks**, Cosmeston Lakes to the west of Penarth, and Porthkerry to the west of Barry. These both attract large numbers of visitors as they are close to settlements and have good access as well as being attractive in their own rights. They have important roles as buffer zones between town and country.

Coastal recreation Many parts of the coast are popular with visitors and have access and parking, plus areas of open land for informal recreation.

There are several well-established **golf courses** around Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powis. More recently there has been a courses established adjacent to the A48 on old parkland at Cottrell and adjacent to the motorway near St. Mary Hill. There is also one in Hensol Park, as well as a "golf academy" nearby.

There are several areas of **parkland**, most of which are in private ownership and not accessible to the public. Dyffryn Gardens is an important designed landscape open to the public and currently undergoing major restoration.

Visitor attractions include the Hawking Centre to the north of Barry, Llanerch Vineyard near junction 34 of the M4, and Warren Mill Farm near Hensol Forest with its variety of animals on show.

There is a extensive network of **Public Rights of Way** throughout the Vale and some permissive paths mainly in the Heritage Coast area. These are mainly footpaths with only very limited lengths of bridleway. The rights of way are continually being upgraded and promoted by the council.

6.0 The Future

Agri-environment Schemes

Tir Gofal, the All-Wales agri-environment schemes initiative was launched in 1997. Within the Vale of Glamorgan there is the potential in the *LANDMAP* process to identify areas suitable for proposed schemes. Tir Gofal can not be targetted by the Countryside Council for Wales or the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency who jointly administer the scheme. Therefore the Vale of Glamorgan Council will need to target the identified areas.

Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC)

Imminent registration of a number of larger Vale woodlands is expected in order to take advantage of premiums on timber value. Registration is only available to woodlands managed in a sustainable way (normally via Coed Cymru). This is leading to increased demands for Coed Cymru services to restore neglected woodland in the Vale.

Common Agricultural Policy

The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is intended to ensure that there is an adequate food supply and give stability to food prices. This has been achieved by production-related support (subsidies) and by restrictions on production such as milk quotas and set-aside. Incentives for the protection of the environment has been dealt with by different departments in both Europe and the UK and has lead to conflicting objectives. This has become excessively costly and unsustainable. The 1992 changes to CAP took a step away from production-related payment and started to address environmental objectives.

Radical reform of the CAP is being considered and debate over these changes is likely to continue for a number of years. It aims for the rural economy to be competitive and sustainable, with effective environmental care and a good quality of life in rural areas. However it is expected that these will be achieved by further reductions in subsidies, and possible removal of production-related support, combined with better integrated support for environmental objectives. This will require a period of adjustment for individual farm businesses and overall farm structure. Increased efficiency and technological advances continue to mean that a decreasing amount of land and labour is required for food production.

In the Vale this may lead to:

- Less cereal growing and more intensive livestock farming on the higher grade land of the coastal plateau and inland ridges;
- A reduced intensity of grazing on the poorer grade land of, for instance, Bro Miskin;
- Some lower grade land going out of basic agricultural use and being available for development, forestry and woodland, amenity, nature conservation and environmental use in areas throughout the Vale;
- An increase in part time and hobby farming;
- More agri-environment incentives being required to manage and enhance environmental features

Policies within this *LANDMAP* exercise should start to anticipate these possibilities and allow for flexibility as changes become more certain.

7.0 Method of Evaluation

7.1 Agriculture

The designation of intrinsic value is linked to the ALC but has not been based solely on this information because the ALC for the Vale of Glamorgan is incomplete. The other factors that have been taken into account are:

Positive

Extensive generally well-managed rural areas. This applies to much of the Vale. It is inevitable, as there is very little derelict or restored land away from the main settlements, that development will need to be considered on greenfield sites.

Context of the Vale in relation to rural land use in adjacent areas and Wales as a whole. The rural Vale is a relatively easy and comfortable area to farm.

Negative

Urban fringe problems and development pressures. These apply to parts of the east of the Vale. These tend to make farming more difficult in both the short-term and long-term considerations.

Therefore the agriculture of the Vale has been categorised as:

Outstanding value

The coastal plateau and inland to Llandow and Flemingston where there is mainly grade 2 and 3a land, and where there has not been too much disruption to agriculture by other developments
The Bonvilston ridge where there are considerable areas of grade 2 and 3a land, and good access

High value

Much of the Vale has been classified as being of high intrinsic value for agriculture, including: Grade 2 and 3a land on the coastal plateau between Barry and Llantwit Major where farming is disrupted by development and other uses.

Areas with considerable amounts of grade 4 land in the north, Ely valley and Bro Miskin, but which are well-managed and undisturbed.

The variable land north of Dinas Powis and across to Wenvoe which has important areas of secluded farmland.

Modest

The much disturbed and disrupted land between Dinas Powis, Penarth and Barry although it contains some areas of grade 2 and 3a land.

The main areas of common land that are grade 5

Other

Areas of parkland, golf courses, country parks and caravan parks are the main other rural uses

7.2 Forestry and woodland

Woodlands have been grouped together by location and type and given a collective value in order to save unnecessary duplication. In addition to commercial and economic considerations, evaluation takes into account the recreational, nature conservation and visual values of the woodland.

Therefore the forestry and woodland of the Vale has been categorised as:

Outstanding

Large areas of visually important woodland and commercial forestry.

High

Areas of forestry for its commercial value

Individual areas of woodland and forestry under Woodland Grant Schemes (WGS) according to the Forestry Authority records.

Individual areas of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW), both secondary and replanted, for its ecological value.

Modest

All other areas of woodland and forestry

Further refinement and subdivision of both agriculture areas and woodland will be made as necessary when policy areas have been identified.

7.2 Main references -

Sheet 154 of the Agricultural Land Classification Reconnaissance Series (map)

Agricultural Land Classification - South Glamorgan (part) - Subdivision of Grade 3 (map)

Revision of the Agricultural Land Classification and Subdivision of Grade 3 - South Glamorgan - Area A . Dinas Powis, Barry, Penarth, Ely, Wenvoe (map)

Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land

Soils of the Vale of Glamorgan (1972)

Agricultural Census for Vale of Glamorgan 1985 - 1995

Tir Cymen Management Guidelines

Woodland Grant Schemes - Grants for planting trees and looking after woodlands

Woodland Grant Scheme maps - Forestry Authority

Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (provisional)

Main consultees -

Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)

Forestry Authority

Also Forest Enterprise
 Coed Cymru
 The Woodland Trust

8.0 Key Issues

The Vale of Glamorgan should continue to be primarily a rural area, with agriculture as a major land use.

Grade 2 and 3a ALC land shall be protected against development and large-scale afforestation

Grade 3b and 4 ALC land is important as it covers a large proportion of the Vale. It is agriculturally less versatile than Grade 2 and 3a land and therefore less commercially valuable therefore it may be more vulnerable to development. It also forms an integral pattern with higher grade land and changes to its use will effect adjacent land and farming patterns.

As agriculture declines in importance in the rural economy, appropriate new uses and sources of income will need to be found for farm buildings and land, including commercial woodland. This diversification is more likely to occur on lower grade agricultural land of the north of the Vale.

There are likely to be pressures for development on agricultural land at the following places:

- North of Dinas Powis for high quality housing;
- Dinas Powis/Penarth/Barry triangle for settlement expansion and amenity developments;
- All the coastal areas for visitor facilities;
- Around Llantwit Major and Cowbridge for settlement expansion;
- Around most villages for housing;
- Ewenny and the north-west boundary for industry linking with Bridgend;
- Adjacent to motorway junctions for industry.

There is scope for enhancement, including the reduction of conflict between public access and farming activities, of the urban fringes of Dinas Powis, Penarth, Barry and Llantwit Major.

There is scope for enhancement of the coastal fringe from Aberthaw to Penarth, including the reduction of conflict between public access and farming activities.

As much woodland appears to be neglected, encouragement should be given to bring more into environmentally sustainable management, to maintain and improve diversity, via Coed Cymru.

There is scope for additional woodland to be developed, especially in the less wooded western parts of the Vale.

It is probably inappropriate to establish much woodland in the windier parts of the plateau where there is high quality agricultural land.

For much of the rural Vale the changes to the farmed and wooded landscape are likely to be slow, making a less conspicuous impact than those relating directly to larger developments. Guidance for appropriate design and use, not only of buildings, but also of site layouts, access, plantings, etc. will assist in guiding these changes and in the conservation of landscape character.





Some areas of common land suffer problems relating to under-grazing as access/amenity use makes grazing impracticable. This leads to a loss of ecological value.

Areas suited to the Tir Gofal scheme need to be identified from a rural land use viewpoint, and targeted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas

Scale 0 1 2km

**RURAL LAND USE-
 AGRICULTURAL-COMPONENTS**





West



printed from the 1974 Ordnance Survey
 25,000 scale Map (with permission of the Director
 of the Ministry of Secondary Education, Cardiff)
 using The Valleys Glamorgan Council (L400116)

LEGEND

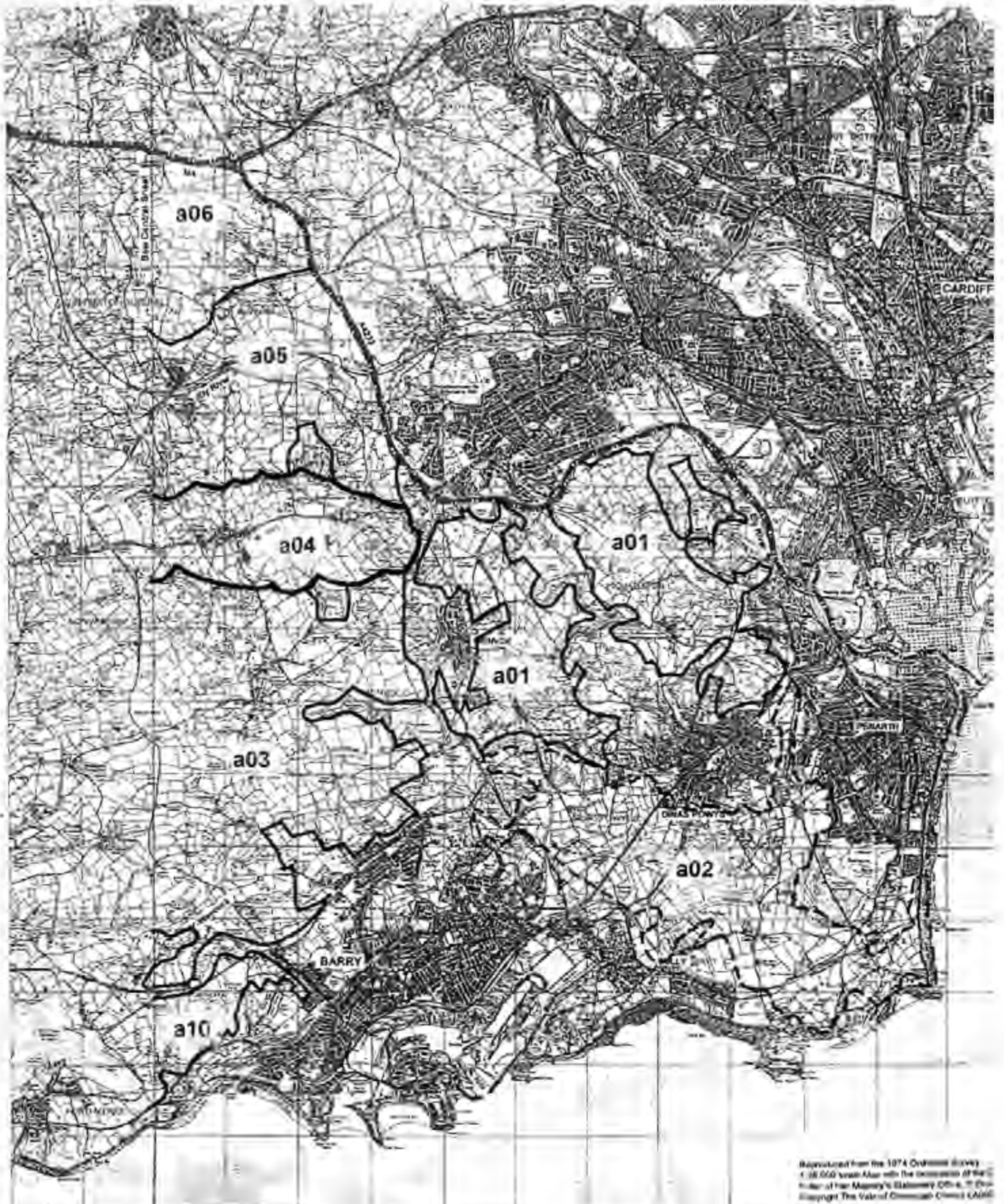
2 Component Reference Number - see Text

-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







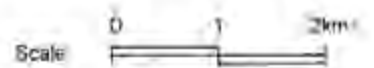
**RURAL LAND USE-
 AGRICULTURAL-COMPONENTS**

Central



LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas



**RURAL LAND USE-
AGRICULTURAL-COMPONENTS**

East

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 01

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Wenvoe & north of Dinas Powis

How would you classify this area?

Small valleys and ridges, well-wooded, near several settlements

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Small-scale farms and fields. Large hedges, well-tree'd
Secluded apart from around Wenvoe
Small areas of productive land

Is the area ALC Grade 2? 5%

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? 10%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? 45%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? 40%

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Adjacent large villages and busy roads, but hills give enclosure/seclusion

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Small farms and small-holdings, stock-rearing and horses

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? Footpaths and bridleways

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Vulnerability to settlement encroachment and other developments
Route for new road in Wenvoe valley
Vulnerable to urban fringe degradation, but suprisingly unspoilt
Extensive woodland

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as primarily farmland/woodland
Restrict development of non-agricultural uses

Importance of achieving objective **Essential** *Highly desirable* *Desirable*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected true

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change true

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Policies to protect from encroachment of non-rural development and elements
Design guidance and action sites to integrate new road and associated developments around Wenvoe

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 02

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? South of Dinas Powis

How would you classify this area?

Floodplain, small hills & coast, some good quality land but with urban fringe influences

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Parts frequently flooded

Many non-farming uses, generally busy area.

Proximity to urban /suburban areas, parts have air of neglect

Is the area ALC Grade 2? 10%

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? 10%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? 30%

Is the area ALC Grade 5? -

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Floodplain, coast, former quarries

Leisure activities - golf, country park, equestrian centre, caravan, coastal walks

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Mainly permanent pasture, small farms, and small-holdings

Is the area managed for wildlife? grassland SSSI on coast

Is the area managed for recreation/access? See above

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Flooding restrict use of central part

Area generally prone to trespassing, vandalism, etc.

Mixture of non-farming uses - recreation /leisure, especially in coastal half

Encroachment of housing - Sully and Penarth, on derelict land

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Floodplain acts as natural green belt to be retained as farmland

Recreation/urban fringe degradation/farming conflicts to be addressed

Improved access to coast and from surrounding housing

Expansion of Dinas Powis, Penarth, Sully and Barry carefully planned and integrated

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			false
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			true

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Grade 2/3a land - Cog Hill - protected from development, also floodplain

Settlement periphery design guidance - planting, views, paths, etc.

Action - integrated access/routes between recreation areas, coast, settlements, including protection of farmland from vandalism

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 03

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Dyffryn & upper Waycock valley

How would you classify this area?

Undulating basin of medium quality farmland

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Mainly heavy soils and areas of poor drainage
Quiet area away from main settlements and roads

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

unlikely, or small areas

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

probably 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

probably 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

-

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Dyffryn Gardens being restored
Sites of prehistoric interest - Tinkinswood & St. Lythams
Hawking Centre visitor attraction

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Mainly cattle and sheep rearing, little areable. Medium sized farms

Is the area managed for wildlife?

No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? Dyffryn Gardens, Hawking Centre

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

There will be an increase in visitors to area when Dyffryn Gardens restored
Quiet rural area**Strategy and management:**

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain quiet rural atmosphere
Non-intrusive improvements to access to Dyffryn and other attractions

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			true
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.			
Management & design guidance for improved/increased access to Dyffryn and other attractions			

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 04

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Bonvilston ridge

How would you classify this area?

Belt of higher, good quality land, with busy A48 along it

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Easily farmed, productive land
Good road access

Is the area ALC Grade 2? probably 30%

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably 25%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? probably 45%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? very little

Is the area ALC Grade 5? -

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Settlements and large farmsteads along main road
Tair Onnen forest nursery. Some limestone walling as well as hedges

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Arable including cereals, some stock-rearing

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Good, accessible farmland
Main road makes area attractive to development**Strategy and management:**

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as primarily high quality agricultural use
Resist non-rural developmentsImportance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly desirable* *Desirable**Which of the following statements are particularly significant?* True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected true

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Grade 2/3a land protected - either side of main road
Design/management guidance on hedgerow/wall restoration, farm access, etc

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 05

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ely valley

How would you classify this area?
Broad shallow valley with heavy soils

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?
Relatively wet with poorly drained land

Is the area ALC Grade 2?	unlikely
Is the area ALC Grade 3a?	probably 5%
Is the area ALC Grade 3b?	probably 45%
Is the area ALC Grade 4?	probably 50%
Is the area ALC Grade 5?	-
Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?	
Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?	
Is the area private woodland?	
Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?	

What are the significant features in this area?
River Ely
Settlements on higher land

What is the dominant management regime in this area?
Mainly sheep and cattle rearing. Some arable on higher land.

Is the area managed for wildlife? SSSI along river

Is the area managed for recreation/access? Fishing access to river in places

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account
Prone to water-logging
Attractive river with wildlife interest
Generally quiet rural area

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area
Retain as farmland
Managed to improve river and valley floor wildlife interest and access

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Management guidance for wet grasslands, drainage, river restoration, etc. using agri-environmental incentives

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 06

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Bro Miskin - either side of Ely valley

How would you classify this area?

Area of varied farmland on small hills and depressions

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Good to poor quality agricultural land gives mixed farming

Is the area ALC Grade 2? likely to be small areas

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably 10%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? probably 40%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? probably 40%

Is the area ALC Grade 5? -

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

M4 junction - encourages non-farming developments - golf, Bosch, Hensol conference centre

Llanerch vineyard

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Sheep and cattle-rearing, medium sized farms

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Small-scale variety of farmland

M4 access

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as farmland

Control of non-farming activities

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			true

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Parkland restoration - Hensol

Design guidance for small-scale non-farming rural developments likely in this area as near M4 and not high grade agricultural land

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 07

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Valleys of the Thaw & Waycock and narrow tributary valleys

How would you classify this area?

Floodplains and narrow valleys, steep slopes, difficult to farm

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Frequent flooding and waterlogging of some valley floor areas
valley sides too steep to cultivate - well-wooded

Is the area ALC Grade 2? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? probably > 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? probably > 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 5? -

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Rivers

Well-defined valleys with steep wooded sides

Cowbridge and other popular villages within or nearby area

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Sheep and some cattle rearing

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Generally poor quality farmland

Proximity of Cowbridge and other villages

Much of area inaccessible

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Protect from inappropriate expansion of settlements

Improve access from settlements

Restoration of wetlands

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly desirable* *Desirable*

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected true

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Action and management to de-canalise parts of Thaw

Action - route along old railway, from Cowbridge southward

Design/management guidance for periphery of Cowbridge, Aberthaw/St. Athans area

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 08

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Side valleys of the Thaw

How would you classify this area?

Minor shallow valleys with medium to poor quality farmland

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Secluded areas
Small settlements

Is the area ALC Grade 2? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably little

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? probably 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? probably 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 5? -

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

small fields and streams
historic settlements

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Sheep, with some cattle

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Quiet seclusion

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as quiet rural farmland

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Protect against development
No specific strategy required

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 09

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Stalling Down

How would you classify this area?
Hill with open common land

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?
open common land
Adjacent to cowbridge and A48

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5? probably 100%

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?
Unimproved grassland - wildlife interest
distinct from adjacent farmland

What is the dominant management regime in this area?
permanent pasture - some sheep

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? Popular for walking and informal recreation

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account
Major area of common land - historic, wildlife and recreational importance
Proximity to settlement and main road
Unsuited for much farming activity - vulnerable poor land

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area
Retain as open common for general recreation
Improve wildlife interest by grazing regimes
Restrict vehicular access

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			True
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			False
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Action - low-key tidy-up, parking/access improvements

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Barry to Llantwit Major coastal plateau

How would you classify this area?

Belt of good quality agricultural land

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Good easily worked soils, warm, not too wet, but windswept
Disected by power station, cement works, air port, etc.

Is the area ALC Grade 2? probably 50% or more

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably 50% or more

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 4? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Adjacent air port, RAF, settlements, power station, etc.
Coast

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Cereal growing and other arable in large fields

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Variety of surrounding non-agricultural uses - expansion of settlements, derelict land,
vulnerable to vandalism etc.
High quality land**Strategy and management:**

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as good agricultural land
Restrict development of non-agricultural uses
Protect from degradation relating to adjacent uses

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			true

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Grades 2/3a land protected from encroachment and fragmentation
Design/management for improved coastal strip - access, etc.

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 11

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llantwit Major to Ogmore coastal plateau

How would you classify this area?

High quality farmland on undulating plateau

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Good, easily-worked soils, warm, not too wet, but windswept
Attractive coastline

Is the area ALC Grade 2? probably 50% or more

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably up to 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 4? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 5? small pockets in coastal valleys

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Llantwit Major, St. Donat's and other villages
Main area of coastline/beach attractions. Some limestone walling in west part

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Cereal growing on large farms, large fields

Is the area managed for wildlife? SSSIs along coast, & Cwm Colhuw nature reserve

Is the area managed for recreation/access? All Heritage Coast. Popular access to beaches and coastal path

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Heavily used for informal recreation access to coast
Important coastline
Best extensive area of agricultural land in Vale

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Heritage Coast objectives
Farming/visitor integration

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Grades 2/3a protected from development, intrusive access, etc - specially near coast
Guidance and incentives for improved hedgerow/stone wall and field margin management

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 12

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llandow - Flemingston plateau

How would you classify this area?

High quality farmland, inland from coastal influences

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Existing and former air fields
Consistently good soils, good climate

Is the area ALC Grade 2? probably 50% or more

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably up to 50%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? small area

Is the area ALC Grade 4? unlikely

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Old airfields reused for trading estate, etc at Llandow

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Cereals and other arable crops, large farms

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Possible conflict of use between trading estate and farming
High quality farmland

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as good farmland, returning derelict air field to farming
Integrate trading estate etc. with farmland

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			true

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Grades 2/3a land protected - most of the area

Management/design guidance, and action sites to improve segregation between trading estate and farmland, including restoration of underused land for agriculture

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 13

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? West of Cowbridge and upper Thaw

How would you classify this area?

Ridges and broad valleys of good/medium quality farmland

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

mainly good soils
Generally quiet farmland

Is the area ALC Grade 2?	probably 10% - on ridges
Is the area ALC Grade 3a?	probably up to 20%
Is the area ALC Grade 3b?	probably 30%
Is the area ALC Grade 4?	probably 40%
Is the area ALC Grade 5?	small area - Ruthin Common
Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?	
Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?	
Is the area private woodland?	
Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?	

What are the significant features in this area?

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Mixed - some cereals and arable on higher land. Sheep and cattle

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Quiet rural area, away from coast and main settlements

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as quiet farmland

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Grades 2/3a land protected - mainly ridge tops
No specific strategies required

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 14

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ewenny valley sides

How would you classify this area?

Slopes and small side valleys of main Ogmore valley

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Oriented towards Bridgend and Ogmore valley
Some areas of good farmland

Is the area ALC Grade 2? probably 10%

Is the area ALC Grade 3a? probably 10%

Is the area ALC Grade 3b? probably 40%

Is the area ALC Grade 4? probably 40%

Is the area ALC Grade 5? -

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Good access to bridgend and M4
Ewenny Priory and river

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Mixed with some arable on shallow valley sides, and stock-rearing

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Urban/suburban influences from Bridgend
Generally good farmland

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as farmland
Protect against non-rural encroachment

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?	True	False
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The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected	true	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	true	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Design guidance and action sites to define periphery of industrial areas, and segregate from farmland. Joint action with Bridgend CBC

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ a 15

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ogmore Down

How would you classify this area?
Open common land

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?
open grassland and heath of wildlife interest

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5? probably 100%

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

What are the significant features in this area?

Limestone quarrying
Distinctly different from surrounding farmland

What is the dominant management regime in this area?
Sheep grazing - low intensity

Is the area managed for wildlife? Grassland/heath SSSI

Is the area managed for recreation/access? open for informal recreation

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account
Important historic relict with high wildlife interest
Open to public

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as open common
Retain/enhance/extend wildlife interest
Limit quarrying and plan for after-use

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			True
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			True
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Management guidance to retain as low grade farmland managed for wildlife -
agri-environmental initiatives

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/w 01

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Above Ely valley/Cardiff boundary

How would you classify this area?
Densely-wooded steep slopesWhat are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?
3Km continuous woodland overlooking Cardiff
Difficult access - no public access

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 30% + 30% replanted

What are the significant features in this area?
SSSI - Cwm Cydfin

What is the dominant management regime in this area? 75% under WGS

Is the area managed for wildlife? SSSI

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account
Large area of continuous woodland
Wildlife interest - ASNW & SSSI
Protected from urban fringe degradation by difficult access
Visual importance to Cardiff**Strategy and management:**Landscape objective/recommended state for the area
Retain as fully-wooded slope
Increase native woodland by management of regeneration

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Access control
Stabilisation of steep slopes

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 02

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Wenvoe and north of Dinas Powis

How would you classify this area?

Small valleys and ridges with well-wooded sides

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Mainly deciduous with high proportion of ASNW
Large areas of woodland on upper slopes
Good access from Dinas Powis and Wenvoe

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes - plus Woodland Trust and RMC Quarries

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 45% + 45% replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

Quarry adjacent
Historic remains of Dinas Powis earthworks within woodland

What is the dominant management regime in this area? 60% under WGS

Is the area managed for wildlife? Woodland Trust - Park Wood/Cwm George

Is the area managed for recreation/access? Woodland Trust - Park Wood/Cwm George

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

High recreational value for local communities
Parts may be under threat from quarrying and proposed road
Good native woodland of wildlife and historic value

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain as well-wooded area
Integrated with quarry and road screening
Good local access

Importance of achieving objective *Essential* *Highly desirable* *Desirable*
Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

management by regeneration of broadleaf species
new woodland to screen road etc.
Community woodlands

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 03

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? South of Dinas Powis and Penarth

How would you classify this area?

Lowland, small hills and coast with very little woodland

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Urban fringe/recreational uses - golf course, country park, horses, caravan parks
Adjacent suburban areas

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? no

What are the significant features in this area?

Few scattered small woods and copses - up to 3ha.
No woodland on floodplain - liable to flooding

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

WGS on golf course & Swanbridge

Is the area managed for wildlife?

No

Is the area managed for recreation/access?

golf course and country park and coast

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Development pressure as housing increases
Recreational uses along coast

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Increase woodland for urban fringe screening
Links between town/park/coast
network of shelter belts

Importance of achieving objective **Essential** **Highly desirable** **Desirable**

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected false

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced true

The key qualities and elements are subject to change true

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

coastal planting
urban fringe planting

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 04

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Wenvoe Castle & Pencoedtre

How would you classify this area?

Golf course & main roads with surrounding woodland

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Forestry and shelter belts

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.? 4 areas of about 20 ha each

Is the area private woodland? small areas around golf course

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 80% replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

Conifers

Roadside screening

What is the dominant management regime in this area? coniferous forestry - F.E.

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No (adjacent golf course)

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Screening for roads and golf course
prominent on high ground

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain/increase as strong edge/skyline/screen

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected		true	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		true	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		true	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Pencoedtre design brief
golf course management

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 05

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Dyffryn & upper Waycock valley

How would you classify this area?

Broad undulating valley with scattered mixed woodlands, mainly between 3 and 20 ha.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

many small woods, belts, large hedges
Away from main thoroughfares

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 30% + 60% replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

Dyffryn Gardens

What is the dominant management regime in this area? 50% under WGS

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Small scale landscape pattern of woods/fields

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain intricate pattern of woods
Enhance approaches to Dyffryn Gardens

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Bring into management

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 06

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Porthkerry

How would you classify this area?

Steep coastal valley with wooded sides

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

public access
edge of Barry

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland?

mainly Vale of Glamorgan

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW?

mainly ASNW

What are the significant features in this area?

steep slopes

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

Country Park

Is the area managed for wildlife?

SSSI

Is the area managed for recreation/access?

yes

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Recreation pressures
open access/vandalism

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Recreational access
nature conservation

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Country Park management plan - improve woodland structure and nature conservation value

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 07

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llantrithyd valley

How would you classify this area?

Wide valley with four coniferous/mixed woodlands

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

woodland on valley sides

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.? yes

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 100% replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

Conifers on ancient woodland sites

What is the dominant management regime in this area? 30% under WGS with felling licence

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

large blocks with high commercial value

replanted ASNW

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

management by regeneration of native species

Replant with natives

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			false
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 08

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? North of Bonvilston ridge

How would you classify this area?

North-facing slopes

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Numerous woods on slope

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.? Tair Onen

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? mainly ASNW or replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

many small woods

Forestry nursery

What is the dominant management regime in this area? 50% WGS 20% F.E.

Is the area managed for wildlife? no

Is the area managed for recreation/access? no - except Cotterell golf course

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

backdrop to upper Ely valley

good pattern of woods/fields

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

retain pattern of woodland

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.			

bring all in to management

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 09

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Hensol Forest

How would you classify this area?

Afforested since 1930s on poor soil

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Extensive area of coniferous forestry

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha? yes

Is the area forestry under 50 ha?

Is the area private woodland?

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? about 20 ha replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

coniferous forestry

SSSI lake

What is the dominant management regime in this area? F.E. coniferous forest

Is the area managed for wildlife? SSSI around lake

Is the area managed for recreation/access? 2no. parking/picnic sites, footpaths & bridleways

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Only large area of coniferous forest in Vale of Glamorgan

Good recreational resource

recreation/wildlife/commercial forestry conflicts

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Coniferous and mixed woodland with recreation

reduced woodland round lake

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

rural recreation and access

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 10

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Hensol Castle estate

How would you classify this area?

Parkland areas with associated woodland with ornamental elements

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Integrity of parkland degraded by hospital, conference centre and golf course usage

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.? some

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? about 50%

What are the significant features in this area?

Estate landscape - plantation and parkland

What is the dominant management regime in this area? commercial wodland

Is the area managed for wildlife? no

Is the area managed for recreation/access? golf course

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

parkland
good woodland cover**Strategy and management:**

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

continued estate management

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.			

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 11

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? North and west of upper Ely valley

How would you classify this area?
large area with scattered small woods

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?
wet woodlands
many small woods

Is the area ALC Grade 1?

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? about 60%

What are the significant features in this area?
river valley with poor drainage

What is the dominant management regime in this area? none

Is the area managed for wildlife? no

Is the area managed for recreation/access? no

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

overall wildlife value of area

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

retain pattern of small native woodland

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

management for nature conservation

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 12

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Valleys of the Thaw and Waycock & tributaries

How would you classify this area?

Steep valley sides with long narrow woodlands, mainly between 3 & 20 ha.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

steep wooded sides

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 40% + 50% replanted

What are the significant features in this area?

valley sides

wet valley bottoms

What is the dominant management regime in this area? 40% under WGS, + F.E. - 10ha

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? Mainly no access/footpaths

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Visually important

High nature conservation value

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

retain

manage for nature conservation and visual value

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

management for nature conservation

RURAL LAND USE**Area No: VG/R/ w 13****Description and Evaluation**

Component Location? Rhoose to Ogmore and Llandow plateau

How would you classify this area?

Open and generally windswept with little woodland cover, mainly under 2 ha.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Exposed - lack of tree cover

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? None

What are the significant features in this area?

small fragmented woods

large developments

What is the dominant management regime in this area? none

Is the area managed for wildlife? No

Is the area managed for recreation/access? No

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Exposure

characteristically open and un-wooded

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain/improve existing

Woodland for screening and shelter

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			false
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			true
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Screening development

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 14

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Llantwit Major to Ogmores coast

How would you classify this area?

Small steep valleys, generally wooded

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Coastal exposure

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 70%

What are the significant features in this area?

Coast

woodland only in valleys

What is the dominant management regime in this area? for nature conservation

Is the area managed for wildlife? All part of Heritage Coast, plus SSSIs

Is the area managed for recreation/access? All part of Heritage Coast

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Exposure - stunted growth

Recreation pressures

Wildlife value

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain/manage for ecological value

Restrict access if vulnerable

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Coastal recreation management

nature conservation management

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 15

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? West of Cowbridge and Thaw valley

How would you classify this area?

Broad ridges and shallow valleys with little woodland cover

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Small woods

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 50%

What are the significant features in this area?

Small scattered woods

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

-

Is the area managed for wildlife?

no

Is the area managed for recreation/access?

no

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

pattern of woods/farmland

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain

Additional small woods

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 16

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Alun valley

How would you classify this area?

Steep-sided, well-wooded valley in Carboniferous limestone

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

steep and sheltered
disused quarries

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? mainly

What are the significant features in this area?

limestone
large proportion wooded

What is the dominant management regime in this area? nature conservation

Is the area managed for wildlife? SSSIs and nature reserve

Is the area managed for recreation/access? footpaths

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

high ecological value
popular for walking

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain
manage for ecological value and limited access

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

management for nature conservation

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 17

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? Ewenny

How would you classify this area?

North-west facing valley sides

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Scattered medium-sized woods and plantations

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? 50%

What are the significant features in this area?

Overlooking Ogmere valley

What is the dominant management regime in this area?

-

Is the area managed for wildlife?

no

Is the area managed for recreation/access?

no

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Varied landscape

Visually important

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain and manage

Importance of achieving objective	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Highly desirable</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.			

RURAL LAND USE

Area No: VG/R/ w 18

Description and Evaluation

Component Location? St, Mary Hill Down

How would you classify this area?
Wooded hill, north-west facing

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?
Steep woodland
Prominent from north and west

Is the area ALC Grade 2?

Is the area ALC Grade 3a?

Is the area ALC Grade 3b?

Is the area ALC Grade 4?

Is the area ALC Grade 5?

Is the area forestry over 50 ha.?

Is the area forestry under 50 ha.?

Is the area private woodland? yes

Is the area ASNW or replanted ASNW? yes

What are the significant features in this area?
Relatively large wood

What is the dominant management regime in this area? -

Is the area managed for wildlife? no

Is the area managed for recreation/access? no

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

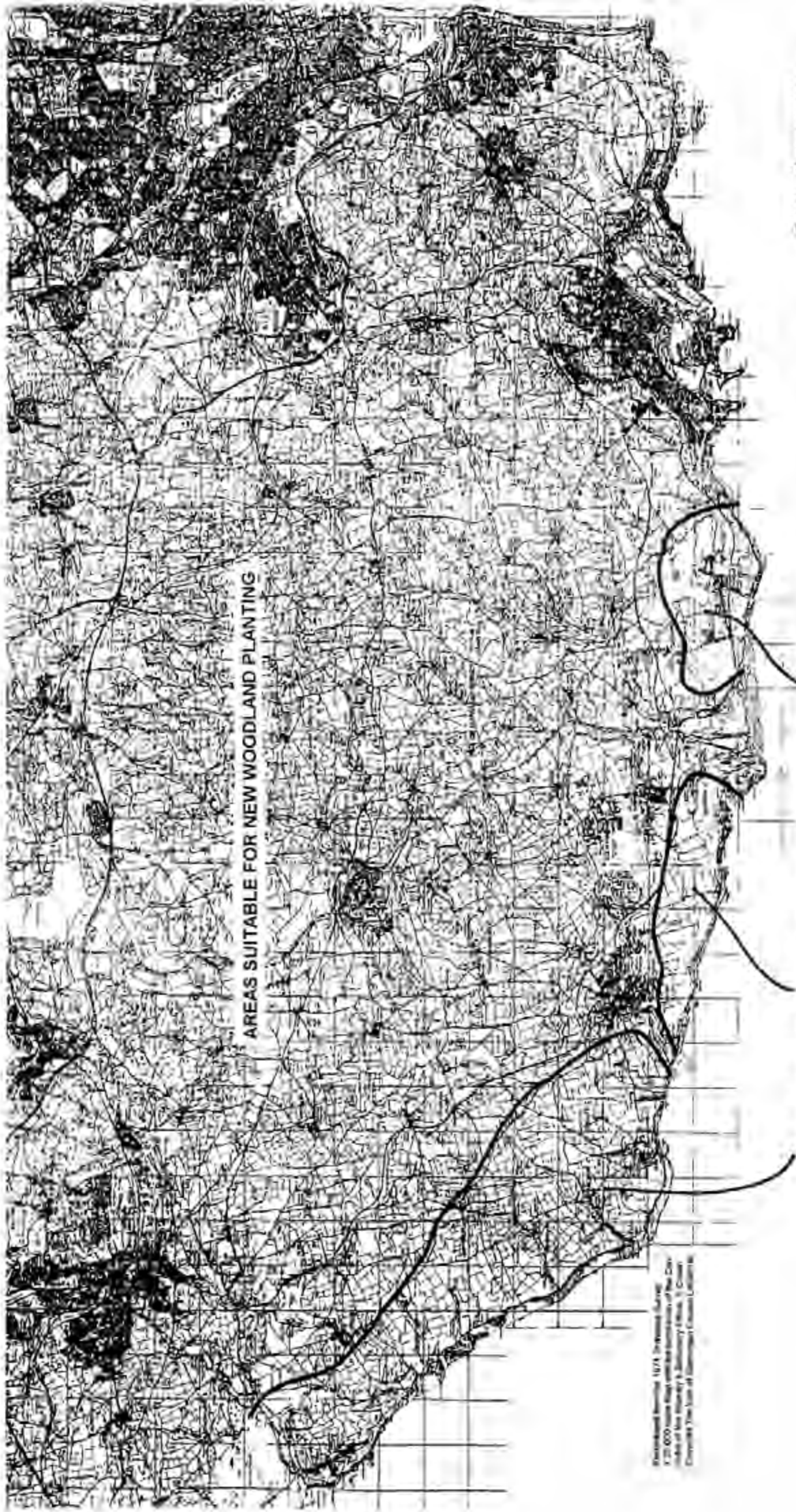
Visually important

Strategy and management:

Landscape objective/recommended state for the area

Retain and manage

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			True False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			true
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			false
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			false
Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.			



AREAS SUITABLE FOR NEW WOODLAND PLANTING

AREAS LESS SUITABLE FOR NEW WOODLAND PLANTING

AREAS SUITABLE FOR NEW WOODLAND PLANTING

10.0 Settlement and Development

1 INTRODUCTION

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in partnership with the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) are preparing a comprehensive landscape study for the vale of Glamorgan to provide a framework for a landscape policy and implementation programme and associated design work.

The output of the study will be in two parts:

“Part 1 – a landscape assessment including a suite of landscape strategies dealing with development planning issues, and;

Part 2 – design and management guidelines and an action programme”

The study will be guided by the emerging CCW LANDMAP methodology.

This brief report assesses one aspect of the landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan; the contribution that settlement and development makes to the overall image and distinctiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan. The report was prepared as a full aspect, but it's status is now an informative aspect. Any judgements of value will not contribute to the value of any particular landscape assessed.

The brief requested;

“Consideration of settlement and development in the landscape – although it is not intended to address specific residential and industrial areas in detail ...it is important that the appraisal takes note of those existing and future development areas which are particularly prominent from the main communication corridors and gateways”

As set out in the proposal by White Consultants, the scope has been extended to *“consider all forms of development that require planning permission. It will identify those elements of built form that merit conservation including their landscape setting, area requiring enhancement including derelict / reclamation sites and areas under threat of change. Recreation provision including open space and access will be considered and mapped.”*

2 METHODOLOGY

Base mapping

The following information was mapped

- relevant Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policies
- main roads and railways
- proposed strategic cycle network
- long distance footpaths
- airports / aerodromes
- managed recreational facilities
- key tourist / recreational destinations
- conservation areas
- listed buildings
- proposed road links
- major business and industrial developments
- pylons

It was initially intended to map areas where development is not technically desirable or feasible. Consultation with the Environment Agency revealed that this is not currently possible due to lack of data regarding flooding and coastal erosion.

Field Survey

The field survey focussed on the main road corridors and development sites as listed in the brief. Conservation areas were also visited. The field survey aimed to;

- Identify sites not identified by the base mapping
- Assess the general pattern of settlement and development and identify the key characteristics vital to the image and distinctiveness of the Vale.
- Identify areas, specific settlements and development sites that detract from the image and distinctiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Identify areas, specific settlement and development sites that contribute to the overall image and distinctiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Description and Evaluation

On the basis of the mapping and field survey the Vale of Glamorgan was divided into broad areas in which settlement and development consistently either adds to, or detracts from, image and local distinctiveness within the Vale. Each consistent and distinctive area (referred to as a 'component') was assigned one of the following values.

1. **Areas of outstanding value (national and international)** - an area that contributes to the overall distinctiveness and image of the Vale that is also nationally and internationally important.
2. **Areas of high intrinsic value (county including conservation areas)** – an area that contributes to the overall image and distinctiveness of the Vale.
3. **Areas of modest intrinsic value (local)** – an area that contributes to the overall image and distinctiveness of a local area within the Vale
4. **Other** - an area that detracts from the overall image and distinctiveness of the Vale that may also have intrinsic value which has been diminished by inappropriate or poorly designed development.

The description and evaluation was recorded on a standard proforma (see Section 5, 'Component Text').

Strategy and management

Preliminary desired strategy and management measures to protect or enhance the identified value of each component were recorded on the proforma. These take into account only settlement and development issues.

3 OVERVIEW OF SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Vale of Glamorgan Countryside Strategy places great importance on “*the intimate lowland character*” of the vale of Glamorgan and the contrast with the surrounding upland. The Vale is seen a rural area that in the context of South Wales “*has suffered relatively little degradation or neglect*” (Countryside Strategy p6).

One of the key objectives of the Countryside Strategy is; “*To conserve, enhance and manage the Vale of Glamorgan countryside in ways which reflect the high value of the resource and its unique and special features by:*

- i. Ensuring statutory protection to landscapes, features and habitats*
- ii. Promoting measures to manage or enhance the countryside”*

The important rural character of the Vale is sensitive to changes in the pattern of settlement and development that can lead to an erosion of image and distinctiveness.

Settlement and development makes a contribution to ‘sense of place’ in the Vale of Glamorgan at two levels. At a regional level the general pattern of settlement and development helps define the character of the Vale as a whole and distinguish it from other parts of Wales. At a local level individual settlements give smaller discrete areas within the Vale a distinct sense of place that distinguishes them from other parts of the Vale.

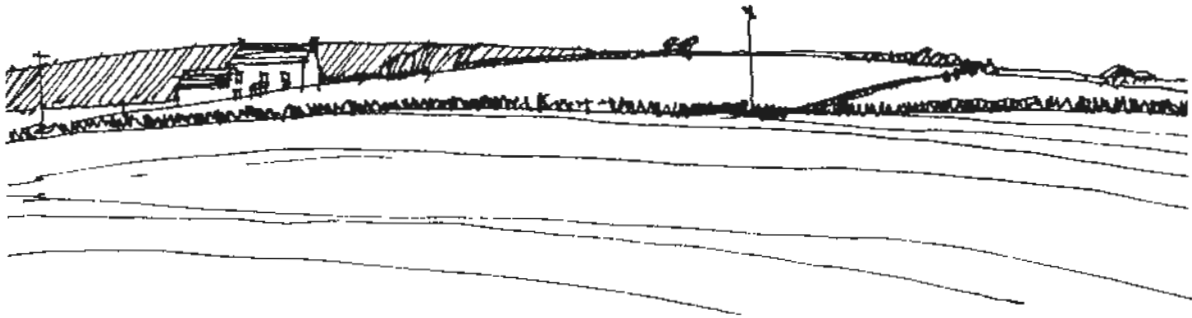
Pattern of settlement and development

The settlement and development that we see today is the result of centuries of gradual development. Its physical form reflects the social values and technology of the inhabitants of the Vale and their response to the environment over time. The evidence of various eras and different approaches to locating and building settlement is largely what gives the Vale its distinctive ‘sense of place’.

A brief description of the key eras and patterns of settlement are given in ‘*Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan – Historical Aspects*’ by the Glamorgan – Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd as part of this study.

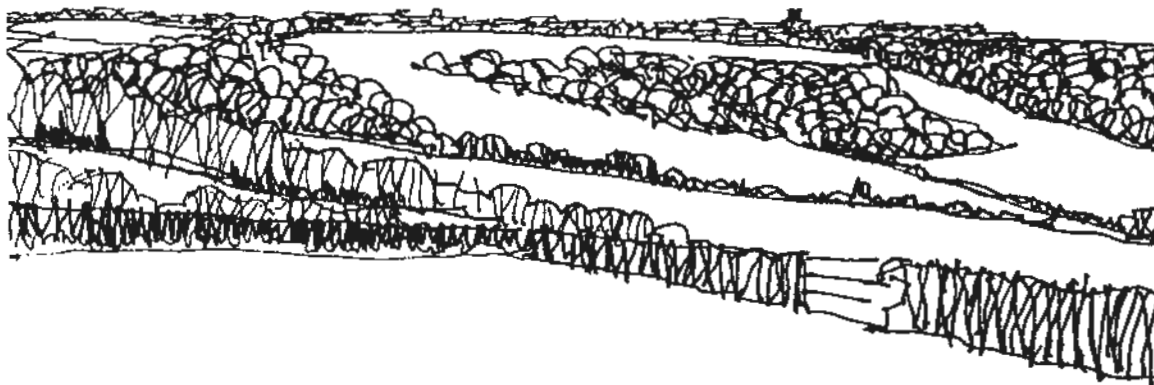
The fertile lowland plateau of the Vale of Glamorgan has a markedly different settlement pattern to much of the rest of Wales, predominantly due to the Norman conquest (1087) and the importation of an English peasantry, resulting in the creation of the ‘Englishry’ (see Historical Aspect). This area developed a pattern of compact nucleated settlement that is still evident today. The more wooded hill regions to the north, the ‘Welshry’, had by contrast a dispersed settlement pattern.

The majority of the villages and towns of the Vale are set in valleys or sheltered hollows off the plateau top. In views across the area the villages and towns are not highly visible. Farms by contrast are frequently in relatively exposed locations on the plateau top. Although since the Norman Conquest there has been dramatic changes to the landscape, particularly related to agricultural innovation, this general pattern of settlement has remained recognisable. This is because “*...the village was an expression on the landscape of a mode of life*” (Williams 1975) and until the 18 century agriculture remained the dominant mode of life. It was not until relatively recently that the mode of life changed and industrial and economic development started to influence settlement and development pattern.



Sketch 1: Plateau near St Brides, exposed farms, villages hidden in valleys.

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 parts of this area large scale residential and industrial development is visually dominant over the agricultural land, although the Heritage Coast remains unspoilt. In such areas it may no longer be tenable to talk about protecting a traditional view of the countryside. A new vision may be appropriate that is aimed specifically at minimising the detrimental impacts of large scale development and integrating it with the landscape in which it is sited.



Sketch 2: Outskirts of Barry have crept onto the plateau top and exert their visual influence over a wide area to the north.

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 predominantly dependent on car transport, 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. However it is important to note that many 'detrimental' modern developments may be positively perceived by the people to whom they provide employment, transport and services.

Aspects of Settlement and Development that **contribute** to the image and distinctiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan are summarised below:

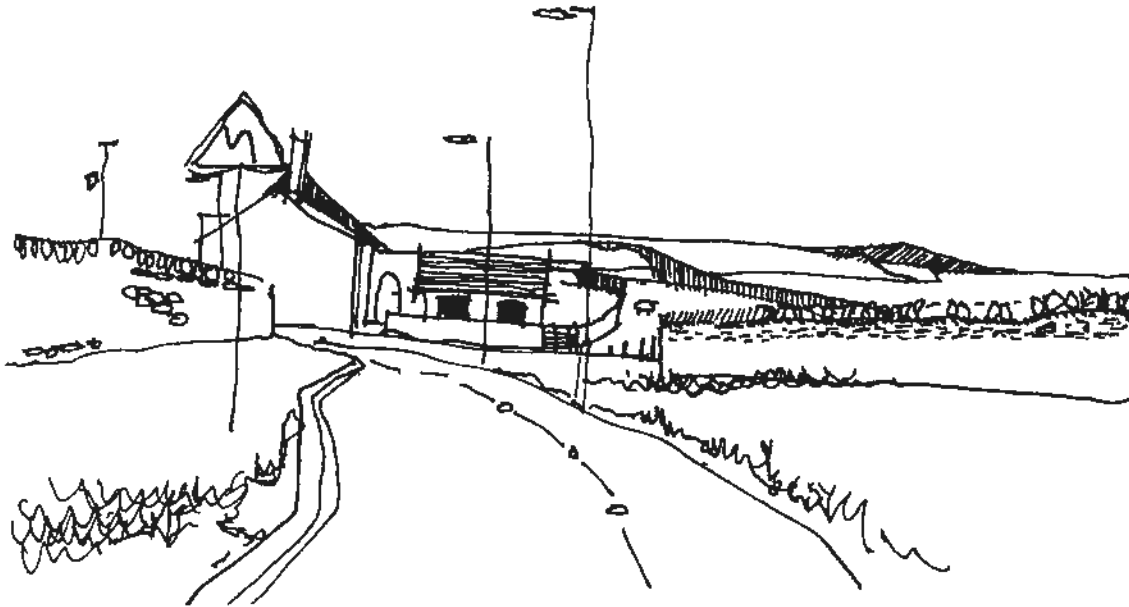
- Small nucleated villages usually set in sheltered locations off the plateau top with strong visual and physical links between the buildings and their landscape setting.
- Orientation of buildings within settlements and their relationship to each other and adjacent roads / public spaces. Associated walls and outbuildings.



Sketch 3: Porthkerry. Buildings relate to a central space associated with the church. Local materials unify built elements, native planting enhances link with landscape setting.

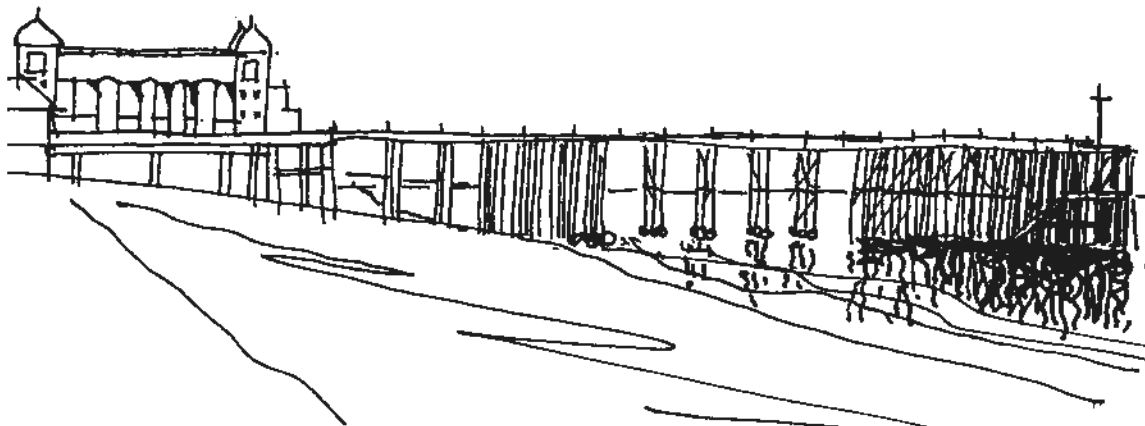
- Townscape qualities of larger settlements, particularly spatial variations and visual diversity created by variety in built form.
- Features such as castles, ruins and earthworks associated with earlier settlement.

- Farms often set on plateau tops and in coastal locations - exposed and prominent visual focii.
- Use of local building materials.
- Building form that reflects environmental conditions, available technology and functional requirements creating a recognisable vernacular.



Sketch 4: Southerndown. Farm set in an exposed location. Walls, views to the sea, grazed verges, winding road and sense of openness and exposure creates strong sense of place. Lighting and signage detracts considerably.

- Narrow lanes and relatively few large-scale arterial roads.
- 'Recent' landscape features such as the Porthkerry viaduct and the railway bridge at Ewenny, Penarth Pier and tourism and recreational facilities such as Porthkerry and Cosmeston Lakes Country Park.



Sketch 5: Penarth Pier, a much loved landmark in the Vale.

Aspects of Settlement and Development that **detract** from the image and distinctiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan are summarised below:

- Large scale industrial, military and airport development on the plateau top in a rural setting that tends to visually 'stack up' and urbanise the coastal strip.
- New residential development that has little relationship with the surrounding landscape.
- Housing sites with poor building design, standardised layouts that lack any relationship with the form of the urban areas to which they are attached, and the use of standard materials that detract from the architectural qualities created over centuries through the use of a limited palette of materials.
- Development on prominent skylines.
- Road improvements in rural locations, particularly new intersections and traffic calming that tend to 'suburbanise' rural locations.
- Highly visible mineral extraction sites.
- Small scale ad-hoc 'suburban' development along road corridors in predominantly rural areas.
- Large scale roads and associated infrastructure such as lighting and signage. Lighting along the A48 and other roads appears to be out of keeping with the rural character of the adjacent landscape.

Local variations in the pattern of Settlement and Development

The description and evaluation process has identified 16 distinct areas within the Vale that contribute in different ways to the image and distinctiveness of the Vale of Glamorgan. These are set out below and are described and evaluated in detail in section 5.

1. Area surrounding Michaelston le-pit and St Andrews Major
2. Wenvoe and Culverhouse Cross
3. Sully Moors and Swanbridge
4. Cosmeston Lakes Country Park
5. Penarth Moors
6. Barry Docks and chemical complex
7. Barry Island and Cold Knap
8. Porthkerry Country Park
9. Land between Porthkerry Country Park and the A4226
10. The Rural Vale inland from the coastal strip
11. Aberthaw, St Athan, and Cardiff International Airport
12. Vale of Glamorgan heritage Coast
13. Llandow Industrial Estate, north of Llantwit Major on B4270
14. Llantwit Major
15. Ogmore
16. Ogmore Down
17. Cowbridge

4 KEY ISSUES

- The landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan still has a largely rural character that reflects its agricultural past. However it now fulfils a variety of functions related to commuting, tourism, business and industry. It is inevitable that the appearance of the landscape will change to reflect these comparatively new uses. One of the key issues facing the Vale of Glamorgan is how, as change occurs, the valued attributes of the environment can be protected and enhanced.
- In some areas, notably the coastal strip between Barry and Llantwit Major, the rural quality of the Vale has been eroded by large scale development such as Aberthaw Power Station and Cardiff International Airport. The visibility of this development across the plateau is detrimental to achieving the aims of the Countryside Strategy which seeks to protect and enhance the rural qualities of the Vale. A major challenge in planning and managing this part of the coastal strip will be to find a means to minimise the detrimental effects of large scale development whilst integrating it into the landscape. This may involve developing a new landscape vision for the area which respects both the industrial/commercial and agricultural landuses.
- 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.

In the Vale of Glamorgan many developments over the last 50 years 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. These principles are reflected in the draft Unitary Development Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan. If rigorously applied sustainable design principles could result help strengthen sense of place.





5 COMPONENT TEXT

1. Area surrounding Michaelston le-pit and St Andrews Major
2. Wenvoe and Culverhouse Cross
3. Sully Moors and Swanbridge
4. Cosmeston Lakes Country Park
5. Penarth Moors
6. Barry Docks and chemical works
7. Barry Island and Cold Knap
8. Porthkerry Country Park
9. Land between Porthkerry Country Park and the A4226
10. The Rural Vale inland from the coastal strip
11. Aberthaw, St Athan, and Cardiff International Airport
12. Vale of Glamorgan heritage Coast
13. Llandow Industrial Estate, north of Llantwit Major on B4270
14. Llantwit Major
15. Ogmore
16. Ogmore Down
17. Cowbridge



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High Intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest Intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







**SETTLEMENT & DEVELOPMENT-
COMPONENTS**

West



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number - see Text
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High intrinsic value
-  Areas of Modest intrinsic value
-  Other Areas







**SETTLEMENT & DEVELOPMENT-
COMPONENTS**

Central



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LEGEND

- 2** Component Reference Number (see Text)
-  Areas of Outstanding Value
-  Areas of High Intrinsic Value
-  Areas of Modest Intrinsic Value
-  Other Areas



**SETTLEMENT & DEVELOPMENT
 COMPONENTS**

East

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/1

Component Location?

Area surrounding Michaelston le-pit and St Andrews Major

How would you classify this area?

Historic nucleated and linear settlement set in predominantly rural landscape with substantial areas of woodland on the valley slopes

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Secluded, unspoilt quality of settlement juxtaposed with small scale intimate landscape setting. Residential areas are closely related to the agricultural setting, often with gardens backing directly onto fields. There are no large homogenous housing blocks unrelated to the setting. The early housing estate at Michaelston pit is important, relationship of front gardens to the road is distinctive. Woodland on the valley sides and ridges visually isolates both of the main villages from surrounding large settlements.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Michaelston-le-pit. The northern part of the Dinas Powys conservation area also abuts the area.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

St Andrews; a small unspoilt village built around a small church. The transmitter mast north west of Llandough is an important regional landmark. The line of a disused railway runs through the area west of St Andrews.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Visual separation from adjacent nearby large settlements and infrastructure; agricultural integrity in order that its quiet rural character is sustained; scale of development in relation to the small scale of the rural landscape; materials and orientation of any new development; the direct physical relationship between residential development and the agricultural setting; and, engineering design of new roads / access including road width and kerbs.

The area should continue to be a buffer between Cardiff and Barry

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Ensure that any new development or alterations to existing development respects the scale and character of the area. Protect and enhance the visual diversity of the area. Resist any development that undermines the agricultural viability of the area, particularly large scale infrastructure and housing developments. Maintain the abutting residential settlement boundaries of Llandough and Dinas Powys in order to minimise urban fringe problems. Manage woodlands appropriately in order that they continue to provide an appropriate setting for settlement.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Maintain distinct urban fringe of Dinas Powys and Llandough, protect from large scale residential development and infrastructure projects. Design guideline required for alteration of existing buildings and siting and design of new development.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/2

Component Location?

Wenvoe, Culverhouse Cross and Barry Docks link road (see also 'Corridors and Gateways' report)

How would you classify this area?

Large scale infrastructure and development in a predominantly rural context

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Large modern 'out of town' centre with hotels, business, commercial and residential functions, mineral extraction, large scale road transport infrastructure, 'modern' residential development around an historic conservation area, pylons, small scale commercial development along the A4050; and, an agricultural hinterland.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Wenvoe

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Landscape setting of Wenvoe conservation area; residential amenity of other residential development, design and alignment of proposed road link; development should be a suitable 'gateway' to the Vale of Glamorgan and promote a positive image; and, area should continue to be a buffer between Cardiff and Barry.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Improve definition between landuses; maintain the separation of the Cardiff and Barry by ensuring that the 'green' predominantly agricultural character of the A4050 corridor is maintained; and ensure that Culverhouse Cross develops a landscape infrastructure that is an appropriate entrance into the Vale.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?	True	False
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The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected	t	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced	t	
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	t	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Ensure that the landscape and architectural design of Culverhouse Cross promotes a strong easily recognisable image that either has a robust image of its own or reflects the rural character of the Vale. Review planting to ensure that it will be sufficiently large scale to reduce the visual dominance of the transport infrastructure; ensure machinery and where possible rock faces associated with mineral workings are screen and effectively rehabilitated in due course; review and simplify roundabout design on A4050 and remove elements that tend to suburbanise the area, ensure that developments do not continue to spread between Cardiff and Barry along the A4050; strongly define Culverhouse Cross and Wenvoe as urban areas and manage the remaining areas to retain / regain a rural character. The proposed airport link road will further 'suburbanise' the area but also offers the opportunity to minimise the visual clutter associated with the A4050.

Ensure the proposed Pencoedre development provides a distinctive entry into Barry with high quality site specific design that relates to the landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan. Enhance the entry to Barry via the Docks link road.

SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Description and Evaluation

Area No: VG/S/3

Component Location?

Sully Moors and Swanbridge

How would you classify this area?

Agricultural area suffering from urban fringe problems.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Proximity to adjacent large scale development such as the Chemical Works in Barry which 'overpowers' the rural quality of the area: low lying flat rural landscape with dispersed nucleated settlements; interesting coastal settlements such as Lavernock Farm and Swanbridge; and, an overriding feeling of slight neglect in some places.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

The general pattern of small rural settlements in marked contrast with the surrounding large scale industrial and residential development.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Small scale dispersed settlement pattern and the agricultural land which separates Penarth and Sully / Barry. The relationship of settlement to the coastal belt is also important.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

The area should remain as a rural agricultural area separating Penarth and Barry / Sully whilst providing recreational opportunity for the surrounding settlements.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Minimise new development that urbanises the area and lessens the separation between the main settlements; encourage viable landuses that maintain the 'green' character of the area.

Consider allowing some of the low lying land around Sully Moors to revert to wetland that could act as a nature reserve and a flood mitigation facility if agricultural use is no longer viable; protect coastal strip from large scale development and ensure that recreational facilities are well contained and integrated with the landscape; avoid fragmentation of viable agricultural landuses with inappropriate development.

SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Description and Evaluation

Area No: VG/S/4

Component Location?

Cosmeston Lakes Country Park

How would you classify this area?

Country Park with waterbodies and themed medieval village.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Waterbodies, native planting and casual recreational space, visitor facilities and the medieval village. The area is secluded from nearby urban areas and is physically and visually linked to nearby agricultural land. The high numbers of visitors, associated parking and recreation makes the area feel busy and under pressure from over use.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Low-key non sporting recreational use in association with a semi-natural landscape setting

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain as Country Park and continue to develop and enhance existing landscape framework . Manage visitor numbers to protect against any erosion of the relatively quiet and secluded recreational quality of the area.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Review landscape management to enhance semi-natural landscape infrastructure, review visitor numbers and facilities.

Integrate land from Old Cogan Hall Farm into the Park, allow public access but retain agricultural use of land as management mechanism.

Encourage the development of linkages between the park and adjacent areas, in particular to Penarth end the coast.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/5

Component Location?

Penarth Moors

How would you classify this area?

Commercial / industrial development on low flat reclaimed land in an urban landscape setting.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Industrial estate and large-scale road transport infrastructure.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The area has no special qualities that need to be taken into account. The area is at a key vehicular entrance point into the Vale and should present a positive image of the Vale to road users. However due to the elevated road and crash barriers the area is not highly visible.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended stata for area

Building design and landscape infrastructure should be of a high quality providing a strong sense of arrival and identity at a key entrance to the Vale.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			f
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Large scale native planting to emphasise the edge of the Vale and reinforce the line of the escarpment that defines the eastern margin of the Vale. Control building height, materials and colour in new developments to ensure that it does not become visually intrusive from the main vehicular entry points and adjacent residential development.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/6

Component Location?

Barry Docks and chemical works
How would you classify this area?

Varying scales of industrial and commercial premises, dominated by large chemical works in an urban setting.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Large chemical works and other smaller industrial and commercial buildings creating an urban industrial quality. Strong contrasts between residential development on the higher land north west of the area. Road link into the docks and Barry of a poor visual quality due to development pattern and lack of a robust landscape infrastructure.

Are there conservation areas/key listed buildings in this area?
If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?
If so, name.

Coastal zone, disused windmill west of Sully

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Low visual quality due to a lack of visual unity between diverse landuses, and visual clutter associated with parking, signage fencing etc.

Areas intrinsic value *Outstanding* *High* *Modest* *Other*

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Enhance industrial character by creating a robust landscape infrastructure that visually unifies the diverse landuses and building types and screens out low level visual clutter.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>		<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			f
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		t	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		t	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Identify sites for landscape improvements on the A 4055 access road from Sully Moors into Barry Docks, investigate ways of rationalising signage, fencing and parking and minimise visual clutter, develop design guidelines for placement of signage, fencing, and landscape design.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/7

Component Location?

Barry Island and Cold Knap

How would you classify this area?

Urban coastal strip with residential development and holiday camp.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Large scale holiday camp on prominent point; theme park and entertainment facilities with hard 'urban' seafront to Whitmore Bay; semi-natural coastal strip between Friars Point and Porthkerry and a naturally dramatic coastal location. The visual quality of the area is severely reduced by the dull, visually monotonous and highly prominent buildings on Nell Point (ex Butlins Holiday Camp).

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Barry Marine Conservation Area.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Landscape value of the coastal strip should not be further overwhelmed by development.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Protect the coastal strip from further large scale development and progressively remove / enhance detracting elements.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True</i> <i>False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Take opportunity to recover part of the prominent headland provided by the redevelopment of the holiday camp, ensure new development is appropriate in design to coastal location and does not detract from the quality of the coastal strip, improve access and paths around coastal strip. Design guidelines required to ensure that future development takes into account the unique coastal location. Factors to take into account include siting, orientation, building form fenestration, and landscape design.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/8

Component Location?

Porthkerry Country Park

How would you classify this area?

Country Park in wooded valley in coastal strip.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Wooded valley, coast, railway viaduct and a feel of quiet seclusion due to the enclosure provided by the valley and woodland.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Secluded semi-natural quality due to topography and woodland.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retain and enhance secluded wooded character whilst managing visitor numbers to prevent overuse and loss of the essential qualities of the area.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected		t	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced

The key qualities and elements are subject to change

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Review existing management regime. Improve and enhance links to surrounding area, particularly to the Barry Marine conservation area to the east, the Bulwarks fort to the west and Cwm-cidy towards Barry in the north east.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/9

Component Location?

Land between Porthkerry Country Park and the A4226

How would you classify this area?

Dispersed farms in a rural landscape setting.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Rural character of the land with dispersed settlements agricultural settlements strongly influenced by adjacent non rural landuses of Barry, Cardiff International Airport and Porthkerry Country Park creating the feeling that the area is threatened.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Porthkerry conservation area.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Landscape setting of settlements, particularly Porthkerry. Rural quality should be protected to act as a buffer between Barry and the Cardiff International Airport.

Areas intrinsic value	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Modest</i>	<i>Other</i>
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Maintain as rural buffer between Airport and Barry

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>		<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected		t	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			f
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Maintain agricultural viability of the area. Resist development pressures arising from the development of the Cardiff International Airport. Protect and enhance the landscape setting of Porthkerry.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/10

Component Location?

The Rural Vale inland from the coastal strip

How would you classify this area?

Extensive area with numerous small dispersed nucleated settlements within a rural landscape setting.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Dispersed farms and small, nucleated, villages set within a gently undulating plateau landscape. Villages are generally off the plateau tops in valleys or on hill-sides. Many of the farms are on the plateau tops and are visual focus points when looking across the area. Many of the settlements have modern additions with a different settlement pattern that contrasts with older parts. The dominant quality is of quiet rurality. This is detracted from by large roads such as the A48, the occasional poorly designed residential development, pylons and incremental highway improvements to cope with increasing traffic that tends to 'suburbanise' the area.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Conservation areas: Peterson-super-Ely, St Nicholas, Drope, St Georges, Talygam, Pendoylan, Bonvilston, Aberthin, Llantrithyd, St Hillary, Llanmihangel, Llancaifan, Llanbethery, Penmark, Llancahle, Flemingston, Llanmaes, Lisworney, Llandow, Colwinston, Llan-gan.

Grade I and II* listed buildings: Ewenny Priory, Llandow Church of the Holy Trinity and Church Farmhouse, Llancaifan – Church of St Cadoc, Llantrithyd – Church of St Illtyd, Walterston – TrewalterFawr Farmhouse, Gam-Lhwyd Farmhouse, Treguff Farmhouse, Llandow – Church of the Holy Trinity and Church farmhouse, Llanmihangel – Church of St Mary and All Angels, Plas Llanmihangel and barn and stables to the East of Plas Llanmihangel, Sutton Farmhouse, St Hillary – Church of St Hillary, Old Beupre Castle, Old Beupre Farmhouse, Llanmaes – Great House, Pendoylan – Church of St Cattwg and Hensol Castle, Llansannor Court, Fonmon Castle, St Georges – Castle Farmhouse and Coedarhyd-y-Glyn, Church of St Nicholas

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Relationship of settlement and development to the landscape and the quiet rurality of the area that results from a lack of large scale and inappropriate development.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Retain as the rural heart of the Vale. Ensure that new development relates to the landscape setting visually physically .

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?	True	False
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The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected	t	
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The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		f
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The key qualities and elements are subject to change	t	
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Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Protect plateau tops from any large scale development, favour secluded valley sites, ensure that new development relates to the landscape in building orientation, materials, layout, relationship to roads within the area, physical and visual links to the landscape. A new relationship between development and the landscape may be created by ensuring that development conforms to sustainable design principles.

Where the area abuts urban areas landscape strategy should aim to minimise urban fringe effects. One area in particular that may require action is the north west urban fringe of Barry which has a considerable visual influence over the plateau to the north. This could be minimised by urban fringe planting.

Design guidelines required for new development, traffic calming and road improvements.

SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Description and Evaluation

Area No: VG/S/11

Component Location?

Aberthaw, St Athan, and Cardiff International Airport

How would you classify this area?

Coastal Plateau with large-scale power, aviation and mineral extraction with a rural landscape setting.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Large scale landscape elements including the BA hanger at the airport and Aberthaw Power Station leading to a semi-urban quality. The proximity to the sea creates a coastal feel but this is generally overwhelmed by the scale of the development.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Conservation areas: Rhoose, East Aberthaw

Listed Buildings: East Aberthaw – Blue Anchor Inn Public House.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Due to the scale of the development and its location on the plateau top it visually 'stacks up' creating a semi-urban quality. This quality needs to be countered by the landscape strategy.

Positive qualities include the coastal influence.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Develop landscape strategy to visually isolate main developments and counter the visual coalescence of large development. Identify a new landscape vision for the area that takes into account the reality of the area as a location for large scale infrastructure and development. Include in the vision a long term strategy for the reintegration of the Thaw estuary into the landscape to re-establish links between the rural inland and the coast.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?		True	False
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			f
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		t	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		t	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Investigate possibility of establishing planting within the landscape on the periphery of major developments. Investigate the possibility of enhancing the visual and ecological attributes of the Thaw estuary, in particular the visual relationship between the river and the nearby Aberthaw Power Station.

Impose height limit on new development on the plateau tops.

Design guidelines for layout, landscape and architecture of new development at Cardiff International Airport.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/12

Component Location?

Vale of Glemorgan Heritage Coast

How would you classify this area?

Coastal plateau oriented towards the sea, with dispersed farms and small nucleated and linear settlements.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Small, dispersed, attractive settlements, often in an exposed location associated with small valleys which lead to the coastline. No woodland apart from in sheltered valleys. Within settlements buildings all have a similar orientation and a direct visual and physical link with the adjacent agricultural land and coast. In the north of the area many of the field boundaries are constructed of stone. The area has an exposed coastal quality. Settlements are often located on the plateau and have a stark, open quality.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Conservation areas: Gileston, Boverton, Monknash, Broughton, St Brides.

Listed buildings: Monknash – Parish Church of St Mary, St Donats – Parish Church of St Donats, Medieval Cross in graveyard and St Donats Castle, Gileston Manor.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Dunraven Park and walled garden, walls and settlement at Southerndown, Cwm Col-huw and development at the beach south west of Llantwit Major as an area of tourism value and the small settlements in the valleys leading to the coast.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Settlement pattern and form and relationship with agricultural landscape. Extent and design of tourist facilities.

Areas intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Manage in support of Heritage Coast management objectives.

Importance of achieving objective Essential Highly desirable Desirable

Which of the following statements are particularly significant? True False

The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected t

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced f

The key qualities and elements are subject to change f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Direct tourism and recreation pressures to 'honey-pots' of Ogmere, Dunraven and Cwm Col-huw. Support private initiatives to create cultural and recreational centre at St Donats. Manage development pressures in these area maintaining essential undeveloped coastal quality of the area. Improve quality and design of tourist facilities. Ensure sustainable management of woodland in small valleys leading to the coast.

The Heritage Coast walk should be extended along the entire coast.

Design guidelines required to ensure that future development takes into account the unique coastal location. Factors to take into account include siting, orientation, material, building form fenestration and external details such as walls.

SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Description and Evaluation

Area No: VG/S/13

Component Location?

Llandow Industrial Estate, north of Llantwit Major on B4270

How would you classify this area?

Industrial and commercial development located on a disused aerodrome on rural coastal plateau.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Neglect due to poor maintenance and landscape management, contrast of large scale buildings, truck parking, and a modern industrial estate with the exposed agricultural plateau landscape.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Height and visibility of built elements in the landscape, character and quality of landscape infrastructure, poor signage.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Landscape design and management should seek to mitigate the visual impact of large structures in the landscape. The objective should be to prevent visual coalescence of the industrial estate with other nearby developments when viewed across the plateau.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?		True	False
The key qualities and elements need to be conserved and protected			F
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		T	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change		T	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Landscape strategy should seek to integrate the development into the adjacent rural landscape via the use of appropriate woodland planting and hard landscape elements such as walls.

Specific action programme sites for landscape works include the following:

- The east and west verges (and adjacent land) of the B4270.
- The south western periphery of the industrial estate as visible from the B4265.
- Entrances into, and roads through the industrial estate.
- Signage improvements and rationalisation.
- Progressive removal of remains of runways and rehabilitation. A more efficient use of the land should be sought to minimise the amount of land taken up by development.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/14

Component Location?

Llantwit Major

How would you classify this area?

Major residential settlement with an historic core set in a predominantly rural landscape setting.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Major new residential housing developments between the B4265 Llantwit Major bypass and the historic core of the town. There is no obvious connection between the historic core and the surrounding landscape and consequently for those passing the town the image is set by the new development which has a layout and form which detracts from the historic core of the town and the surrounding landscape.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Conservation areas: Llantwit Major

Listed Buildings: Old Town Hall, Dovecote Church Lane, The Gatehouse Church Lane

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Townscape and buildings within historic town core.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

The historic core, both fabric and townscape qualities, the relationship of the town to Cwm Col-huw. The negative 'over developed' quality that arises due to the development to the south of the B4265 needs to be addressed

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Improve integration of new development with the historic core with hard and soft landscape treatments, and maintain townscape and architectural quality of town core and it's relationship with Cwm Col-huw and the landscape to the west.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Develop a vision for the town that reflects it's dual function as a modern commuter town and an historic tourism and recreational centre. Protect and enhance town core, review traffic management and traffic calming techniques and investigate whether they can be designed to have less of an impact on the historic qualities of the town core.

Carry out planting of a substantial landscape buffer where possible along the southern boundary of the B4265.

SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Description and Evaluation

Area No: VG/S/15

Component Location?

Ogmore

How would you classify this area?

Coastal tourist town oriented towards the sea on the margin of the coastal plateau.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Housing oriented towards the sea, coastal road with coastal views, a large carpark on the headland with isolated visitor facilities such as toilets. The coastal feel is dominant. The housing and visitor facilities have a run down and neglected quality. The area does not feel a part of the rural Vale. It has more in common with Barry or Bridgend.

Are there conservation areas / key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Dominance of the relatively low-key undeveloped coastal quality.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Improve landscape quality and management of the coastal strip and enhance property boundaries on the roadside and facing the car park. Ensure that future development is of a high architectural quality and relates to the dramatic coastal location.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
Which of the following statements are particularly significant?			True False
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			f

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Develop a vision for the area that takes into account Ogmore's function as a visitor destination and it's distinct coastal character. Review location and design of visitor facilities, consider moving toilets to a less prominent location. Commence a programme of enhancement to property boundaries facing the car park, encourage the use of local stone walling.

Develop design guidelines to achieve some consistency between development layout and building form whilst acknowledging that the 'ad-hoc' development pattern is part of the character of the place.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/16

Component Location?

Ogmore Down

How would you classify this area?

Large scale mineral extraction set within a steep-sided, semi natural valley.

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Large rock faces prominent from the north, machinery, fencing and ancillary equipment associated with the mining activity, open semi-natural landscape with dense woodland on the northern escarpment.

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?

If so, name.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?

If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Distinctive open character of Pant St Brides, views from the north when entering the Vale. The industrial quality of parts of the area due to fencing, signage, and large scale machinery is a negative quality that needs to be addressed.

Areas intrinsic value Outstanding High Modest Other

Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Protect and enhance the semi-natural qualities of the area and improve the entry experience when entering the Vale from the north.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable	
<i>Which of the following statements are particularly significant?</i>			<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected			t	
The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced			t	
The key qualities and elements are subject to change			t	

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Visually contain mineral extraction sites and minimise impacts on visually prominent escarpment which defines the north west margin of the Vale. Enhance screening of machinery and fencing. Ensure signage is unobtrusive.

**SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Description and Evaluation**

Area No: VG/S/17

Component Location?

Cowbridge and Llanblethian

How would you classify this area?

Historic market town in a rural landscape setting

What are the dominant qualities and elements in this area?

Long High Street with a visually diverse architecture in form, style, colour and relationship to the Street. Interesting Historic Church and old town walls, livestock market, bypass to the north and attractive rural landscape setting

Are there conservation area/key listed buildings in this area?
If so, name.

Conservation areas: Cowbridge and Llanblethian

Listed buildings: The Town Walls – The Butts, South Gate, Church Street, Parish Church of the Holy Cross, Nos. 32 and 34 High Street, Great House Llanblethian.

Are there any other features of particular value in this area?
If so, name.

Summary of qualities that need to be taken into account

Townscape and architectural quality.

Areas intrinsic value	Outstanding	High	Modest	Other
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Strategy and Management

Landscape objective/recommended state for area

Continue to protect and enhance conservation area and protect landscape setting from inappropriate development.

Importance of achieving objective	Essential	Highly desirable	Desirable
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Which of the following statements are particularly significant?

	True	False
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The key qualities and need to be conserved and protected	t	
--	---	--

The key qualities and elements need to be enhanced		f
--	--	---

The key qualities and elements are subject to change		f
--	--	---

Specific Strategy Actions: Policies, management guidelines, design guidelines, action programme sites.

Continue application of existing policies associated with conservation area, identify surrounding areas important to landscape setting and rural quality of the town and protect from inappropriate development.

Develop guidelines for the design and placement of buildings within the conservation area.

Review landscape of A48 bypass corridor and investigate possibility of reducing its visual impact on Cowbridge.

11.0 Corridors and Gateways

1 INTRODUCTION

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in partnership with the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) are preparing a comprehensive landscape study for the vale of Glamorgan to provide a framework for a landscape policy and implementation programme and associated design work.

The output of the study will be in two parts:

“Part 1 – a landscape assessment including a suite of landscape strategies dealing with development planning issues, and;

Part 2 – design and management guidelines and an action programme”

This brief report assesses the landscape quality, views, and spatial qualities of the main road and rail corridors.

The main road corridors through and approaching the area were listed in the brief and are set out below;

- M4 (Jnc 33-35) / A4232
- A48
- A4050 – Port Road
- A4055 – Cardiff Road including Penarth ‘Gateway’
- A4222 – Cowbridge to Llantrisant
- A4226 – Five Mile Lane – A48 to Cardiff International Airport
- A4231 – Barry Docks Link Road
- B4265 – Coast Road
- B4267 – Penarth to Sully
- B4270 – Llantwit Major to Cowbridge

The main rail corridors are:

- Main line Cardiff to Swansea route through the Ely Valley
- Valleys line from Cardiff to Barry / Penarth
- Freight line from Barry to Bridgend via Llantwit Major

2 METHODOLOGY

- All listed roads were driven, rail corridors were travelled and a comprehensive photo survey was compiled.
- Primary and secondary vehicular entry points into the Vale of Glamorgan were identified, described and evaluated.
- The roads were categorised according to the adjacent landscape and visual quality. A brief description and evaluation of each road corridor was compiled.
- Key views, attractors and detractors visible from each road and rail corridor were identified.
- Strategy, management and implementation measures for each road type, rail corridor and primary and secondary entry point into the Vale were proposed.

3 VEHICULAR ENTRY POINTS

Primary vehicular entry points

Culverhouse Cross **Description:** Large out of town shopping, housing and accommodation centre. Visually dominated by large-scale road infrastructure. Lack of enclosure due to wide roads and well set-back buildings creates a lack of spatial differentiation and consequently there is no sense of arrival / entry. The design and layout has no relationship to the rural character of the Vale.

Opportunities: Review landscape design to ensure there is sufficient large scale planting to help enclose the large scale road and traffic related infrastructure. Ensure that new buildings are of a high quality, distinctive and of 'contemporary excellence'.

Penarth **Description:** Roundabout with cypresses at the end of a bridge with solid visually intrusive crash barriers. Prominent nondescript housing surrounding on the ridge.

Opportunities: Improve planting on roundabout and surrounding embankments. Use large scale robust native trees with sufficient size to enclose the space and provide a distinctive image. Investigate possibility of improving or replacing the crash barriers. Investigate possibility of increasing the density of planting in the surrounding housing areas to tie in with the wooded escarpment to the north.

M4 Junction 33 **Description:** Rural 'gateway' into the Vale of Glamorgan. Dual carriageway with views to agricultural land.

Opportunities: Protect from development to maintain rural character. Manage roadside planting, continue use of locally occurring native species.

A48 Waterton **Description:** Entrance through large industrial estate into rural landscape. Prominent large sign indicating arrival in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Opportunities: Maintain and enhance contrast between the rural Vale and the industrial estate (Bridgend). Protect landscape from any development that would reduce the contrast, particularly ad-hoc suburban style development such as the JFK restaurant.

Secondary vehicular entry points

- B4267** **Description:** Entry through industrial estate under large bridge carrying A 4232 and over the Ely River.
- Opportunities:** Manage and enhance woodland and roadside vegetation on the banks of the Ely and on the escarpment. Strengthen semi natural character to contrast with Cardiff industrial estate to the east.
- Bosch Site** **Description:** Low-key rural 'gateway'. Road improvements associated with the Bosch Site give the impression of a larger road. The road into the Vale of Glamorgan is a minor road.
- Opportunities:** Bosch site is well contained and screened. Improve planting on approach road with native, locally occurring planting.
- A 4222** **Description:** Low-key entry on rural A road.
- Opportunities:** No actions necessary.
- B4265 Ewenny** **Description:** Entry over bridge into the small settlement of Ewenny. Approaching from Bridgend the wooded escarpment is prominent and defines the edge of the Vale but is marred by large scale mineral extraction and glimpses of machinery.
- Opportunities:** Review management and density of woodland surrounding mineral extraction sites and investigate possibility of additional native planting. Resist further loss of prominent ridge.

4 ROAD CORRIDOR TYPES

1. **M4 Motorway: predominantly rural landscape setting**

Six lane motorway. Views to the Vale largely rural in character except views to quarry close to junction 34.

Opportunities

Protect rural character of landscape and resist 'suburbanising' development such as business parks and golf courses.

2. **Rural A Road: rural landscape setting**

A48 and A4232. Predominantly rural landscape setting. Road is dominant in the landscape. Features such as lighting and signage are prominent and reduce the rural quality of the adjacent landscape. Lighting along the entire length of the A48 is particularly detrimental. Roads also act as a psychological division. The A48 in particular splits the Vale.

Opportunities

Minimise signage and unnecessary line markings and lighting. Carry out maintenance with materials and plant stock appropriate to the local area. Consider developing road corridor landscape management plans that aim to identify and protect ecological resources and provide guidance on planting and maintenance. Investigate potential for reducing light pollution and visual dominance of lighting along the A48. Improve identity of settlements on the A48 by differentiating the roadside landscape treatment at entrances.

3. **Suburban A Road: associated with residential and industrial development**

A4232 and Cowbridge A48 Bypass. Large scale road with views to adjacent development. Often confined by large cuttings, or elevated on bridge emphasising lack of relationship between the vertical alignment of the road and landform. Views to disused mineral extraction east of Culverhouse Cross on A4232 a detractor.

Opportunities

Large scale native planting on cuttings and embankments. Rehabilitate mineral working visible from the A4232.

4. **Secondary (A+B) Road with visual linkages and road improvements associated with residential/military/industrial development**

B4270 by Llandow industrial estate, B4265 and A4226. Rural road with sections of road improvement around Llantwit Major, Aberthaw and Cardiff Airport. Larger scale modern alignments detract from rural character of road. Developments on the plateau strongly detract from the rural character of the road corridors, particularly Llandow Industrial Estate, St Athan, Aberthaw (power station and quarry) and Airport, particularly the BA hangar. Due to intervisibility across the plateau this road corridor is in danger of losing some of its rural character.

Opportunities

Cuttings and Llantwit Major bypass require large scale planting using local hedging and woodland plants. Maintenance and road improvements need to take into account the local materials. The design of planting on roundabouts needs to be reviewed, and the use of 'fussy' suburban type plants should be discouraged. There needs to be a comprehensive strategy to deal with the landscape issues and setting to development on the plateau. In particular landscape strategies are required for Llandow Industrial estate and the Cardiff International Airport Business Park.

5. Urban Secondary (A+B) road with residential and commercial development

A4226 through Barry, B4267 through Sully, A4055 through Dinas Powys and B4267, Penarth, B4265 through Wick and St Brides Major and B4524 through Ogmore. Road corridors with adjacent non-distinctive suburban residential development. Wick is a detractor from the rural character of the B4265 and its suburban character is out of keeping with the relatively unspoilt plateau.

Opportunities

Develop landscape design and management plans with the aim of defining the identity of each corridor. Opportunities for tree planting on 'dead space' to increase overall 'greenness of the corridor. At Wick, St Brides and Ogmore landscape design should relate to plants and materials used in adjacent rural landscape.

6. Rural Secondary (A+B) Road (inland)

B4265, B4524, B4268, A4222. Rural road with occasional straights and tight bends and minimal modern highway engineering, generally lined with hedges. Traffic calming measures on some roads detract from the rural character of the corridors.

Opportunities

Protect rural character of the road as defined by hedges and tight corners. Highway improvements and maintenance should reinstate with local hedging or walling details. Kerb design, line marking and traffic calming should be carried out sensitively and use a landscape architect. Roundabouts should be simple, clear of planting or with a simple arrangement of native plants.

7. Rural B Road (coastal)

B4524 Southerndown. Highly distinctive road with attractive views to the coast. Tightly defined by farm buildings and tall well detailed walls. Very important to the image of the Vale

Opportunities

Retain distinctive and circuitous length of road and protect from 'road improvements' Carry out maintenance to walls on road side.

8. Rural B Road coastal without verges

B4524 between Ogmore and Ewenny. Highly distinctive stretch of road with unique open character and views to the coast over the Ogmore estuary. Important distinctive image of the Vale of Glamorgan for many visitors.

Opportunities

Maintain openness from lack of verges and kerbs.

9. Rural B Road inland without verge

B4265 Pant St Brides. Attractive steep sided open valley with no enclosure. Woodland in the north with highly visible mineral extraction sites. Machinery and signage detracts from semi-natural character of road corridor.

Opportunities

Manage adjacent open valleysides to enhance semi-natural vegetation. Identify sites for additional planting around mineral extraction sites. Minimise signage associated with quarries encourage improved fencing.

10. Rural A Road with road improvements and visual linkages associated with adjacent small scale residential and industrial and commercial development

A4050. Main Road to Barry and the Airport from Culverhouse Cross likely to be replaced by new Airport link road. Corridor is marred by poor landscape quality and numerous small scale developments that give it an untidy suburban character. Roundabouts emphasise the semi-urban quality of the road and planting is fussy and of too small a scale to reduce the impact of the road. Views to quarries and machinery further reduces visual quality of road corridor.

Opportunities

Manage road corridor to maintain the visual separation between Barry and Culverhouse Cross. Lessen visual clutter increase large scale roadside planting.

11. Urban A Road with adjacent industrial development

A4055 link into Barry Docks. Large scale chemical works and smaller businesses and industries. Poor visual quality road corridor with no landscape structure. Juxtaposition with Barry residential areas to the north emphasises scale of the development.

Opportunities

Develop landscape strategy to provide large scale planting framework to Industrial area and improve entry into Barry.

6 RAIL CORRIDORS

There are three active rail corridors in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Barry Rail Corridor has been studied in detail by TACP. The following describes the landscape and visual attributes of each corridor and identifies key issues and opportunities.

Main line Cardiff to Swansea route through the Ely Valley

Travellers using this line tend not to be visiting the Vale of Glamorgan. However the adjacent landscape is important in defining the image of the Vale of Glamorgan. The Ely Valley route is through attractive agricultural land and contrasts markedly with much of the remainder of the route through South Wales.

Issues and opportunities

The character of the attractive rural landscape through which the line passes should continue to be defined by the adjacent agricultural landuse.

Valleys line from Cardiff to Barry / Penarth

This route is the main rail entry into the Vale of Glamorgan, and is important as a commuter route to Cardiff and as a tourist route to Barry Island.

The line can be divided into a number of zones with differing landscape and visual characteristics.

- I. **Cardiff – Vale of Glamorgan County Boundary:** The approach towards the Vale of Glamorgan is characterised by the contrast between the residential and industrial areas of Grangetown and the prominent wooded ridge on the south-west of the River Ely that defines the edge of the Vale. Housing on the ridge is prominent and reduces the contrast between the two areas. Actual arrival into the Vale is marked by crossing of the River Ely and passing beneath the overpass of the A4232.

Issues and opportunities: The ridge defining the edge of the Vale of Glamorgan should be protected from further development to maintain the existing the visual contrast between Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

- II. **A4232 – Cogan:** The route goes through an area east of Llandough zoned as future employment. The ridge to the east of the line is an attractive landscape feature. Approximately 200 metres on the Cardiff side of Cogan Station there is a view to the Ely estuary which provides landscape interest.

Issues and opportunities: The wooded character of the ridge should be protected. Views from the railway to the ridge and to the Ely estuary should be protected when development occurs in the aforementioned employment zone, and within the Penarth Haven Comprehensive Redevelopment Area (CRA) to the south. The manner in which development addresses the railway should be considered in any redevelopment. Special attention should be given to the location of service yards, fencing, planting and storage areas.

III. **Suburban Zones:** The routes from Cogan to Penarth / Dinas Powys are characterised by the views to the suburbs on either side of the line. In places these are screened by verge side planting. Poor quality fencing and overgrown, little managed embankments are common. In part, this characteristic of being able to look into backyards and travel behind the facades presented to the road is what makes train travel so interesting and different to road travel. However there are obvious areas, particularly around the stations where the poor quality of the track side landscape detracts from the journey. The open area of land between Cogan and Eastbrook is not visible due to a large cutting. Consequently the gap between the two settlements is not evident.

Issues and opportunities: Enhance environments of stations by improving railings, fencing and planting. Potential to improve management of embankments to improve biodiversity.

IV. **Dinas Powys – Barry:** The area of open agricultural land between Dinas Powys and Barry is one of the most important parts of landscape along the route. The area clearly separates the two settlements and the partly elevated railway within it has excellent views over the adjacent fields and south towards the chemical works at Barry. The landscape is characterised by small regular rectangular fields with large numbers of mature, evenly aged, oak trees in the hedges. The landscape character of the area is distinctive and unusual and provides an interesting approach to Barry.

Issues and opportunities: The agricultural land use of the adjacent landscape should continue in order to separate Dinas Powys and Barry.

V. **Barry and Barry Island:** The entrance into Barry is via a cutting from the agricultural area described above into a dense urban area with housing on the ridge to the north and industry on the flat land to the south. The industry does not address the railway and rear facades, service yards and fencing detracts from the visual quality of the route. Views to the chemical works and the docks are important in defining the character of the route. The environment of all the stations is of a poor visual quality and presents a negative image of the area to the visitor.

The approach to Barry Island through disused railway sidings to a poor quality run-down station also projects a negative image. The large car park to the east of Barry harbour detracts considerably from what could be an attractive feature.

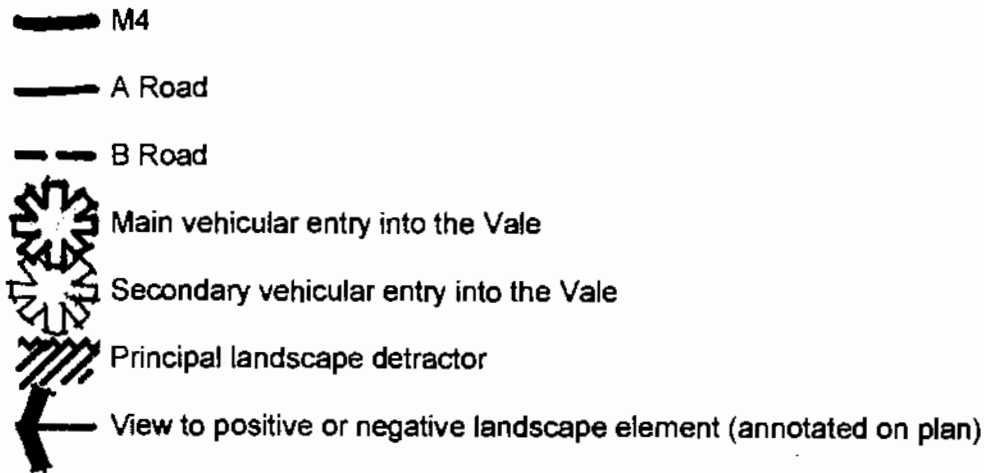
Views to the sea and the docks and old landmarks such as the Old Docks Offices and chimneys are positive features and provide visual interest and a sense of arrival.

Issues and opportunities: There is considerable opportunity to enhance the arrival experience to Barry. This would involve improving the stations and their environments and ensuring that new development respects the presence of the railway in layout of service yards, fencing and planting. Views to the sea and to the docks should be retained as they give a strong sense of arrival at the coast. The approach to Barry Island is in particular need of enhancement. A comprehensive strategy is required to co-ordinate landscape, building and infrastructure improvements.

Freight line from Barry to Bridgend via Llantwit Major

The existing freight line from Barry to Bridgend may, in the future, be used as a passenger line. The route cuts through some scenically attractive areas and is likely to present a positive image of the Vale of Glamorgan to travellers. It has not been possible to travel on this line, consequently detailed comments are not given.

ROAD CORRIDORS AND GATEWAYS



ROAD CORRIDOR TYPES

1	M4 Motorway with predominantly rural landscape setting
2	Rural A Road with rural landscape setting
3	Suburban A Road: associated with residential and industrial development
4	Secondary (A+B) Road with visual linkages and road improvements associated with residential/military/industrial development
5	Urban Secondary (A+B) road with residential and commercial development
6	Rural Secondary (A+B) Road (inland)
7	Rural B Road (coastal)
8	Rural B Road coastal without verge
9	Rural B Road inland without verge
10	Rural Secondary (A+B) Road with road improvements and visual linkages associated with adjacent small scale residential and industrial and commercial development
11	Urban A Road with adjacent industrial development

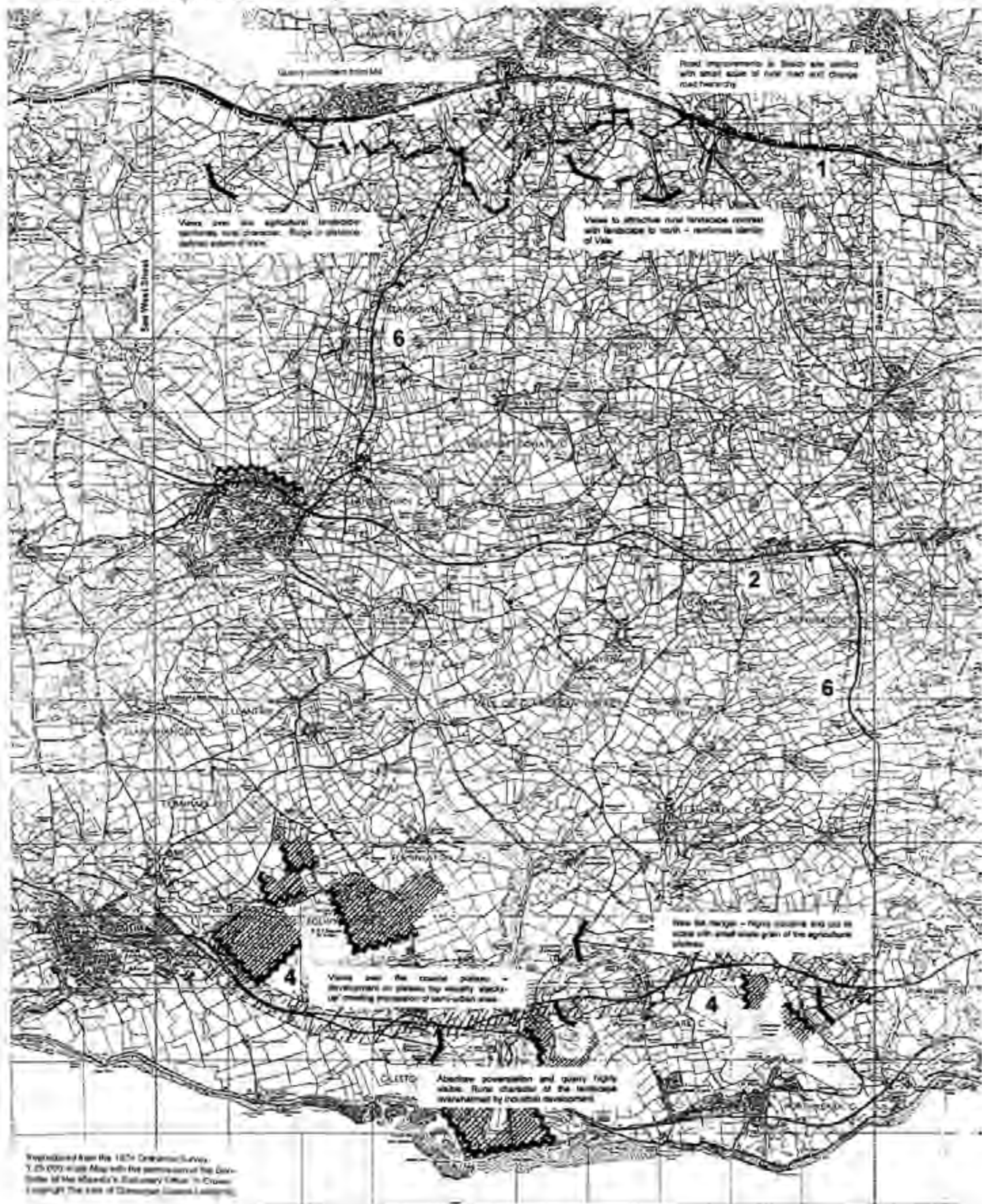
NB Refer to text for detailed descriptions of road corridors and associated detractors and attractors



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CORRIDORS AND GATEWAYS

West

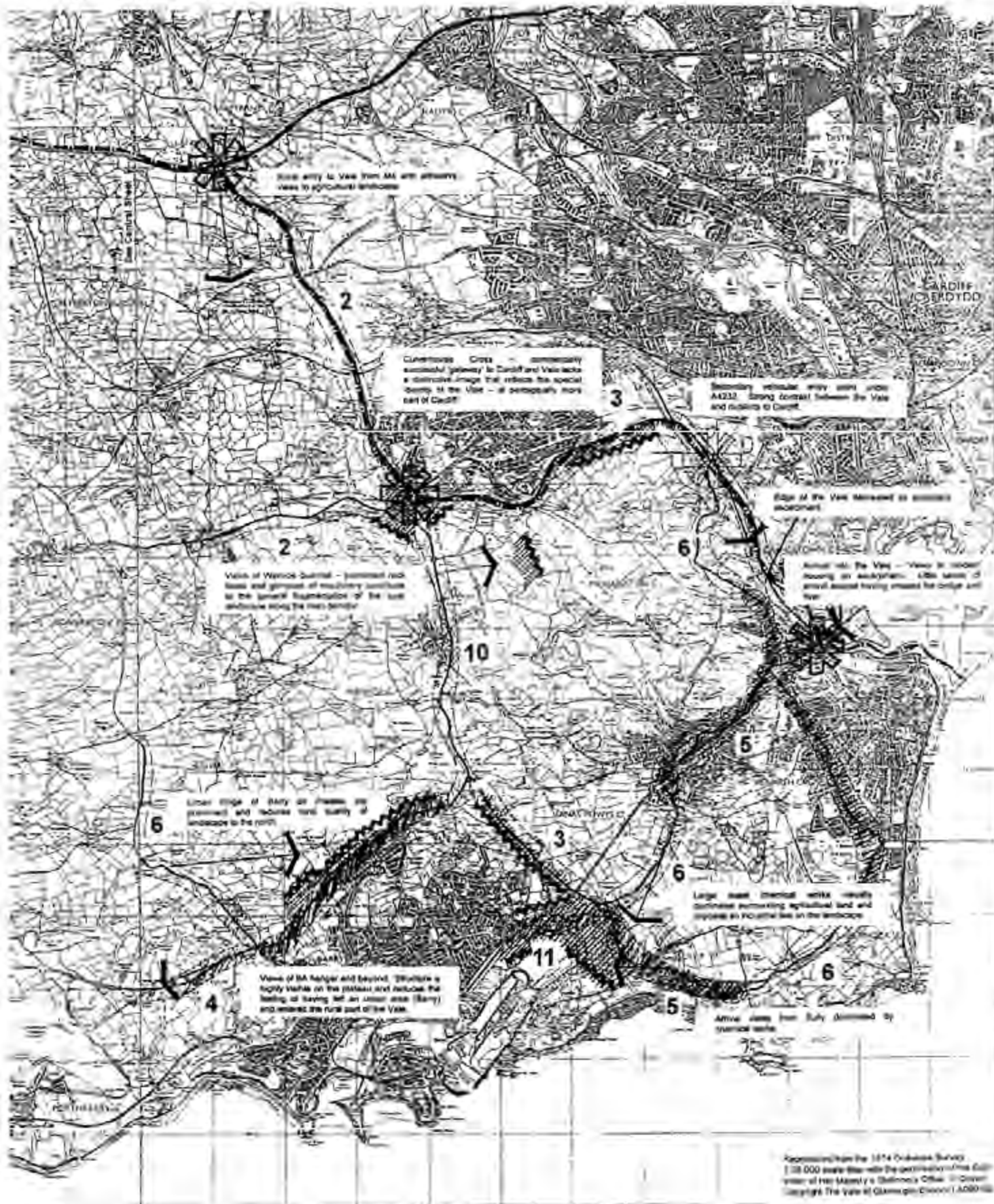


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CORRIDORS AND GATEWAYS

Central



12.0 Management Framework for Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Parks

COSMESTON LAKES COUNTRY PARK – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

1.0 Introduction

Cosmeston Lakes County Park (CLCP) is situated southwest of Penarth, a small township within the southern suburban fringe of Cardiff. It was created following the reclamation and restoration of former quarrying and landfill land, and first opened to the public in 1978. The park has since been extended on several occasions, including acquisitions of adjacent farmland as recently as 1997/98, and has grown to become a major tourist and recreation resource both for the population of the Vale, Cardiff and for the region as a whole. It currently comprises some 90ha in extent.

The park is centred around two lakes at the southern end, where there is a modern visitor centre with restaurant and facilities, car-parking and wardens' offices. The remainder of the park to the north comprises extensive areas of woodland, scrub and open grasslands lying either side of a central spine track.

The western lake, adjacent areas of wetland, scrub-woodland and grassland, and an isolated area of woodland to the north, all fall within a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The SSSI was notified in 1985 for wetland habitats and invertebrates, ornithological interest and uncommon grassland plants. The lakes provide one of the richest sites for dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata) in South Wales, with thirteen recorded species.

The southern area of the park also contains the Cosmeston Medieval Village, a major thematic heritage site based on a medieval manor house and Welsh village settlement. The site now contains an authentic reconstruction of part of the medieval village which opened to the public in 1988, and which is open all year round for daily public tours, events and educational purposes.

CLCP has developed steadily since its opening, with considerable past and current investment in land, infrastructure and staffing. It has become a major recreational and educational resource for residents in the South Wales area, whilst also gaining a steadily growing profile as an important tourist resource drawing visitors from well outside the immediate area. This review recognises the existing value of the resource and the potential opportunity for continued growth and development.

Situation and Access

The park boundaries mostly lie adjacent to open farmland, except to the east where it is bounded by the adjacent Penarth golf course, and to the southeast which is bounded by the B4267.

The northeastern boundary of the park generally lies less than 0.25km away from the residential edge of the Morristown district of Penarth, an area of mixed quality housing including some deprived and run-down properties, whilst the suburban village of Dinas Powis lies only about 1km away to the northwest. Beyond the B4267 to the southeast lie the residential districts of Lower Penarth and Cosmeston village. The park lies less than 5km away from main centres of population in Cardiff, and is fairly accessible by car from the M4 motorway.

The situation is therefore distinctly suburban and the park is heavily used both by the local residents of Penarth and by visitors from Cardiff, as well as by tourists and visitors from further afield.

Visitor access by car is simple, but is confined to the southern entrance near the visitor centre. Access on foot is available from a number of entrances around the park periphery, including from the north down the central spine road.

The park lies less than 1km away from the coast to the east, and about 1.5km from the coast to the south.

Visitor Numbers

Firm data are not available, but *ad hoc* counts and estimations by park staff suggest a conservative figure of around 300,000 visitors per annum, including around 100,000 dog-walkers. The medieval village site currently receives something in excess of 20,000 visitors per annum. Around 7,500 school children make educational visits to the park each year. Trends on all counts are increasing.

Wardening and Staff

CLCP currently has two full time wardens and employs two seasonal wardens from April to September. Wardens operate a shift system which means that there is usually only one warden present at any one time, or two present at peak periods of summer use. In addition, a manager/administrator is present for about 60% of the time.

The park also has a staffed visitor centre (10.00am to 6.00pm) and restaurant, and employs various part time and/or seasonal staff with respect to the medieval village.

There are two direct line emergency phones present in the park.

Management and Development

A management and development plan for the park was drawn up in 1979, but has not been revised since. Management of the park is closely monitored on a day-to-day basis. Development of the park is carried out under annual review, but has generally tended to be on an *ad hoc* basis.

The park has been extended on several occasions since it opened in 1978. The most recent land acquisitions include about 30ha of farmland in the northern half of the park, lying both to the east and west of the central spine road and including the buildings of Old Cogan Hall Farm. In addition, a further 16ha have been acquired to the southwest, including land adjacent to the existing medieval village site. These new lands were added to the park as a result of planning gain (ie, to off-set the potential impacts of new residential development in the vicinity).

A Cosmeston Users' Forum exists, a group drawn from local residents and conservation bodies. This meets at four-monthly intervals.

2.0 Issues

The importance of the park and its success in achieving its original aims and aspirations is acknowledged. There are, however, a number of identifiable problems which require addressing and opportunities which could be exploited. These are briefly outlined below.

General

Use of the park is growing rapidly year by year, and is in danger of outstripping present staff and management resources in some areas.

There are some conflicts of use between horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians, particularly on the central spine track.

The direct line emergency phones in the park currently receive about 20 hoax calls per annum, against about 4-5 genuine emergency calls.

Staffing

Present staffing levels are proving insufficient to cope with existing visitor numbers, and the disparity is likely to increase given the rate of residential development in the area and the increasing profile of the park as a major local and regional tourist and visitor site.

Staffing levels are considered potentially inadequate to ensure acceptable coverage at times of peak

use and in emergencies.

Wardens are overstretched during the summer months, and are therefore prevented from realising their full potential in providing educational activities, wildlife recording and management, information for visitors etc.

Management and Development

There is no current detailed long term management and development plan for the park. There remains considerable untapped potential for further development of recreational, educational and wildlife opportunities which require exploration and the setting of agreed objectives (see recommendations, below). The present *ad hoc* approach to management and development is considered inappropriate given the scale of present and projected visitor use.

Detailed and reliable visitor figures and other statistical data are lacking for the park. Available data are inadequate given the scale of present and projected visitor use, and as a result it is not possible to accurately assess the position of the park as a tourist and visitor site relative to other such sites in the region, to assess the future needs and resources, or to determine projected growth and development.

Present signage to the park is inadequate, both at remote gateway locations (eg M4 junctions, A4232 and A4050 corridors) and close to the site itself. Approaching the park through the Cardiff Bay area is especially problematic.

There are descriptive, walks and events leaflets available from the visitor centre.

New Land and Adjacent Development

New residential development is taking place at the edge of Penarth which will ultimately lie immediately adjacent to the new northeastern park boundaries. Visitor numbers are likely to increase in the future as a result.

Medieval Village

There may be further opportunities for expanded use of the medieval village as an educational resource, and also as a tourist attraction. The latter could potentially become a significant generator of revenue.

The archaeological resource of the medieval village is presently under further investigation.

3.0 Recommendations

CLCP serves an important and significant function as a recreational, educational and wildlife resource for the the Vale, Cardiff area of South Wales, and its continued growth and success seems assured. However, this success has brought new opportunities which require detailed consideration and forethought. As a result of this brief review, the following areas are suggested for further consideration:

Staffing

Staffing requirements at CLCP should be reviewed, with consideration given to increases in full time staff to ensure sufficient cover throughout the year in all parts of the park under all circumstances.

The requirement for specialist educationalist and activities staff should be reviewed.

Consideration should be given to the long term development of a countryside ranger service.

Management and Development

A detailed management and development plan should be compiled at the earliest opportunity. This

should set out a long term vision and objectives for the future development of the park, and should be subject to periodic revision at 5-yearly intervals. Projected growth, budgetary requirements, revenue opportunities and allocation of resources should all be considered. Objectives should be subject to annual review of progress.

A computer-based Countryside Management System (CMS) has been installed and is under development, but there is a requirement for computerised species-recording.

Methods of collating detailed visitor numbers and other statistical data for the park should be investigated and introduced at the earliest opportunity. This could then be used as a basis for future management and development strategy.

Opportunities for the expansion of facilities at the visitor centre should be explored, particularly with respect to educational functions. The profile of educational use should ideally be expanded and developed in association with local schools, colleges etc.

Present signage to the park should be reviewed, and any inadequacies rectified.

New Land and Adjacent Development

A continued policy of active land acquisition should be pursued, especially in the open farmland areas to the south and west of the park.

Access in the new southern lands should be confined to the area east of the Sully Brook, with the western area being used primarily for grazing by livestock.

Sully Brook, which runs through the new southern lands, offers opportunities for ecological enhancement and the creation of new wetland habitats, including off-line ponds and marshy streambanks, which may be suitable for educational use.

Medieval Village

The new southern land offers opportunities for expansion of the medieval village, including a possible rare/historic breeds development, and would also be available for special events use.

Further archaeological investigation in the medieval village area (including the new lands) should be undertaken in order to increase understanding of the resource, and perhaps also to realise opportunities for greater interpretation and development.

The profile and marketing of the medieval village should be reviewed alongside that of the larger park (see Management and Development, above), and opportunities for increased recreational, educational and tourist use fully realised.

General matters

'Events' use and facilities should continue to be concentrated in the southern part of the park, so that the northern woodland areas are retained in a less disturbed and more natural condition.

Linkages into footpaths and walkways surrounding CLCP should be developed, for example with the 'Railway Walk' and 'Searchlight Lane' towards the coast, and inland to the south, as well as with Dinas Powis to the north.

The possibility of charging for use of the car park should be investigated as a potential source of revenue. Charges for pedestrian visitors should not, however, be introduced.

Access into the northern woodland SSSI area (at the edge of the adjacent golf course) should not be encouraged.

Computer-based recording of biological data for the park should be introduced, using one of the

available recording packages (eg Recorder, Aditsite, Biorecs).

PORTHKERRY COUNTRY PARK – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

1.0 Introduction

Porthkerry County Park (PCP) is situated on the Glamorgan coast, immediately to the west of the town of Barry. It was declared a country park in the 1970's and has become an important recreational resource both for the local population of Barry and for the larger region. It currently comprises some 97ha in extent.

The park is centred around two small, wooded stream valleys (Cwm Cidi and Cwm Barn) which join together about 0.5km away from the coast to form a single broad coastal valley, with open grassland at its bottom flanked by wooded side-slopes. The valley runs down to a pebble-shingle foreshore flanked by steep cliffs to the east, and is joined by another minor tributary stream-valley entering from the northwest (Whitelands Brook).

The woodlands on the eastern flank of the main valley (Cliff Wood), together with a short section of the flanking cliff to the east (Bull Cliff) are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The SSSI was first notified in 1962 as the best example of mixed woodland in South Glamorgan, and for rare and scarce plants especially on the adjacent cliff. These include purple gromwell (*Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum*), a nationally rare species listed in the British Red Data Book, as well as one of the few native UK stations for true service tree (*Sorbus domestica*). Cliff Wood is also designated a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The park contains several Scheduled Ancient Monuments including the Cwm Cidi medieval village and a medieval corn mill in Cliff Wood.

About two thirds of the woodland is ancient and either semi-natural or replanted. The remainder is derived from plantations of various age. The southern part of the park contains a pitch and putt course.

PCP has maintained a relatively low profile as a recreational and educational resource, drawing the majority of its visitors from the local population, although it does also act as a focus ('honeypot') for visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan from further afield especially during the summer months. This review recognises considerable opportunity for development of the recreational and educational potential in both the local and regional contexts.

Situation and Access

The park boundaries mostly lie adjacent to open farmland, except to the east where it is bounded by the residential edge of Barry. The edge of Barry also reaches around the northeastern periphery of the park, but is narrowly separated from it by agricultural land.

The western boundary is partially demarcated by the mainline railway, which passes on a viaduct across the centre of the park. To the southwest the park lies adjacent to The Bulwarks, an Iron Age monument, whilst immediately to the west lies the dispersed village-hamlet of Porthkerry.

The situation is therefore urban fringe. The park is heavily used by the local residents of Barry for walking and recreation, as well as by seasonal visitors from further afield.

Visitor access by car is rather convoluted through the outskirts of Barry to the east, and is confined to a single road entrance. The access road within the site is single track in places. There are two main car parking areas, comprising a pair of small car parks to the east and a main car park to the west, about 2km from the entrance.

Access on foot is available from many formal and informal entrances around the park periphery. The park is accessible from the east via the cliff walk to The Knap and Barry (or along the beach at low tide), and from the west via the coastal path to Rhoose.

Visitor Numbers

Firm data are not available, but recent estimations by park staff suggest about 150,000 visits per annum by local visitors on foot, and a further 100,000 visitors per annum arriving by car.

Wardening and Staff

PCP currently has two full time wardens. During the summer the warden on duty is normally present until late evening. One of the wardens lives on the site.

There is a small café, and the pitch and putt course has a staffed hut, but the park has no visitor centre. There is a small wardens' office with phone, and phone links to the pitch and putt course hut (when staffed) or a private phone in the café. There are no direct line emergency phones, and normal short wave radio/mobile phone communications are compromised by the park's topography.

Management and Development

There is no management and development plan for the park. Management is monitored on a day-to-day basis but does not presently follow any agreed long-term objectives. Development of the park is carried out under annual review, but has generally tended to be on an *ad hoc* basis.

The park has recently been extended by the acquisition of approximately 16ha of farmland at the northern end of the park, lying between the Cwm Cidi and Cwm Bari stream valleys. These new lands were added to the park as a result of planning gain (ie, to off-set the potential impacts of new residential development in the vicinity).

2.0 Issues

The importance of the park as a local and regional recreational resource is acknowledged. There are, however, a number of identifiable problems which require addressing and opportunities which could be exploited. These are briefly outlined below.

General

The absence of a central wardens' office and visitor centre is a significant constraint to present operations and future development of the site.

Use of the park is evidently growing year by year, and is already outstripping present staff and management resources.

Car parking and vehicle management within the park is difficult, especially at peak times. Present car parking capacity is regularly exceeded on busy weekends, resulting in congestion and off-road parking on the park access road, and vehicular manoeuvring in areas used by pedestrians.

There is some conflict between recreational use and nature conservation interests in the park, especially in the woodland areas. However, there are some relatively undisturbed areas of semi-natural woodland where vulnerable species such as badger evidently survive unmolested.

Staffing

Wardens are overstretched during the summer months, and are therefore prevented from realising their full potential in providing educational activities, wildlife recording and management, information for visitors etc.

Management and Development

There is no detailed long term management and development plan for the park. There remains considerable untapped potential for further development of recreational, educational and wildlife opportunities which require exploration and the setting of agreed objectives. The current *ad hoc*

approach to management and development is considered inappropriate given the scale of present and projected visitor use.

Detailed and reliable visitor figures and other statistical data are lacking for the park. Available data are inadequate given the scale of present and projected visitor use, and as a result it is not possible to accurately assess the position of the park as a tourist and visitor site relative to other such sites in the region, to assess the future needs and resources, or to determine projected growth and development.

Present signage to the park is inadequate, both at remote gateway locations and close to the site itself.

There are presently no leaflets, trail guides, booklets or other information about the park available, and no simple means of distributing these to park users.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), an invasive alien plant, may occur in the park and may require periodic control to prevent spread. This should be carried out in accordance with the WDA model specification for the control of this species.

New Land and Adjacent Development

New residential development is taking place at the edge of Barry which will ultimately lie immediately adjacent to the new northeastern park boundary. Visitor numbers and the potential for misuse of the park are likely to increase in the future as a result.

The new land acquisitions at the northern end of the park were acquired as planning gain without any endowment or commuted sums for future management, thereby imposing an increased load on existing management resources in the park.

3.0 Recommendations

PCP serves an important function as a recreational, educational and wildlife resource for both the local Barry area and for the wider South Wales region. However, its present day-to-day operation and future development are constrained by lack of infrastructure, staff and investment.

As a result of this brief review, the following areas are suggested for further consideration:

Facilities

Consideration should be given to the provision of on-site facilities including a visitor centre, warden's office, education rooms, restaurant etc. These facilities should be centrally located so as to form a 'hub' or focus for activities in the park.

Adequate lines of communication are needed between the park and the outside world, and within the park. Priority should be given to the installation of suitable emergency communications.

Car parking and vehicle management should be reviewed and augmented to meet current and projected needs. This should include adequate bus/coach parking.

Staffing

Staffing requirements at PCP should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity, with consideration given to increases in full time staff to ensure sufficient cover throughout the year in all parts of the park.

Management and Development

A detailed management and development plan should be compiled at the earliest opportunity. This should set out a long term vision and objectives for the future development of the park, and should be subject to periodic revision at 5-yearly intervals. Projected growth, budgetary requirements, revenue opportunities and allocation of resources should all be considered. Objectives should be subject to

annual review of progress.

Computer-based recording and forward planning of management should be introduced, based on suitably-customised software. A software design specialist should be engaged to produce a suitable package for PCP needs, and all staff should receive adequate training in its use.

Methods of collating detailed visitor numbers and other statistical data for the park should be investigated and introduced.

Opportunities for the expansion of the educational resource should be explored, although this would realistically require the advance provision of suitable on-site facilities. Ultimately, the profile of educational use should ideally be expanded and developed in association with local schools, colleges etc.

An up-to-date range of leaflets, trail guides, booklets and other publications about the park should be commissioned/prepared. These could include both free and costed items, and should be available at the visitor centre.

Present signage to the park should be reviewed, and any inadequacies rectified.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), an invasive alien plant, may be present in the park and may require periodic control to prevent spread. This should be carried out in accordance with the WDA model specification for the control of this species.

New Land and Adjacent Development

A continued policy of active land acquisition should be pursued, especially in the open farmland areas to the east and north of the park. The Bulwarks and minor connecting stream valleys to the north and east would be desirable future additions. However, any new lands which are given to the park as planning gain in the future should only be accepted with a commuted sum or endowment for management.

The most recent land acquisitions to the north should be kept in agricultural use as far as possible, but with controlled access for visitors.

The possibility of providing vehicular access and car parking in the new northern lands should be investigated, providing a 'second focus' for exploration of the eastern parts of the park.

Access for walkers should be provided under controlled conditions (ie using suitable fences, stiles and gates etc).

The new land may be suitable for special events use, and may represent a suitable location for equestrian use.

General matters

Linkages into footpaths and walkways surrounding PCP should be developed. These could include, for example, a cycle link/footpath from Porthkerry village. Porthkerry should be a significant destination on the upgraded coastal path.

Biological monitoring of the streams should be undertaken regularly.

Computer-based recording of biological data for the park should be introduced, using one of the available recording packages (eg Recorder, Aditsite, Biorecs).

13.0 Environmental Appraisal

ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS

An environmental appraisal of the recommendations set out in Volume 1 Main Strategy has been carried out. This is in identical format to the environmental appraisal of the Consultative Draft Vale of Glamorgan Unitary Development Plan [UDP], carried out by Baker Associates in 1996. The purpose has been to ensure that recommendations are in line with sustainable development best practice policies and are compatible with the thrust of the UDP.

The recommendations are numbered with three digits. The first two refer to the relevant section of Volume 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Desirable Trend</i>	<i>Will the Landscape Recommendations?</i>	<i>Recommendations are supportive if they.....</i>	<i>Volume 1 Recommendation references</i>
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: LANDSCAPE AND COUNTRYSIDE			
1. Maintain and enhance the quantity and contribution of open land?	a) Limit the amount of development on previously open land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Emphasise brownfield sites and existing settlements for new development ◆ Protect the openness of the countryside ◆ Control the cumulative effect of minor developments ◆ Maintain strict guidelines for minor developments 	3.3.1, 3.3.2 3.9.6 3.2.2, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 3.8.5, 3.8.8, 3.9.5 3.2.2, 3.4.4, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 3.8.5, 3.8.8, 3.9.5
	b) Avoid harm through cumulative impacts		
	c) Maintain the quality of valued landscapes including the coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Designate land according to character and consider development according to strict criteria based on character ◆ Require development to be designed to acknowledge its context and management ◆ Require the retention and management of existing features, and the addition of appropriate landscape ◆ Reclaim damaged landscapes 	3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.8 3.2.2, 3.4.4, 3.6.3, 3.6.4 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.4.4, 3.8.7 3.7.1
	d) Increase the opportunity for equitable and benign access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Link urban space networks with the fringe and the countryside ◆ Maintain rights of way and seek new access agreement 	3.9.1, 3.9.2, 3.9.3, 3.12.1-5 3.8.4, 3.9.1, 3.9.2, 3.12.1-5,
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: AIR			
1. Decrease emissions from Transport	a) Reduce trip length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase settlement density ◆ Increase proportion of people in large settlements ◆ Disperse facilities within settlements ◆ Use urban land productively 	3.3.2, 3.3.3 - - 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 3.3.3
	b) Increase travel share by public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase density ◆ Create linear development ◆ Provide travel facilities ◆ Assist bus priority ◆ Limit roadspace for cars ◆ Restrain carparking ◆ Concentrate facilities at public transport nodes ◆ Coordinate trip density with public transport accessibility 	3.3.2, 3.3.3
	c) Increase walking and cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some of the above, plus ◆ Design for lower traffic speed ◆ Provide facilities ◆ Connect new development into networks 	3.12.1-4

<i>Desirable Trend</i>	<i>Will the Landscape Recommendations?</i>	<i>Recommendations are supportive if they</i>	<i>Volume 1 Recommendation references</i>
2 Decrease emissions from building heating	(See Energy)		
3. Decrease other gaseous pollution	Decrease industrial pollution	♦ Control the location of polluting industry	3.3.8
4. Improve air quality	Promote CO2 fixing	♦ Protect trees and manage woodland ♦ Increase tree planting	3.13.1 3.13.1
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: ENERGY			
1. Reduce the use of energy by transport	(See Air and decrease of emissions)		3.3.3
2. Reduce the use of energy by buildings	a) Improve average energy efficiency of building stock	♦ Promote energy efficient layouts and aspect ♦ Accommodate energy saving modifications ♦ Seek CHP schemes in major developments	3.3.2-4
	b) Reduce or reuse or recycle materials	♦ Manage the waste disposal capacity ♦ Provide recycling facilities	3.3.8
	c) Provide for energy recovery from waste	♦ Identify suitable facilities and seek energy recovery	-
	d) Assist renewable energy regeneration	♦ Identify and protect sites with potential for wind and hydro schemes ♦ Accommodate wind turbines ♦ Promote biomass as a landuse	- - 3.13.1
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: BIODIVERSITY		♦	
1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity	Recognise, protect, manage and add to habitats	♦ Protect designated sites ♦ Protect land and features with nature conservation value ♦ Identify, protect and promote wildlife corridors ♦ Control pollution ♦ Seek new habitats and ongoing management	3.2.6, 3.10.1, 3.10.3 3.10.1, 3.10.2, 3.10.3, 5, 6 3.10.3, 3.10.6 - 3.10.3, 3.10.4
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: AMENITY OPEN SPACE			
1. Increase the contribution of open space to local amenity	Maintain and enhance the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space in and around urban areas	♦ Protect open space from development ♦ Seek open space within new development ♦ Seek opportunities to link open spaces in a cycling/walking network ♦ Reclaim derelict land	3.12.4 3.2.1, 3.2.2 3.12.1, 3.12.3, 3.12.4

<i>Desirable Trend</i>	<i>Will the Landscape Recommendations?</i>	<i>Recommendations are supportive if they</i>	<i>Volume 1 Recommendation references</i>
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: WATER			
1. Maintain and enhance the quantity and quality of water	Protect and conserve the quantity and quality of water sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Limit development to the capacity of supply ◆ Protect groundwater sources ◆ Control pollution ◆ Maintain flood storage ◆ Promote conservation and recycling of water ◆ Add new water bodies 	<p>3.3.6</p> <p>3.3.6</p> <p>3.3.6</p> <p>3.10.6</p> <p>-</p> <p>3.3.6</p>
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: SOIL			
1. Maintain the productive capacity of the soil	Maintain the quantity and quality of agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land ◆ Take the integrity of agricultural holdings into account ◆ Restore minerals/waste workings to at least equal agricultural quality 	<p>3.8.1</p> <p>3.3.7</p> <p>Volume 2 DG9</p>
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: MINERALS			
1. Conservation of stock	a) Reduce the consumption of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Limit the amount of development ◆ Manage the supply of primary aggregates ◆ Promote the recycling of buildings and materials 	<p>3.3.4</p> <p>3.6.5</p> <p>3.3.4</p>
	b) Protect sources of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Safeguard known mineral sites ◆ Inhibit the use of high grade materials for low grade purposes 	<p>3.6.5</p> <p>3.6.5</p>
	c) Preserve geological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prevent exploitation of geological features 	<p>3.7.1</p>
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: HUMAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE			
1. Maintain the stock of valued places, buildings, artefacts and features	Protect those products of human endeavours which are part of the national asset and which contribute to the familiar and distinctive character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protect valued buildings and townscapes from unsympathetic change ◆ Establish design guidelines for alterations and additions in sensitive situations ◆ Provide for the investigation, recording and protection of archaeological features ◆ Identify and protect historic landscapes ◆ Acknowledge the importance of the ordinary and the familiar ◆ Seek opportunities to add to the stock. e.g with '% for art' 	<p>3.11.5</p> <p>3.6.3</p> <p>3.11.5</p> <p>3.11.1-4</p> <p>3.6.2, 3.6.3</p> <p>3.4.1</p>

<i>Desirable Trend</i>	<i>Will the Landscape Recommendations?</i>	<i>Recommendations are supportive if they.....</i>	<i>Volume 1 Recommendation references</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to increase awareness 	3.11.3, 3.11.5
ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STOCK: QUALITY OF LIFE			
1. Spread a better quality of life	a) Increase access to jobs, facilities and amenities		3.12.1-5
	b) Increase the availability of appropriate housing		-
	c) Decrease the intrusive effects of traffic		3.3.3
	d) Decrease opportunities for crime		-

Source of criteria – The Environmental Appraisal of the Consultative Draft Vale of Glamorgan UDP, Baker Associates, 1996,

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