

Supplementary Planning Guidance

DESIGN IN THE LANDSCAPE



***The Vale of Glamorgan
Unitary Development Plan
1996 - 2011***





*The Vale of Glamorgan UDP
Supplementary Planning Guidance*

DESIGN IN THE LANDSCAPE



Rob Quick, B.A. (Hons), Dip. TP, MRTPI.
Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration

Rob Thomas, B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc., MRTPI.
Head of Planning & Transportation

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2. *The Vale of Glamorgan UDP Supplementary Planning Guidance*
Design in the Landscape



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DESIGN IN THE LANDSCAPE

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been prepared by the Planning and Transportation Division of the Vale of Glamorgan Council to provide practical advice and guidance on how design issues affecting the landscape are best addressed in new development proposals within the Vale of Glamorgan.

1.2 The SPG seeks to promote best practise and to reinforce the sense of place or "bro" of the Vale of Glamorgan by setting out the Councils design expectations arising from its landscape policies and designated areas in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The SPG will form a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and appeals.

1.3 In January 1999, the Council appointed White Consultants of Cardiff to undertake a landscape study of the Vale of Glamorgan. The completed study comprised four volumes under the generic title of "Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan". Volume 2 - Design Guidelines illustrated how the strategy could be implemented to promote local distinctiveness and sustainable development through design and management and it is this part of the study that forms the core of the SPG.

2. STATUS OF THE GUIDANCE

2.1 This guidance is non-statutory in nature and has been prepared in the context of Unitary Development Plans Wales (2001) and Planning Policy Wales (2002) (PPW) to supplement the policies contained within of the Adopted Vale of Glamorgan Unitary Development Plan 2005 (UDP).

2.2 Only the policies in the UDP can have the special status afforded by S54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), in determining planning applications. However, the Welsh Assembly Government advises that

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) may be taken into account as a material consideration, the weight afforded to it being increased if it has been prepared in consultation with the general public and interested parties and it has been the subject of a Council resolution. SPG is a means of setting out more detailed guidance on the way in which the policies of a UDP will be applied in particular circumstances or areas.

3. ROLE OF THIS GUIDANCE

3.1 Rather than imposing a particular architectural style or taste, this guidance concentrates on identifying the key issues and features that should be taken into account by developers to ensure that the design of new development is well integrated into the landscape.

3.2 The first section of the design guidelines covers "design themes" that may be relevant to specific project types. Some locations will require a more conservative approach to the use of materials than others. The second section concentrates on providing a detailed list of materials and plant species that may be most suited to particular areas of the Vale, so helping to promote their distinctive character.

3.3 The design guidelines are not meant to limit innovative design but are intended to provide a sound framework and information base from which good design and management can emerge.

4. NATIONAL GUIDANCE

4.1 PPW recognises the importance of good design in protecting and enhancing environmental quality. Paragraph 2.9.7 states that:

"In areas recognised for their landscape, townscape or historic value, such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and conservation areas, and more widely in areas

with an established and distinctive design character, it can be appropriate to seek to promote or reinforce traditional and local distinctiveness. In those areas the impact of development on the existing character, the scale and siting of new development and the use of appropriate building materials will be particularly important."

4.2 Paragraph 2.9.8 states that:

"Design is an inclusive process which can raise public aspirations, reinforce civic pride and a sense of "bro", and help to secure continued public acceptance of new development."

4.3 PPW also highlights that visual appearance, scale, external layout access and setting are material planning considerations and that external layout, access and setting should all be considered. Local planning authorities are encouraged to reject poor designs and to "where appropriate", support their UDP policies by SPG.

4.4 The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to achieving good design in all development at every scale throughout Wales. Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 12 Design (2002) encourages good design and gives more detailed advice on how this may be facilitated within the planning system. In considering applications for development, the Council will take account of the guidance contained within PPW and TAN 12 and seek to ensure that the nature and scale of proposed developments reflect the sensitivity of its location.

4.5 Applications for major sites considered to have a substantial impact on the environment will be referred to the Design Commission for Wales (DCW). The DCW is a national organisation established by the National Assembly for Wales. It aims to champion high standards of design and architecture in Wales by promoting wider understanding of design issues and the importance of good standards in enhancing the built environment across all sectors.

5. THE ADOPTED VALE OF GLAMORGAN UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005

5.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Unitary Development Plan was adopted by the Council on the 18th April 2005 and sets out the Council's policies and proposals for the use of land in the Vale of Glamorgan until 2011.

5.2 A core aim of the UDP is the protection and enhancement of the distinctive rural, urban and coastal character of the Vale of Glamorgan. Strategic Policy 1 of the UDP requires that:

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN'S DISTINCTIVE RURAL, URBAN AND COASTAL CHARACTER WILL BE PROTECTED AND ENHANCED. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO CONSERVING AREAS OF IMPORTANCE FOR LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE, THE BEST AND MOST VERSATILE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE BUILT HERITAGE. PROPOSALS WHICH ENHANCE THESE AREAS WILL BE FAVOURED.

5.3 The detailed policies contained within part two of the UDP and this guidance therefore provide the means of securing well designed developments within the Vale of Glamorgan that respect their local context and/or setting. Some of the more relevant UDP policies addressing design and landscape issues are contained within Appendix 1.

5.4 The most important areas of the Vale are afforded protection by statutory designations. Two sections of the coast are protected by International designations (one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and one possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) which is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site). In addition 21 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and 38 Conservation Areas have been designated and various landscape features such as trees and hedgerows are afforded protection by national legislation.

5.5 As well as these statutory designations, numerous non-statutory or local designations exist that may form material considerations in assessing development proposals. Of particular relevance are Special Landscape Areas (SLA).

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

5.6 The Vale of Glamorgan Council has undertaken a comprehensive landscape study utilising the Countryside Council for Wales *LANDMAP* assessment methodology.

5.7 Entitled “Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan”, this four volume document has been used as the basis in defining the Council's SLAs. SLAs identify those landscapes that are of particularly high intrinsic value within the Vale, which require special protection for their own sake as part of the County's landscape resource.

5.8 In considering the UDP at the Public Local Inquiry in 1999/2000, the Inspector concluded that the Plan was deficient in relying on the existing environmental policies and unlikely to afford the necessary protection to the openness of the countryside throughout the Vale. In his view, such protection could and should be achieved through the designation of SLAs. He therefore recommended that a new section be included within the UDP, giving the policy and reasoned justification for SLAs, with the areas being defined on the proposals map.

5.9 The Council accepted the Inspector's recommendation (REC 3.17 refers) and modified the UDP to include Policy ENV 4 – SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS.

5.10 It should be noted that SLAs are not intended to be used as a multi purpose designation to protect landscapes for other reasons e.g. to prevent urban sprawl. If development is deemed acceptable when assessed against other policies within the UDP e.g. ENV 1 Development in the Countryside, then policy ENV 4 Special Landscape Areas will seek to ensure a higher standard of design that is commensurate with the developments location within a local designation.

5.11 Within the Vale of Glamorgan, seven Special Landscape Areas have been designated. They are:

ELY VALLEY AND RIDGE SLOPES

LOWER THAW VALLEY

UPPER THAW VALLEY

NANT LLANCARFAN

CWRT-YR-ALA BASIN

DYFFRYN BASIN & RIDGE SLOPES

CASTLE UPON ALUN

5.12 Plans illustrating the SLA designations are shown at Appendix 2 to this guidance.

5.13 The Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan study is available for purchase or reference from the Council and may provide useful background material to developers.

6. DESIGN IN THE LANDSCAPE

6.1 Planning Policy Wales (2002) emphasises that good design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process and should be encouraged throughout Wales. This applies to all development proposals, at all scales, from the construction or alteration of individual buildings to larger development proposals.

6.2 The planning system, as regulator of new development, is ideally placed to guide developers and their designers through a process that fully takes into account the wider concerns of the planning system. It can require that design considerations are shown through drawings and written statements accompanying planning applications so that decision-makers and other interested parties can fully assess the impact of development.

6.3 In sensitive locations (e.g. SLA, coastal sites), the Council may require planning applications to be supported by the submission of additional information to fully assess the impact of a proposed development. The following details may be required:

- Landscape appraisal - taking into account: infrastructure; topography and ground conditions; archaeology; local materials and building techniques; flora and fauna; pollution and noise; and, weather and energy.
- Design statement setting out: the design principles and concept of the proposal; an explanation of how it meets the objectives of the UDP and any relevant guidance; how it relates to its site and wider context; and, how these are reflected in the layout and visual appearance of the landscape. (See TAN12—Design para 4.8)

- Drawings - comprising: detailed layout plans showing existing buildings, plots, open spaces, car parking, pedestrian and cycle linkages, boundary treatments and landscaping; artistic impressions of existing and proposed buildings; detailed elevations and floor plans of existing and proposed buildings, including roof plans and details of external materials and finishes; illustrative details in plan and elevation form showing the proposal in the context of adjacent buildings and land use.
- Cross sectional details of existing and any proposed changes in levels.
- Other supporting statements and details as may be required.

6.4 It should be noted that planning permission might be delayed or refused if insufficient details are provided for the Council to consider all of the issues raised by a development proposal. Detailed plans are necessary for the benefit of officers, councillors, residents and other interested parties and assist the developer in ensuring that all design considerations have been taken into account.

7. OTHER RELATED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

7.1 The Council has produced other Supplementary Planning Guidance on topics that are related to or may have an influence on design. These are:

Special Landscape Areas Topic Paper

Amenity Standards
Supplementary Planning Guidance

Draft Sustainable Development
Supplementary Planning Guidance

Conservation Area Appraisals (various)

7.2 Copies of the above documents are available from the Planning Policy Team of the Council (Telephone 01446 704665) for a small fee.

DESIGN GUIDANCE

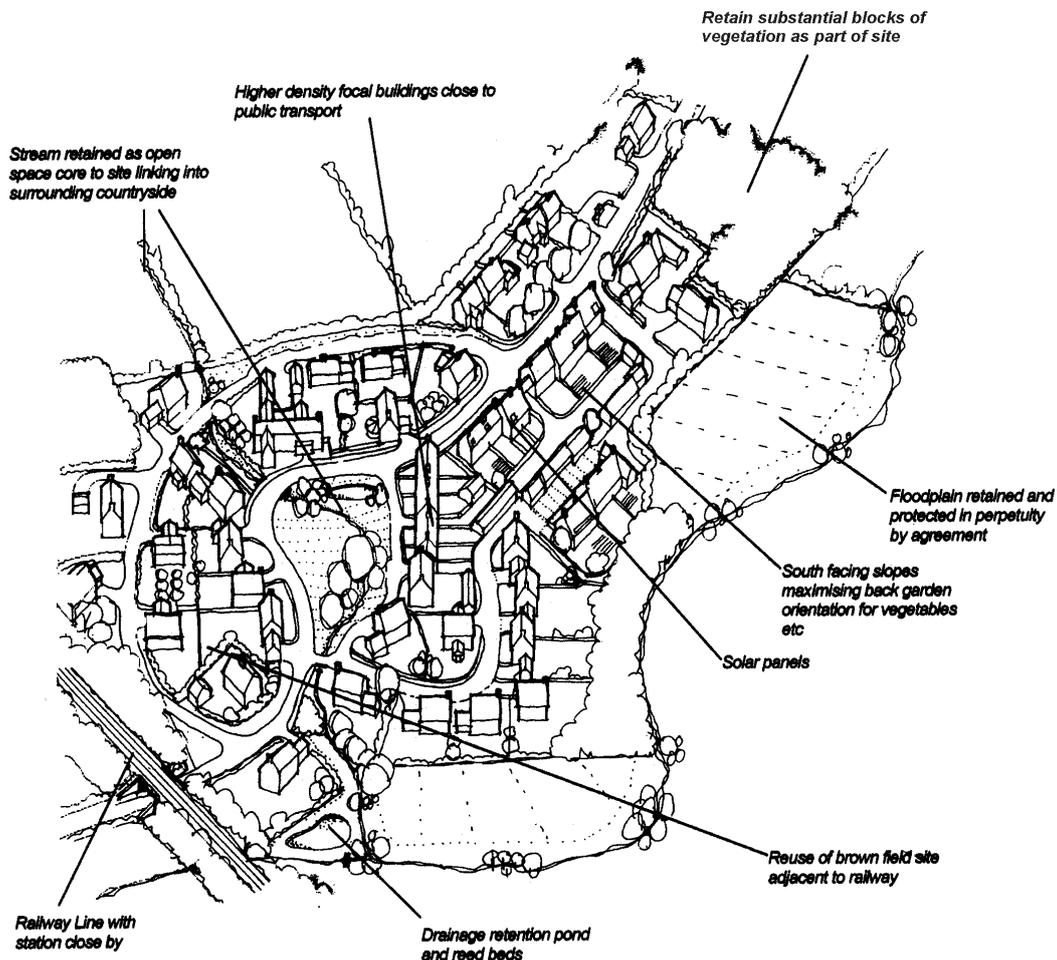
DG1 Sustainable Development

AIM

- Minimise non-renewable resource input to the construction and ongoing use of development.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Locate development on brown field sites avoiding, ecologically sensitive sites wherever possible.
- Developments should be designed to avoid/minimise impacts on protected species and habitats.
- Thoroughly integrate and appraise site and its context in terms of physical characteristics, opportunities and constraints.
- Design layout to avoid / minimise the impact on natural features which would require expensive and energy inefficient measures to control and remediate e.g. river floodplains, aquifer, wetlands i.e. design **with** not against nature.
- Conserve existing site features such as watercourses and semi-natural vegetation. Link these with new planting and open space and with external wildlife corridors to enhance nature conservation. Design natural vegetation blocks to maximise aggregation and minimise boundary length.
- Allow maximum penetration of rainfall into the ground avoiding contamination. Consider the use of permeable surfacing, French drains and balancing ponds.
- Treat contamination on site if possible limiting the impact on the surrounding area.
- Use low cost and energy input construction techniques using local materials where possible. Design structures to have longevity and to be flexible to accommodate different uses over time or to be energy efficient to build and demolish.
- Orientate road layouts and buildings to maximise solar gain where this does not conflict with the above considerations. Building on south facing slopes is desirable. Orientate the longest elevations within 45 degrees of south. Reduce exposure to winds [south west prevailing] by the use of trees for shelter.
- Design buildings to minimise external wall areas, north facing windows and with maximum insulation.



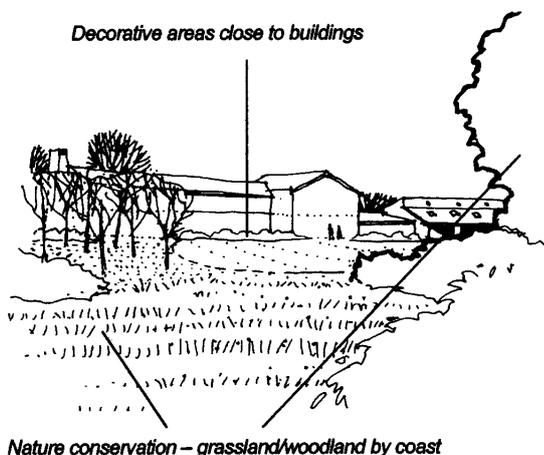
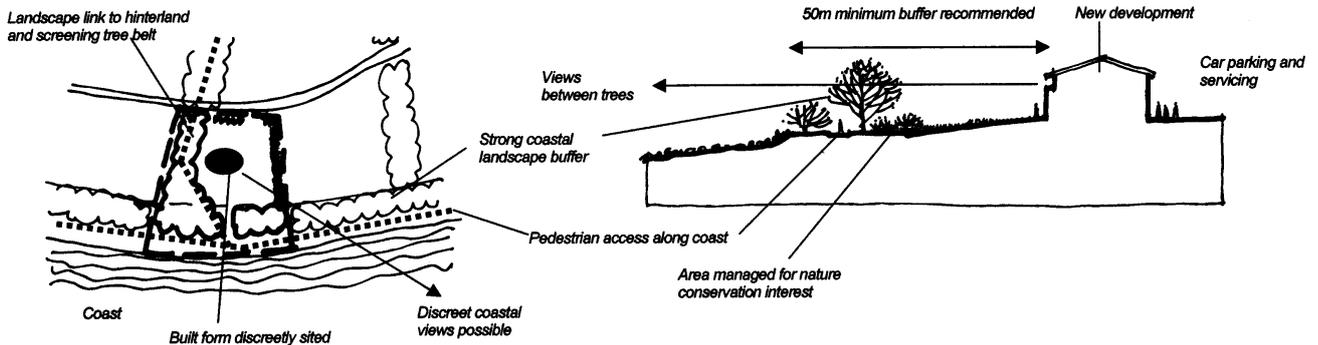
DG2 Coast - Integration of Development

AIMS

- To conserve or recreate a strong coastal landscape strip without development near the water edge.
- To maintain / create continuous access to and along the coast.
- To minimise the impact of development.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Carry out a comprehensive environmental impact appraisal before development due to the very sensitive nature of the coastal strip.
- Retain site features such as watercourses, woodland and hedgerows and ensure that they form the basis for landscape infrastructure.
- Locate buildings and infrastructure in the location with the least visual, ecological and archaeological impact.
- Set buildings and infrastructure back from the coast to retain a substantial coastal strip for nature conservation.
- Buildings should always address the sea with no servicing or parking visible from the coastal elevation.
- Improve the coastal path and provide access in perpetuity ensuring allowance is made for coastal erosion over time.
- Prevent general vehicular access to the sea.
- Manage sites to accommodate visitor pressure ensuring sensitive sites such as ecological sensitive habitats or archaeological sites are protected from wear.
- Use natural features and new planting in external spaces to optimise shelter from prevailing winds.
- Ensure development responds to the site's sense of place and use coastal palette of materials.



DG3 Coast - Design Guidelines

AIM

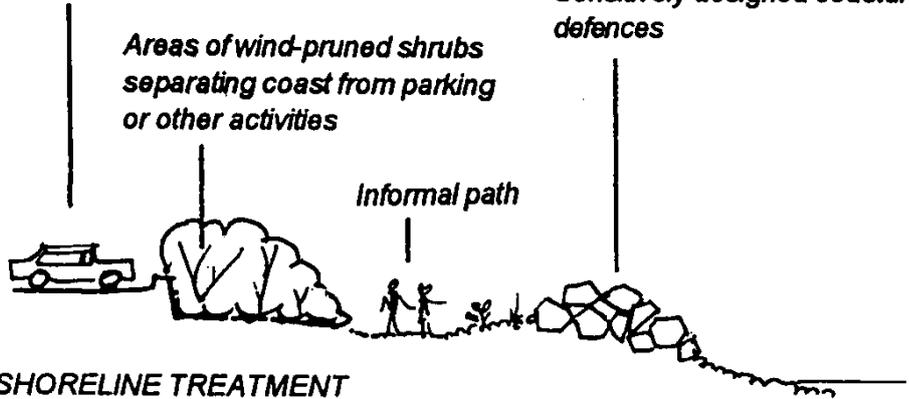
- To conserve and enhance the special qualities of the entire coastline by providing high quality planning, design and maintenance of visitor facilities and other developments where appropriate.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

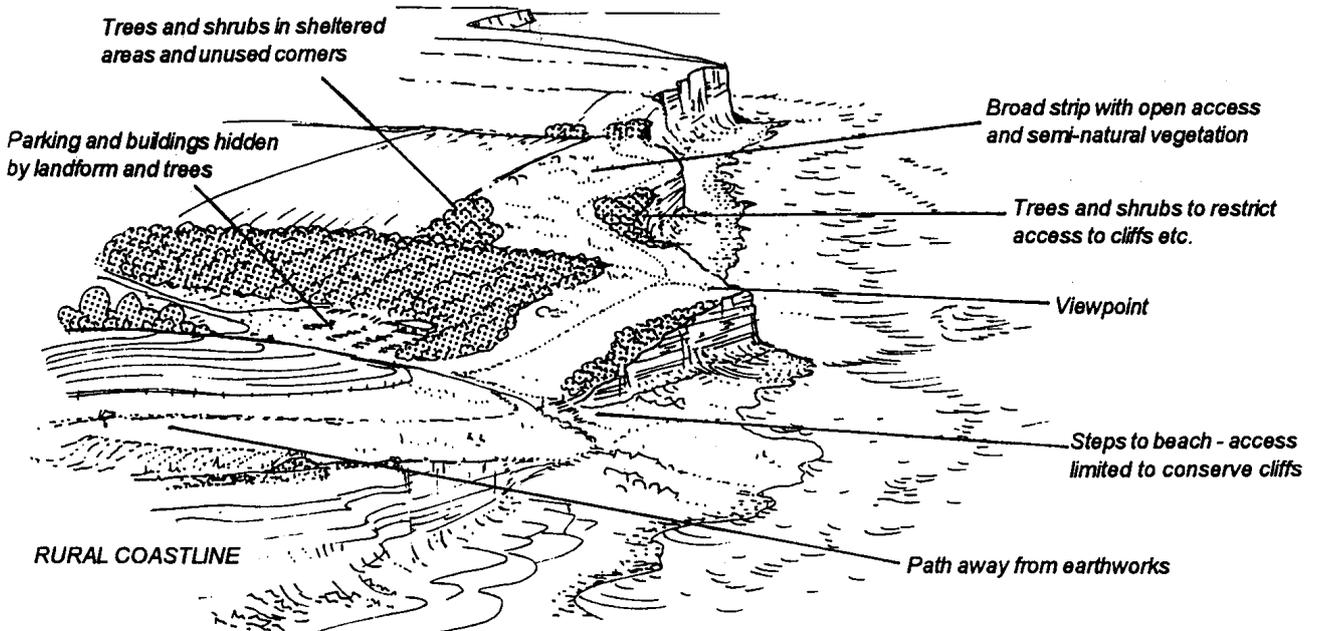
- Wherever feasible a strip should be set aside along the coastline providing open access for pedestrians. At minimum, this should allow sufficient space for wide paths and should preferably include space for trees, shrubs and natural vegetation, and to take into account future coastal erosion.
- Where there are sites vulnerable to damage by wear and tear, such as prehistoric earthworks, special geological formations and exposed cliffs, visitors should be directed away from them by the use of scrub vegetation, low level signing or discreet fencing and other barriers.
- Vehicular access and parking should be kept back from the coastline and sited to be naturally unobtrusive, away from skylines, and screened by vegetation or landforms.
- The minimum amount of hardstanding should be provided along main access routes with most parking being on grass.
- Vehicular access should be restricted by low bunding, ditches, posts or rocks, avoiding the use of fences if possible.
- Popular pedestrian routes such as those from parking areas to the beach should be clearly defined and kept well away from vulnerable sites.
- Surfacing of paths should be kept to a minimum specification and considered for each situation. In most places no surfacing should be required.
- A limited number of paths small parking areas should allow for car viewpoints orientated to preferred views. These should be below skylines, ideally adjacent to or under existing trees to prevent windscreen glare.
- Ancillary buildings related to parking and beach facilities in rural situations should be unobtrusive. They should be sited away from main views and be of a scale and shape to complement landforms. Materials used should be either of local origin or of muted colours and be non-reflective. It may be appropriate to include temporary seasonal buildings.
- Beach access should be appropriate in scale and ease of use depending upon the situation. In places it is appropriate to restrict access by the use of steep steps and ladders, especially where cliffs are susceptible to erosion.
- Popular view points should have safe and direct paths to them. Raised areas or platforms should be considered to provide viewing points, reducing danger and wear and tear on more vulnerable places.
- Signs should be used with discretion and wherever possible be welcoming rather than prohibitive.
- Signs, interpretation boards, litterbins and other infrastructure should not be prominent and should be sited away from beaches and cliffs and if possible incorporated into walls and other features.
- Design solutions using materials other than mass concrete should be sought and should be sensitive to local geology and built form. Expert assessment should be made to enable sea defences to enhance habitats such as shingle vegetation, and to encourage the deposition of sand at bathing beaches.
- Limited tree and shrub planting should be undertaken. Wherever possible, along rural parts of the coast native vegetation should be encouraged to develop naturally. Suitable places for trees and shrubs include:
 - In sheltered hollows;
 - Alongside existing hedges and in unused corners;
 - To shelter/screen buildings, parking areas, etc;
 - To keep people away from dangerous cliff-tops;
 - To restrict access to sensitive areas.
- Linear and formal blocks of planting are inappropriate. Tree and shrub areas should appear natural and usually be irregular in shape.
- As well as native species, sycamore, holm oak and scots pine are appropriate trees for parts of the coast associated with structures and buildings.
- Where industry etc. is adjacent to the coast, security fences should be kept back from the coastline and preferably softened with planting.

DG3 Coast - Design Guidelines (Cont.)

Limited parking spaces with views set back from edge



SHORELINE TREATMENT



DG4 Coast - Design of Leisure Facilities

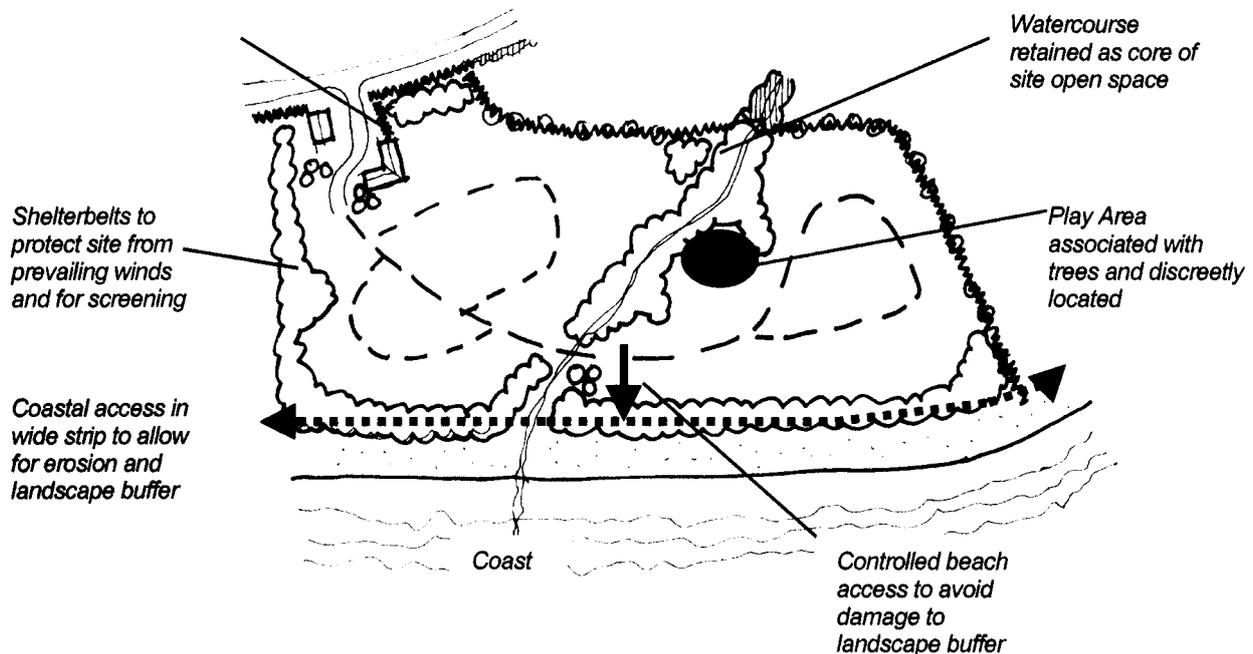
AIMS

- To conserve or recreate a strong coastal landscape strip without development near the water edge.
- To maintain / increase continuous access to and along the coast.
- To minimise the impact of development.

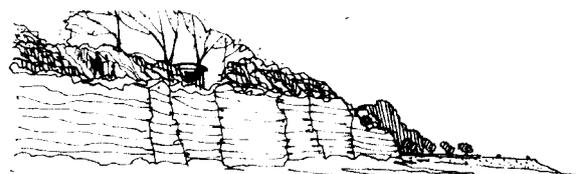
DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Follow DG2 for general principles and the following specific guidelines:

- Prepare management plan to manage the site for sustainable access along and to the coast and to provide for optimum landscape benefit.
- Locate caravans and associated facilities should be located away from coast / cliff edge to allow sustainable access and to allow coastal landscape buffer and / or screen.
- Use planting to screen caravans with associated landform to create shelter.
- Use native species on coastal edge and boundaries of the site. If exotic planting is used this should be within the development site and away from the coastal strip.
- Colour caravans to minimise reflectiveness and visibility – green being preferred.
- Avoid regimented lines of caravans, roads or facilities - follow contours where possible.
- Provide open space within sites that optimising natural features.
- Communal and focal buildings should be designed to the local vernacular [see Volume 1 Section 3.6 Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan study].
- Ensure screening of development from inland views particularly the main access.
- Use signage discreetly to minimise impact of frontage.
- Provide discreet interpretation of the coast.
- Avoid hard coastal defence solutions such as concrete walls.



Caravans close to cliff edge look unsightly and restrict access



Setting caravans back, planting, possible profiling to allow views over coastal landscape strip and access along coastal frontage

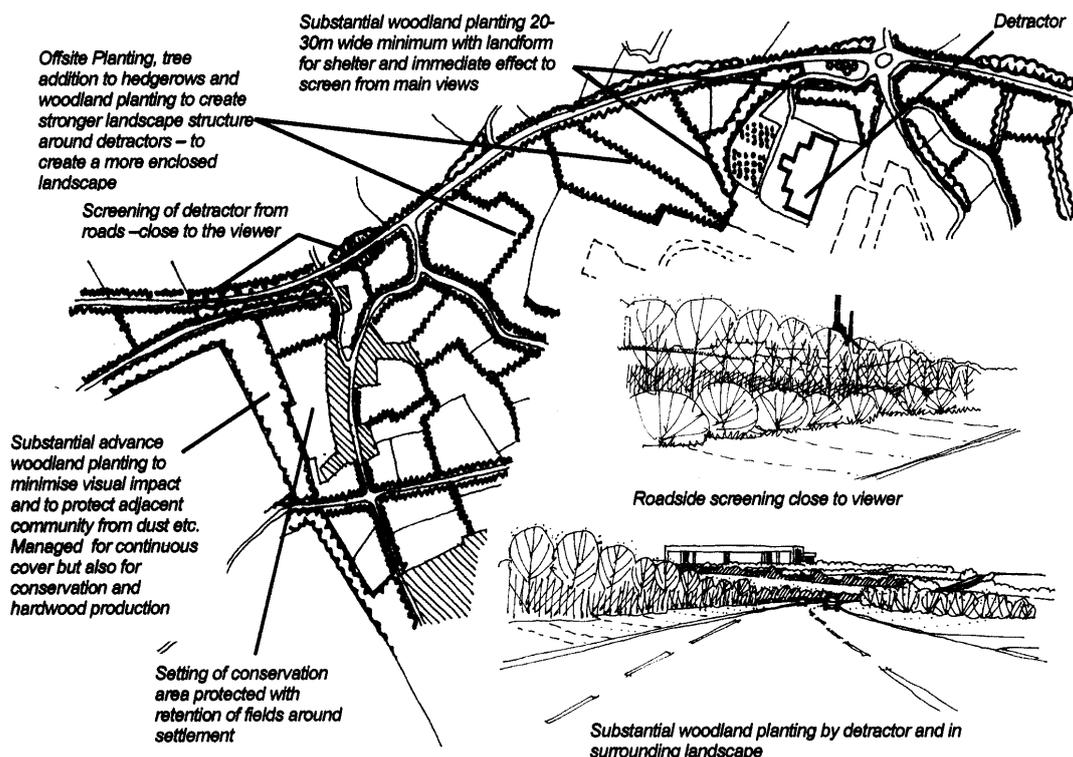
DG5 Mitigation of Large Scale Visual Detractors

AIMS

- Locate development avoiding areas of high landscape quality and their setting.
- Avoid landscapes with high intervisibility.
- Minimise the impact of development.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Carry out a comprehensive environmental impact appraisal before development to enable environmental impacts to be avoided or minimised.
- Retain site features such as watercourses, woodland, mature trees and hedgerows and ensure they form the basis for landscape infrastructure.
- Locate buildings and infrastructure in the location with the least visual, ecological and archaeological impact.
- Consider the impact of related infrastructure [e.g. pylons] and minimise its impact.
- Buildings and structures should be well designed and complement their surroundings. Minimise visual clutter on all elevations including signage. Follow RFC guideline on building design.
- Orientate building to ensure servicing is hidden from the most sensitive and viewed locations.
- Colour building matt neutral light grey or buff to minimise their reflectiveness.
- Minimise light pollution in open countryside.
- Ensure landform and planting screening is of sufficient scale and quality to be effective with sufficient land purchased to provide mitigation for landscape and ecological impacts.
- Screening landform and planting should reflect the pattern of the surrounding landscape where possible.
- Carry out offsite screening on surrounding roads within 5km radius to minimise significant views of detractor.
- Carry out ecologically sensitive planting on adjacent land where possible to strengthen the surrounding landscape infrastructure e.g. woodland, hedgerows and trees.
- Use native species planting with appropriate nurse and quick effect species to be removed over time.
- Prepare and implement management plans to optimise and enhance nature conservation value.
- Carry out advance planting to mitigate impact.
- The continuity of all new planting associated with developments should be ensured.



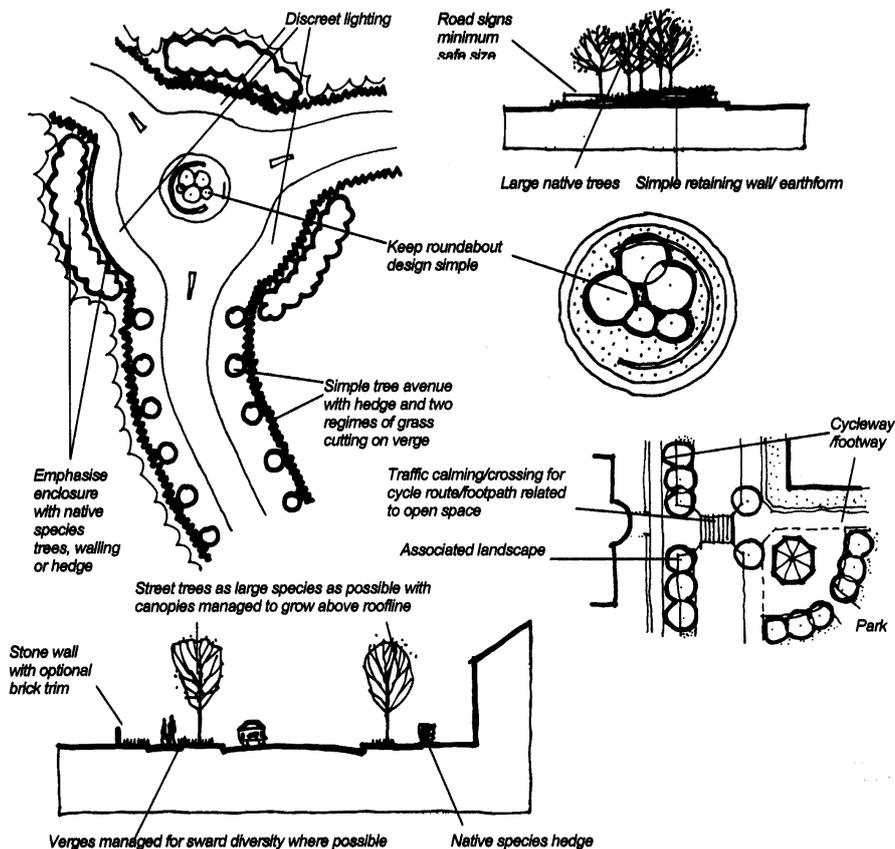
DG6 Roads - Urban

AIMS

- To create a refined and subdued palette of materials and appropriate detailing to reflect the Vale's character.
- To ensure that all new road improvements incorporate landscape / environment improvement.
- To ensure road safety for pedestrians and cyclists as well as for motorists.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Design gateway roundabouts and road detailing design as simply as possible reflecting rural Vale character.
- Road improvements should seek to be sensitive to their locations while complying with statutory regulations and standards.
- Use native trees and hedging species, meadow plants and bulbs primarily. Avoid exotic planting.
- Use a palette of materials sympathetic to the Vale character maximising greys and buff colours [to reflect limestone]. Some use of pinks / browns is appropriate in the South East Vale to reflect mudstones and marls.
- Use traditional limestone walling or hedges / hedgebanks [laid] where possible as enclosure. Avoid chainlink fences and concrete posts and remove over time.
- Undertake ecological survey to identify impacts where appropriate and incorporate mitigation measures in scheme design.
- Encourage nature conservation by management of roadside verges [hay meadow regime with tidy edges], native species planting and regeneration. Avoid the use of pesticides.
- Lighting along roads should be sensitively designed to minimise light pollution.
- Incorporate landscape works as integral to traffic calming, road safety and pedestrian crossing measures.
- Ensure pedestrian and cycle movement is as safe and convenient as car movement.
- Do not make urban landscape provision [e.g. large areas of decorative shrub planting] spread development out unnecessarily and ensure walking is convenient and safe.



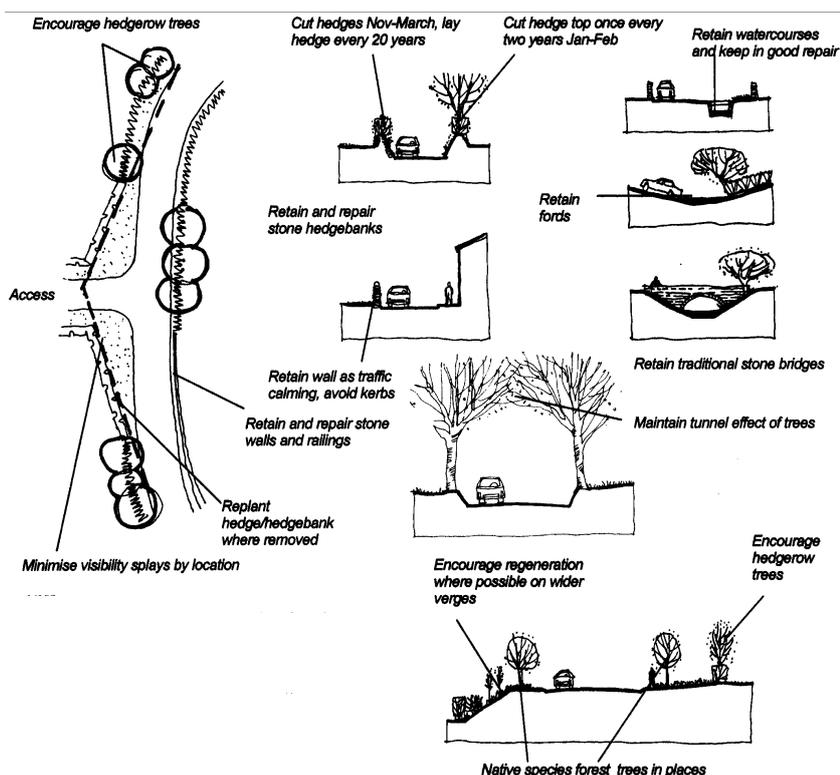
DG7 Roads - Rural

AIMS

- To maintain rural character of rural roads as an integral element of the landscape.
- To conserve hedgerows, hedge banks and historical features on the roadside.
- To minimise the impact of development.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Carry out review of historical value of roads and associated hedgerows / banks, ditches and streams as part of historic landscape survey (as resources allow).
- Carry out ecological survey of identified road verges where appropriate to identify impacts and incorporate mitigation measures (as resources allow).
- Protect important lanes identified by above.
- Maintain hedgerows, encouraging laying of hedges and allowing tree growth in places by using incentive schemes.
- Maintain stone walls and replace chainlink, concrete bollards and other unsuitable fencing.
- Maintain traditional road features such as fords and stone bridges which add character and 'calm' traffic
- Road improvements should seek to be sensitive to their locations while complying with statutory regulations and standards.
- Wherever possible, minimise the use of kerbing, coloured surfacing and road markings
- Avoid hedgerow removal, siting entrances in locations to optimise sight lines.
- Construct farm accesses as per Design Guideline DG15.
- Where necessary, street lighting between settlements should be sensitively designed to minimise light pollution.
- Avoid excessive signage, using minimum size signage, combining signs on posts where possible. Avoid luminous colours where possible.
- Standardise rural signage and street furniture to minimise their visual impact.
- Encourage vegetation regeneration where appropriate as low cost screening of detractors and to promote nature conservation.
- Optimise the use of pesticides and avoid the use of fertilisers.
- Review and implement management of roadside verges and planting to encourage nature conservation and tree growth. Prepare revised management schedules.
- Prepare rural road guidelines for hardworks in the rural Vale to ensure their character is protected.
- Encourage traditional skills to maintain hedgerows, walls etc with appropriate training where necessary.



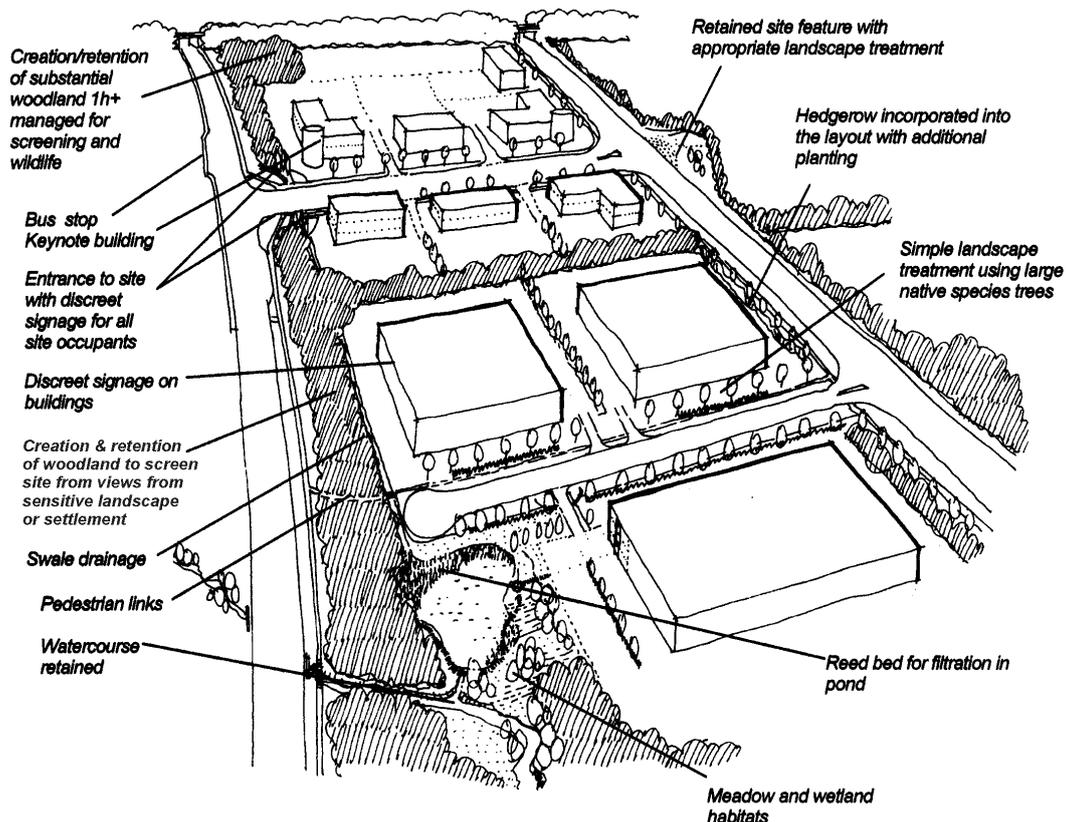
DG8 Industrial and Commercial Sites

AIMS

- To minimise impact of development on the landscape.
- Create high quality commercial sites to reflect the Vale's high landscape quality.
- To enhance the nature conservation value of a site.
- To use land as efficiently as possible at high densities while ensuring an effective landscape infrastructure.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Carry out environmental impact appraisal before development to enable environmental impacts to be avoided or minimised.
- Design team to visit the site and prepare design statement.
- Retain site features such as woodlands, hedgerows, mature trees, watercourses and distinctive historical remains. Where possible use these as a basis for landscape infrastructure and distinctive design for site.
- Locate buildings and infrastructure in location with the least visual, ecological and archaeological impact.
- Orientate buildings to ensure servicing is hidden from most sensitive and viewed locations.
- Ensure layout is safe and secure for users.
- Colour co-ordinate buildings to complement each other and location – e.g. matt neutral light grey and buff.
- Establish substantial woodland screen buffers and ensure their continuity, 10 - 30m wide using the local landform to increase their effectiveness especially where there are sensitive views in. Consider the use of Tree Preservation Orders in maintaining planted stock. Elsewhere gaps in high planting can allow views to signs and building fascias.
- Maintain grain of the landscape with landscape infrastructure echoing adjacent landscape.
- Create well designed entrances to the site with carefully designed discreet signage showing all site occupants.
- Manage surface water on site with ponds, watercourses and swales to maximise water absorption on site and minimise run off to sewers.
- Manage the site for biodiversity post development.



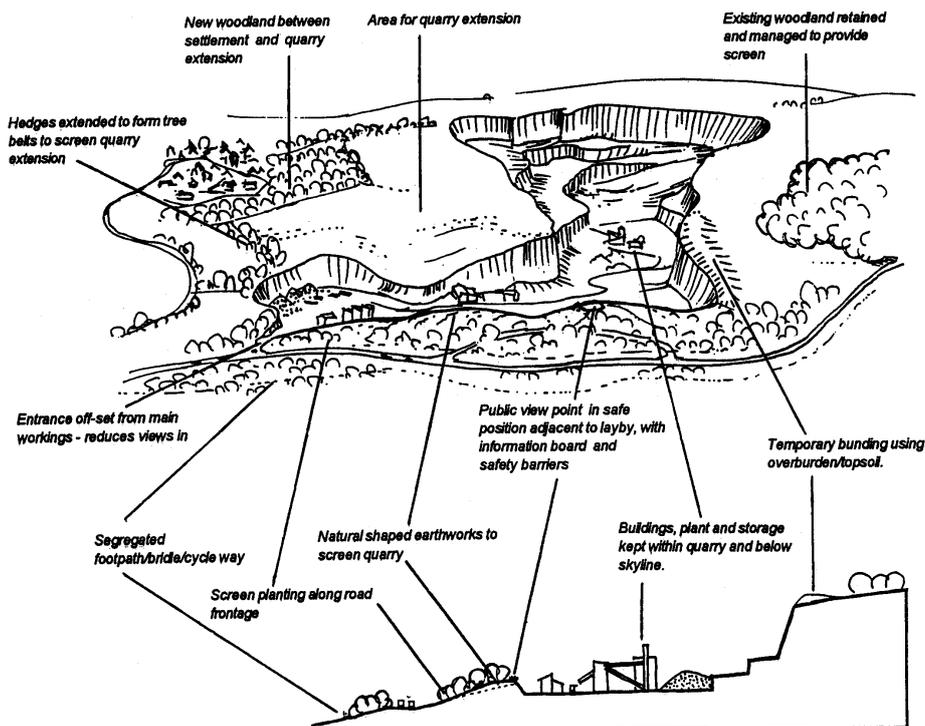
DG9 Quarries

AIMS

- To ensure that existing and future quarrying activities are integrated into the landscape.
- To ensure that after use of quarries adds to overall landscape value.
- To provide for local building stone requirements.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Buildings and ancillary works should be as unintrusive as possible by –
 - Siting buildings within the quarry workings;
 - Keeping hoppers, crushers and conveyors below skylines;
 - Using neutral colours for buildings and signs;
 - Keeping stored material, parked vehicles and heavy plant, etc away from entrances and other exposed areas;
 - Keeping lighting to a minimum consistent with safety regulations.
- Quarry entrances and access points should be kept as narrow as practical with any buildings well back from the road. Direct views into the quarry should be avoided if possible by off setting the entrance or by screening.
- Undertake ecological survey to identify impacts where appropriate and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures into scheme design.
- Existing nearby woodlands and hedges should be managed to enhance their screening potential.
- Strategic screening should be carried out beyond the immediate vicinity of the quarry. This may include new community woodlands, extended hedges and woods, bunding.
- Overburden and topsoil being reserved for future restoration works should be used for temporary screening bunds.
- All earthworks that provide screening, both permanent and temporary, should appear as extensions to the natural topography.
- Where possible, segregated footpaths, bridle and cycle routes should be provided where quarry dust and heavy vehicles make roads unpleasant and unsafe.
- Afteruse and restoration plans should consider the potential of the workings for recreation, e.g. rock climbing, biking and habitat creation, particularly limestone cliffs, screes and wetlands.
- Interpretation boards and viewing places should be provided where well-used paths and roads are adjacent to quarries and where the safety of the public can be assured.
- Small-scale workings for local building stone should be considered in former quarries and new locations after an assessment of the potential requirements and careful environmental assessment.



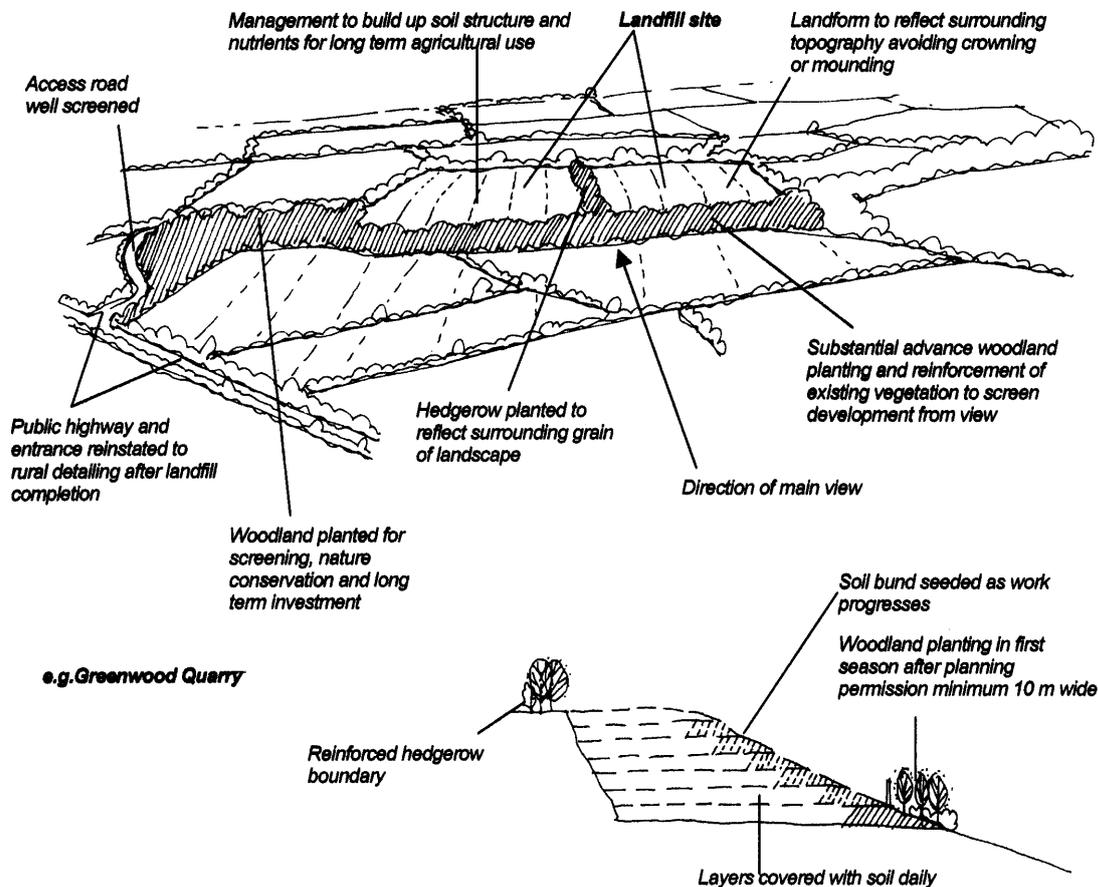
DG10 Landfill

AIMS

- To minimise the impact of development.
- To ensure groundwater is protected.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Follow best practice procedures in operational use and restoration of site. Particular care is needed in managing drainage, material handling and lorry movement.
- Undertake ecological survey where appropriate to identify impacts and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures into scheme design.
- Prepare landscape and management plans for phased restoration and after use to restore and enhance the landscape and nature conservation value of the site.
- Ensure public highway access is sensitively detailed and hedges etc. retained. If widening or kerbing is carried out as part of landfill access this should be removed after landfill completion and restored to rural road detailing.
- Minimise impact of entrance, access road, barriers, gates etc. by careful siting and design e.g. paint metal work dark green.
- Retain as much existing vegetation on site as possible on boundaries for screening.
- All improvement planting should be of native species of local provenance as per planting palette design guidelines (DG22-24) and should be protected to ensure continuity.
- Manage on site woodland and tree cover for continuous cover.
- Minimise litter blow by the use of well-maintained fences screened by planting and covering landfill daily with soil.
- Build up landfill ensuring exposed face is graded to final contours and soiled as work progresses and is seeded or planted immediately.
- Ensure final landform is suitable for proposed after use in terms of gradients, access etc.
- Carry out phased restoration with appropriate and ecologically sensitive planting and seeding on an annual basis (where necessary).



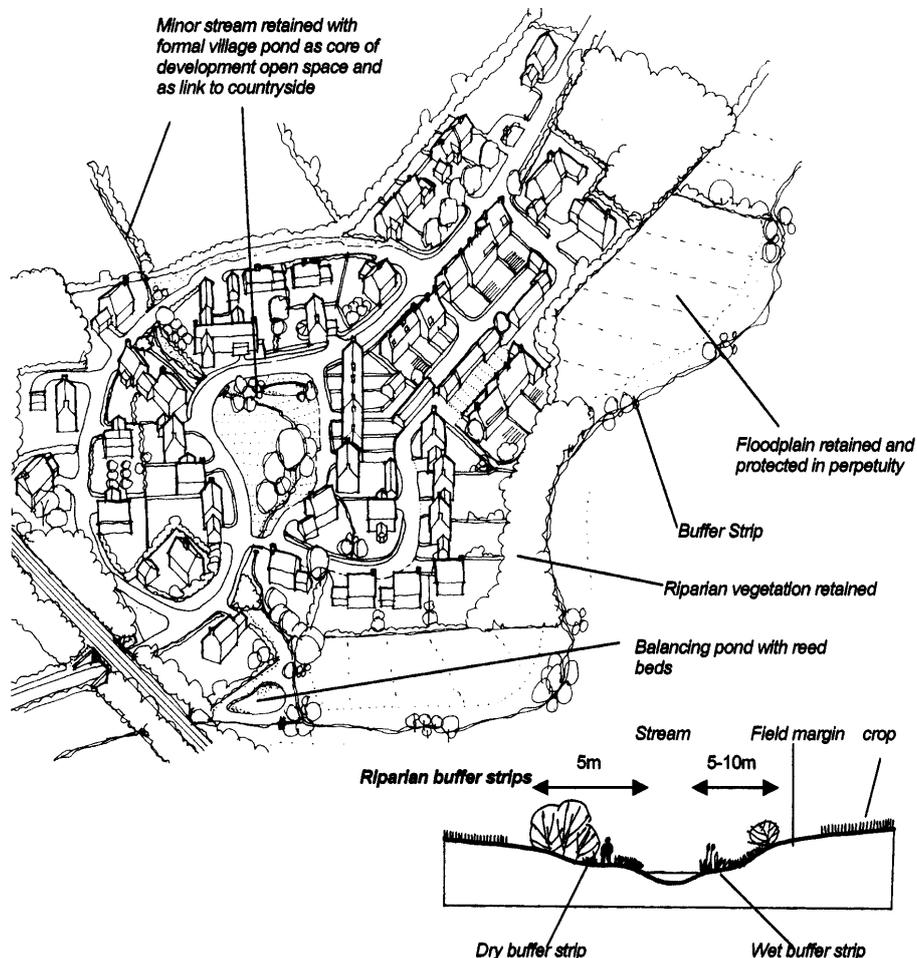
DG11 Rivers - Management and Integration of Development

AIMS

- To conserve river corridors as important landscape elements, wildlife corridors and for recreation.
- To enhance watercourses where possible.
- To minimise the effect of development.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Establish ecological value of watercourses through habitat surveys identifying potential impacts and possible mitigation measures.
- Protect sensitive areas such as swamps/mires from access and development.
- Avoid building in floodplain [and aquifers]. Incorporate floodplain land [water meadows] as managed in perpetuity for low intensity agricultural purposes as part of planning agreements where possible.
- Avoid culverting or the redirection of watercourses but where necessary, effective 'stopping' to reduce increased waterflow velocities is to be provided.
- Enhance modified watercourses with ecologically sensitive 'soft engineering' to enhance nature conservation value where appropriate.
- Use watercourses including streams and ditches as integral part of development as core to open space and as wildlife link to wider countryside.
- Encourage and where appropriate, enhance buffer strips along the edges of watercourses and manage for biodiversity.
- Manage surface water on site to minimise use of sewers and to minimise run off - use of attenuation ponds, swales and porous surfacing.
- Allow access for recreation on one side of watercourse in less sensitive areas where possible
- Avoid pesticides and waste disposal by watercourses.
- Limit and control livestock access to watercourse.
- Liaise with Environment Agency to gain maximum benefit for watercourses.
- New development adjacent to watercourses should provide for the appropriate management of alien species.



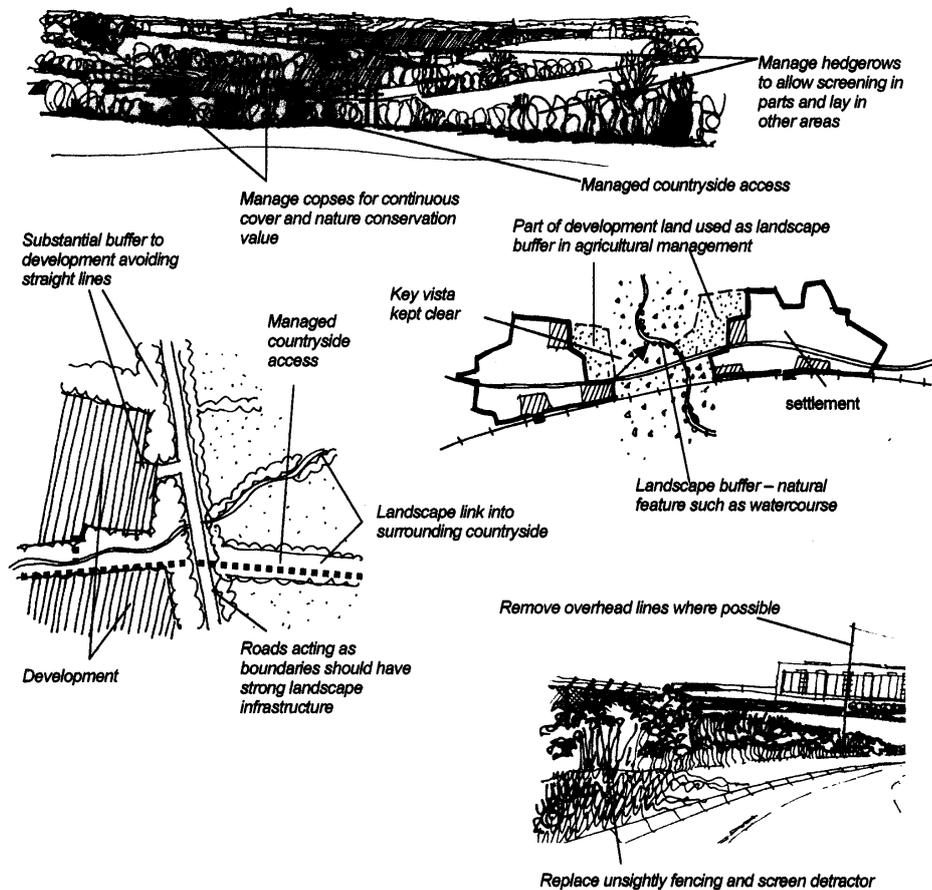
DG12 - Urban Edge

AIMS

- To conserve the best landscape features adjacent to settlements, both natural and man-made, and create a strong landscape structure.
- Support agricultural use alongside recreational use and nature conservation.
- To create a definite edge between settlement and countryside.
- Maintain settings for important settlements and buildings such as conservation areas.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Encourage traditional field boundaries such as stone walls, hedgerows and hedgebanks, timber fences on land surrounding settlement, not urban detailing such as concrete and chainlink fences.
- Identify features of particular value including nature conservation interest on land and encourage management agreements with farmers to conserve and enhance area.
- Avoid development into natural barriers such as hillcrests [skyline] or floodplains.
- Identify settings for conservation areas and important vistas and keep free from development.
- Ensure all new development has substantial landscape buffer on countryside edge – minimum 10m wide woodland planted area
- Avoid straight lines and regimented buildings on settlement edge – respond to topography and echo rural settlement form mixing gable ends with backs etc.
- Use planting on roads on settlement boundaries to screen development.
- Provide well managed and signed access into the countryside.
- Where necessary, street lighting between settlements should be sensitively designed to minimise light pollution.
- Rationalise signage at settlement entrance to give a positive impression.
- Minimise overhead clutter of wires on urban fringe.
- Avoid exotic plant species on settlement edge and at gateways - use native species to soften transition.



DG13 - Rural Settlements (1)

AIMS

- To provide a framework for the conservation and enhancement of all villages, hamlets and their settings throughout the Vale.
- To reduce, and wherever feasible, reverse the erosion of locally distinct rural character which results in suburbanisation.
- To allow changes in development and land use patterns related to settlements to become more sustainable whilst retaining an understanding and appreciation of the past.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Apply design principles set out in Rural Conservation Areas SPG to development in all rural settlements.
- Promote and encourage the production of Village Design Statements, JIGSO assessments, Parish Maps or similar “whole settlement” plans where appropriate, thereby adopting an integrated approach to development, improvement and conservation.
- Promote and encourage community based landscape improvement, planting and management projects such as CASH, Adopt-a-path/hedge/pond/copse, community woodlands, Woods on your doorstep.
- Ensure that development and improvements in and around rural settlement allow for the continuance of existing appropriate land-based uses such as farms, small-holdings, allotments, with the traditional patterns of small fields, tracks, etc. Any rural grant scheme should recognise the importance of field boundaries etc. around settlements and support their conservation.

HIGHWAYS

- Design highway improvements, traffic management and calming schemes sensitively on approaches and through settlements to take account of historic and rural character. Achieve required safety standards by design rather than inflexible adherence to DoT guidance notes, for instance, by:
 - Reduction of road width and retention of “pinch-points” to ensure slow traffic speeds;
 - Separation of pedestrians/cyclists/equestrians/vehicles;
 - Retention or inclusion of bends in carriageways;
 - Shared road surfaces being clearly defined.
- Consider undergrounding or rationalisation of overhead services in conjunction with highway improvements.
- Use lighting in settlements only where essential for safety, using minimum acceptable lighting intensity. Orange sodium lights should be avoided.
- Avoid wherever possible the use of materials and features usually associated with urban roads such as high concrete kerbs, standard traffic barriers, large scale and highly coloured directional signs and road markings, filter drains, concrete block paving and bollards.
- Consider the use of local stone, “conservation” and rural kerbs and surface dressings that will complement local building materials for carriageways and pavements.

FEATURES

- Retain and enhance existing ecological features wherever possible.
- Conserve, repair and enhance traditional features including walls, hedgerbanks, stone stiles, gates, bridges and paving.
- Protect settlement related water sources and features such as ponds, wells, springs and streams from pollution, silting-up and becoming overgrown and promote their restoration.
- Ensure that wherever possible, street furniture such as seats, bus shelters, litter bins, lights, signs and notice boards are sympathetic to their surroundings. Elaborate reproduction Victorian street furniture is usually inappropriate, while simple contemporary designs using sympathetic materials appear well mannered and generally age better.
- Retain and enhance paths into the surrounding countryside especially where these are traditional links to commons, woods, water sources (wells and springs) and viewpoints.
- Promote the use of distinctive village signs, allowing for individuality within a Vale wide theme.
- Consider introducing low-key entrance features and improvements, where appropriate to the settlement pattern, to enhance appearances, such as copses and avenues, walls and hedges, to frame views and add distinctive character.

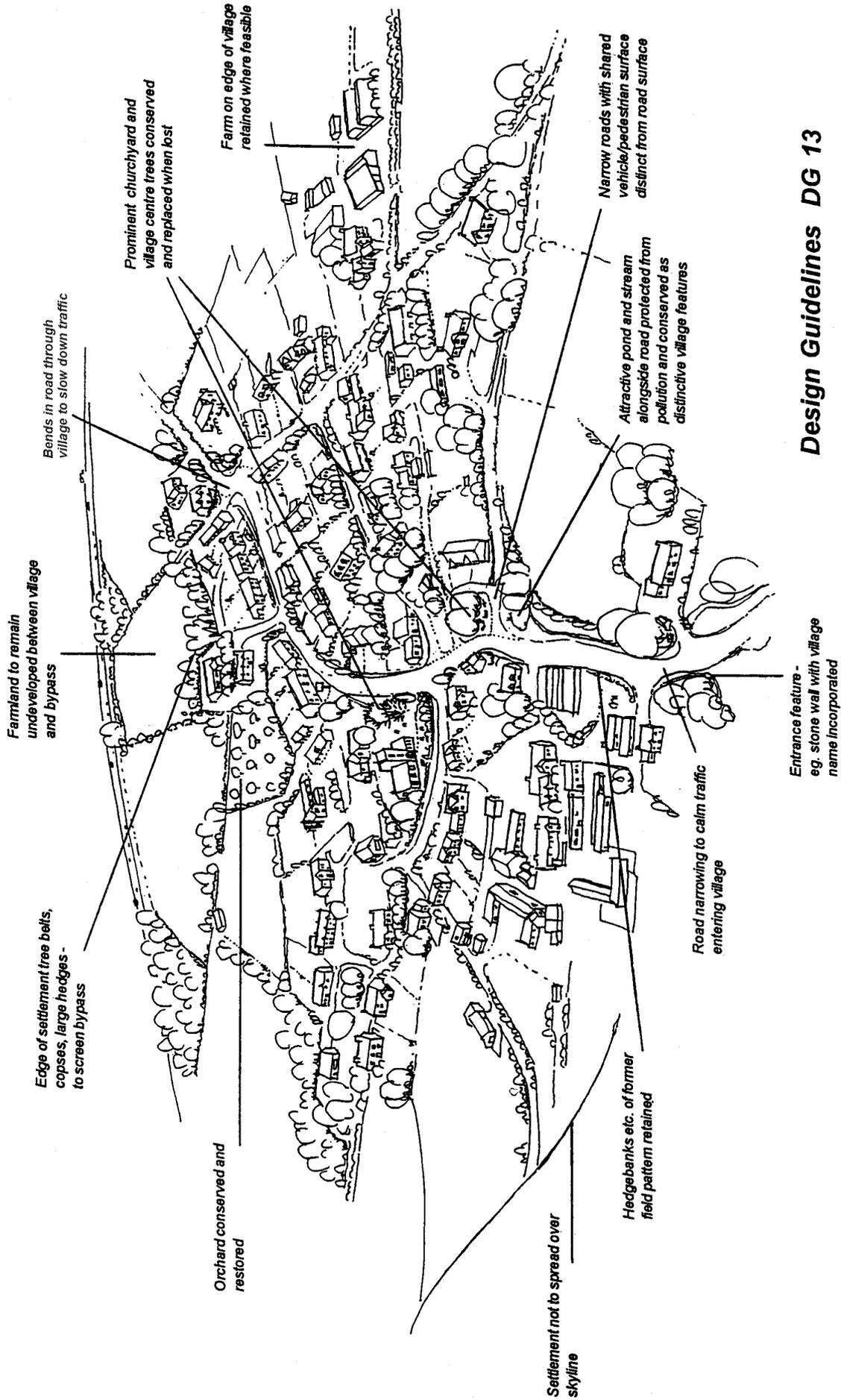
VISUAL

- Ensure that development does not intrude over skylines particularly where settlements are valley based.
- Protect from development the important visual envelopes surrounding settlements to –
 - Prevent intervisibility between settlements and between settlements and major roads and other intrusive development;
 - Retain a sense of separateness or remoteness;
 - Retain views out from settlements to skylines, across the Bristol Channel or to distant hills.



PLANTING

- Plant trees, woodlands and hedges etc. within the visual envelope of settlements in order to –
 - Screen intrusive features and developments, including main roads;
 - Frame good views;
 - Retain a sense of enclosure, arrival etc.;
 - Provide focal features.
- Native or local tree and shrub species should be planted.
- Planting of unsuitable and inappropriate trees and hedges in prominent positions should be discouraged. This includes fast growing conifers as hedging, ornamental, exotic and formal shaped trees within the public realm.
- Manage and maintain public realm and open spaces to be of an appropriate rural character by –
 - Discouragement of ornamental flower and shrub beds beyond private gardens;
 - Encourage native wild flowers and grasses within verges, greens, etc. through appropriate management regimes whilst allowing for their use by pedestrians etc.
- Conserve and restore trees and hedges within and around settlements, in particular-
 - Roadside hedgebanks forming property boundaries;
 - Hedges marking former field boundaries now absorbed into villages;
 - Prominent trees such as those at entrances to villages, around churches, associated with greens and ponds or other focal places;
 - Old orchards and avenues;
 - Trees, hedges etc. that screen the edges of settlements.



Design Guidelines DG 13

RURAL SETTLEMENTS (2)

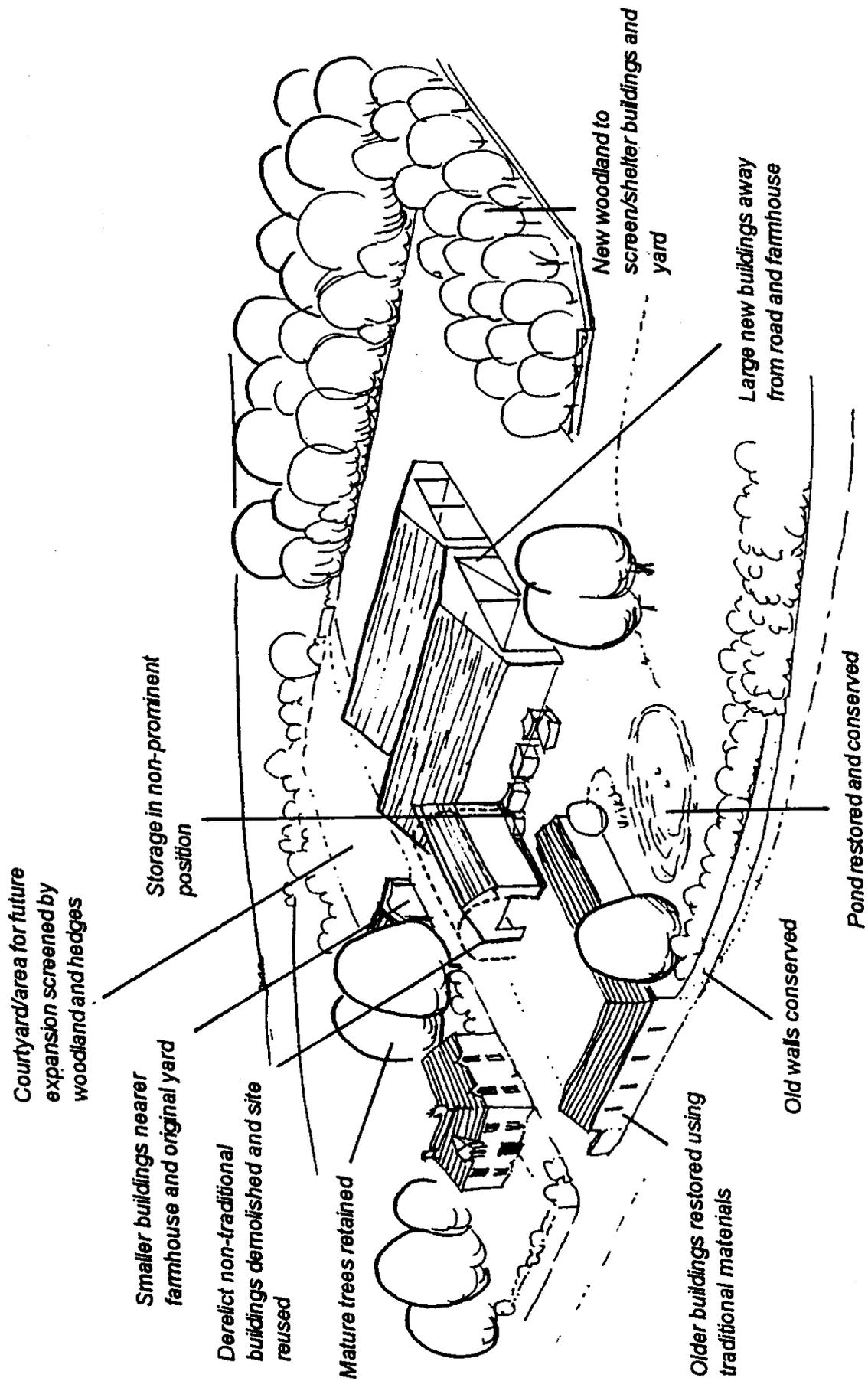
DG14 Farm Buildings

AIMS

- To encourage approach by landowners to changes relating to farmsteads which respect the agricultural traditions and which fit into the countryside.
- To encourage appreciation of a more sustainable approach to land use and buildings on a whole farm basis.
- To provide framework for the proposed control over development of farm-related buildings (Vale of Glamorgan Countryside Strategy—Landscape Action Programme no. 9).

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Where practicable new farm building should be sited and grouped in such a way as not to dominate original farmsteads or the surrounding countryside. This may include the following considerations –
 - Be positioned beyond and below the original farmstead, in relationship to approaches and general views of the group;
 - Not break the skylines;
 - If large, not to be sited immediately adjacent to smaller, older buildings;
 - Be grouped in such a way as to allow for future expansion, preferably in courtyard formation rather than alignments;
 - Grouped to provide usable spaces without awkward gaps; set back from roads, preferably behind existing screen of vegetation or buildings.
- Consideration should be given to outdoor storage areas so that these are not prominent. This may involve them being sited in a screened location to the rear or side of a group of buildings or as part of a courtyard.
- The materials and design of new farm buildings should be sympathetic with their surroundings by –
 - Using natural and locally traditional materials such as stone, bricks and timber at least where they are highly visible;
 - Materials used throughout should be neutral in colour, with darker, non-reflective roofs, and not too dissimilar to nearby older buildings;
 - Large expanses of walls and roofs should be broken up with changes of material and varied pitches.
- Restoration of, or additions to older buildings, whether for agricultural or other uses, should be carried out using traditional materials and should be appropriate in scale with the original complex.
- Redundant farm buildings, especially non-traditional ones, should be demolished if they are unable to be made usable. Traditional materials such as stone and slates should be salvaged for re-use. The landscape restoration of sites of demolished buildings should be incorporated into plans for development, or the sites reused for agriculture.
- Where demolition or restoration of farm buildings is proposed, ecological surveys should be undertaken where appropriate to identify protected/priority species and appropriate mitigation measures incorporated into any development schemes.
- Preliminary assessments of the impacts on air, water and soil resources should be encouraged at an early stage when changes and developments are planned on farms. Aspects giving concern should be further assessed.
- Existing native trees and shrubs should be retained and conserved wherever possible within and around developments, especially where these form backdrops, soften facades and rooflines, screen storage or other unsightly areas.
- Conservation and restoration of traditional planted features associated with farmsteads such as hedges and orchards should be encouraged.
- New planting of hedges, copses, shelterbelts, orchards etc. should be encouraged to help integrate new buildings into the landscape and to screen unsightly areas and provide shelter. These should be native or locally traditional trees and shrubs. Fast growing conifers such as cypresses are inappropriate in rural situations and should not be permitted.
- Conservation and restoration of built features other than buildings, especially ponds and wells or springs which may be required in future, walls, tracks/green lanes, gates and stiles, cobbled yards, etc.



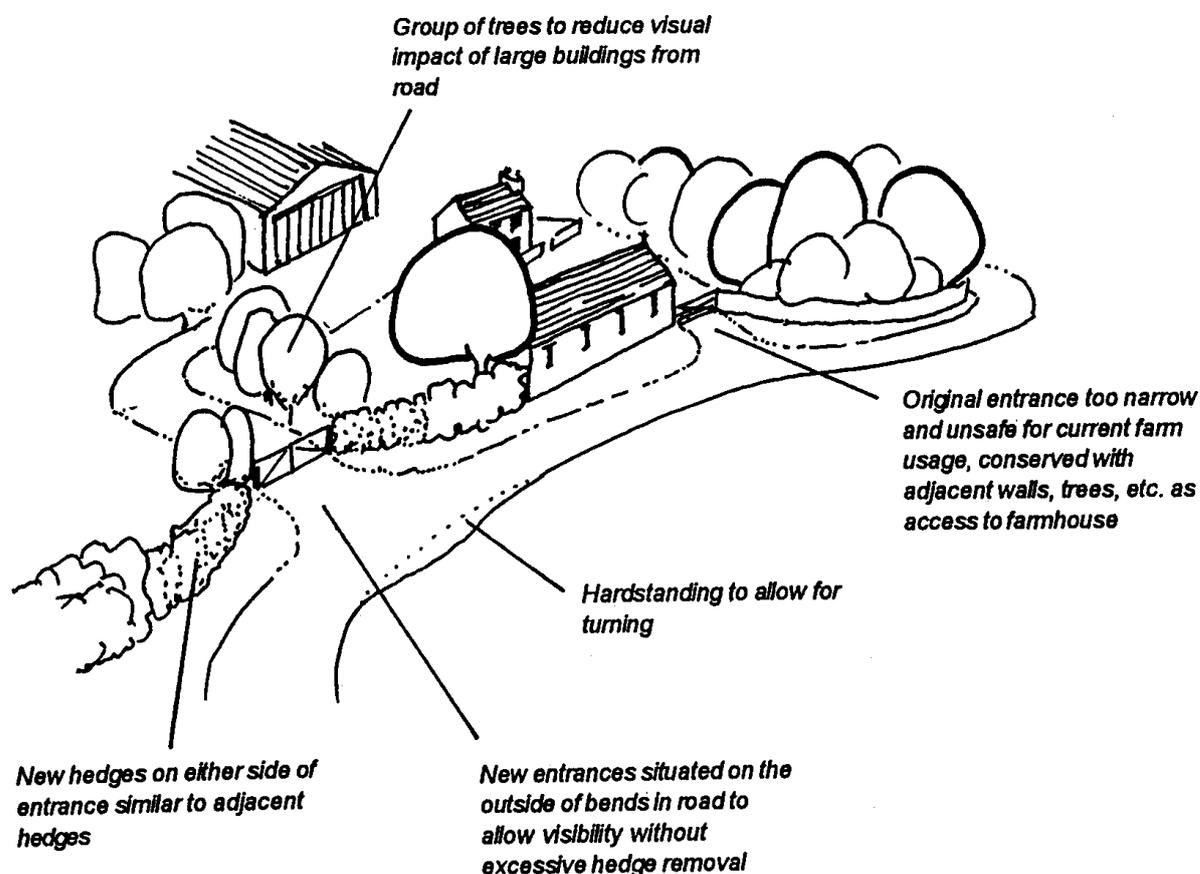
DG15 Farm access

AIM

- To conserve the character of rural roads and farms.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Changes or improvements to farm entrances and accesses should include for the retention of existing hedges and trees or their replacement.
- Informal hard standing or widening of roads opposite entrances should be considered to allow for large vehicle manoeuvring.
- Where farm is alongside road, associated walls and hedges should be conserved and extended where necessary to link with new.
- Where farm activities are expanding it may be preferable to provide new entrances to accommodate greater usage and conserve original entrance for use by the farmhouse. In this way, road safety can be ensured, farming activities can be separated from domestic, or if near a village or other buildings, farming activities can be made to be less intrusive for others.
- New farm entrances should be sited where there is good road visibility, preferably on the outer side of curves in the road, to reduce the need for hedge removal and realignment.
- New entrances should be off-set from the main farm so that buildings are not intrusive. New entrances should also be located away from the carriageway edge and of unbound surface material to avoid splashing.
- Where hedges have been breached or removed to accommodate sight lines these should be gapped up or replaced on new alignment using similar species and structure to adjacent ones, including banks and walls.
- Trees should be planted adjacent to or within farm entrances where they can soften the outlines of large buildings, frame views through, screen unsightly areas etc.
- Chainlink, weldmesh, close boarded and other forms of fencing and gates more usually associated with industrial or urban situations should not be used.
- Access gates should open inwards not onto the carriageway.



DG16 Woodlands and Hedgerows

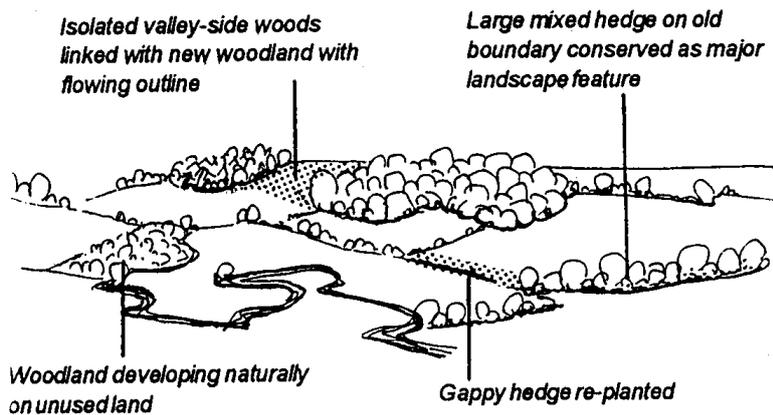
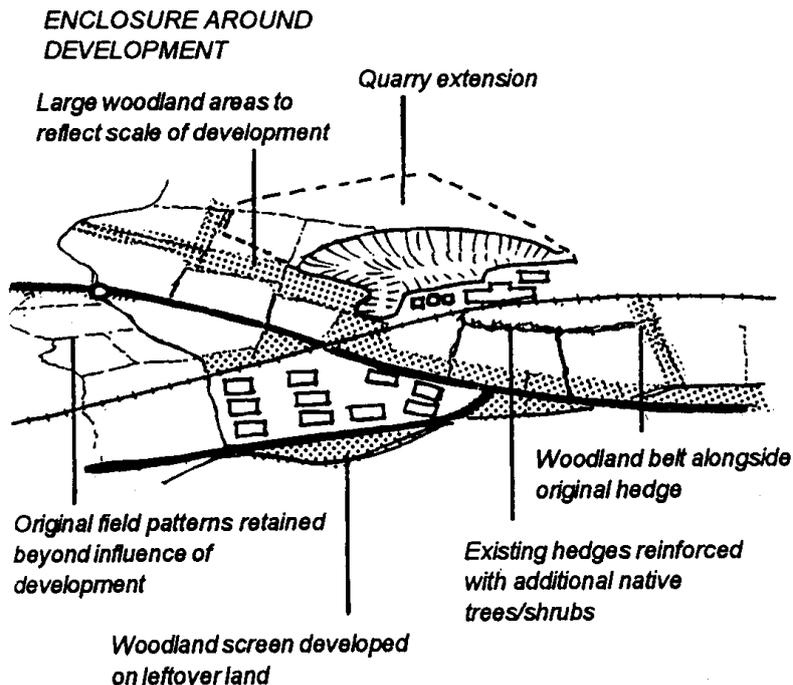
AIM

- To conserve, maintain and improve a well balanced matrix of woodland and hedges throughout the Vale, perpetuating, where possible, the pattern of small and medium sized woods, large hedges with local variations relating to natural constraints such as degree of exposure, topography and soils and to the historic landscape.

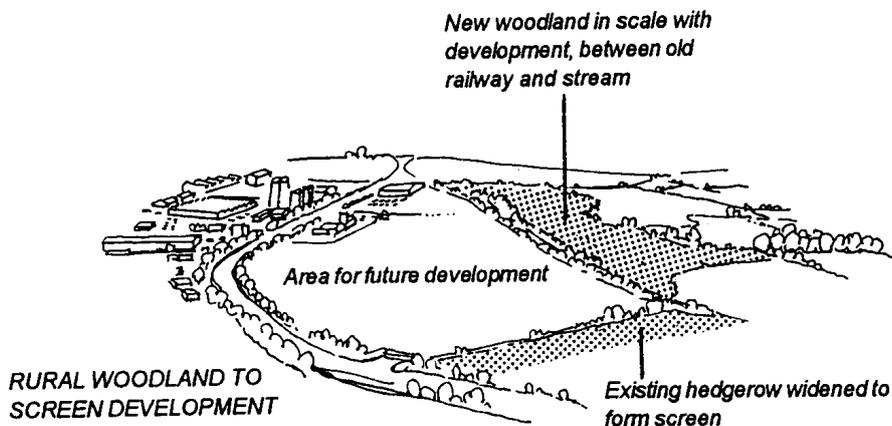
DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- The proposed Woodland Strategy (VOG Countryside Strategy, Landscape Action Programme, no. 2) should take into account the balance of ecological, historic, visual and economic value of woodland throughout the Vale.
- All existing woodland should be brought into positive and sensitive management through Coed Cymru Woodland Grant Schemes and other incentives.
- Encouragement should be given to production and use of trees and shrubs of local provenance that are appropriate to the local ecology.
- Encourage the use of natural regeneration of mainly native species in the management of woods and hedges.
- Non-native species may be appropriate in exposed conditions, near settlements and developments. This includes Sycamore, Holm Oak, Horse Chestnut and Scots Pine.
- Encouragement should be given to development of small or medium scale new woodlands in situations such as where they serve as shelter or screen developments, on small brownfield sites, on old woodland sites or when they link isolated woodlands together.
- Efforts should be made to conserve certain hedges that may not be protected by the Hedgerow Regulations. This may include roadside hedges, visually significant or prominent hedges and recent planting.
- Hedges should be managed to be stock proof, visually interesting, and good for wildlife. This should involve the traditional management of hedge laying and coppicing.
- Hedgerows should where possible be flailed a minimum of two to three years and flailing should be undertaken in late winter to retain fruits and berries for feeding birds.
- Hedgerow management work should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March - August inclusive)
- Neglecting to cut, allowing stock to graze, or continually severely cutting back should be discouraged.
- New hedges and “gapping up” should reflect those local and adjacent hedges. This includes species mix, number of standard trees within the hedge, width and density, banks, walls, ditches and alignment.
- Develop new enclosure and planting patterns where these have been depleted or disrupted to reflect current requirements in relation to scale, screening, agricultural and forestry practise, recreational use etc. This is most likely to be appropriate on restored quarries, around the urban fringes, in the vicinity of large-scale development, where there has been considerable hedge and tree loss due to agriculture.
- Public access to woodland for pedestrians and limited access for equestrians and cyclists should be encouraged where it is not unduly disruptive to wildlife.
- Diversity throughout the Vale and locally distinctive patterns of woodland and hedges should be recognised and perpetuated.
- New hedgerow and woodland planting to link existing woodland and hedgerow networks should be encouraged.
- Planted features that contribute to landscape character should be conserved, such as limited areas of coniferous plantation, orchards, parkland and estate plantings, avenues, and unusual and exotic species.
- The contribution that prominent single trees make to the landscape should not be overlooked, including on skylines, corners in roads and prominent windpruned trees.

DG16 Woodlands and Hedgerows (Cont.)



RURAL WOODS AND HEDGES



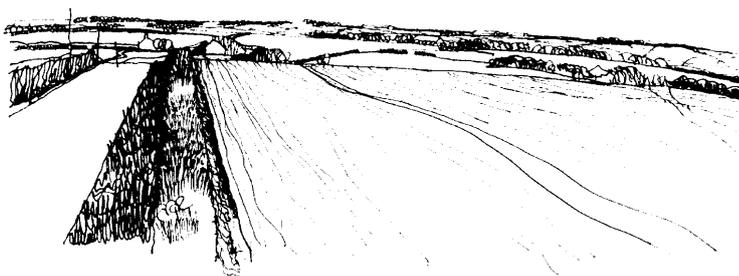
DG17 Design and Management for Nature Conservation

AIM

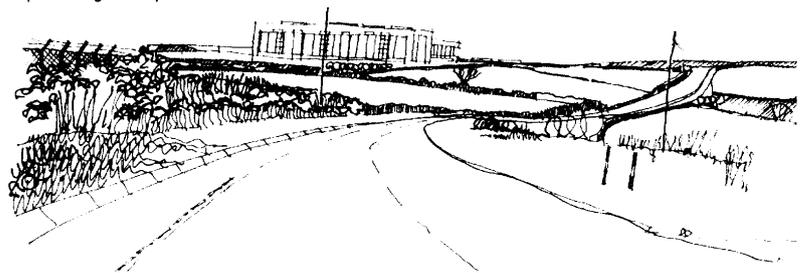
- To maintain and enhance nature conservation resource in the Vale.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Retain and enhance existing semi natural habitats.
- Create new habitats, including semi-natural grasslands, broadleaved woodlands, wetlands and ponds.
- Avoid fragmentation of habitats. Increase linkage of habitats through 'green corridors', linear habitat features etc.
- Provide "buffers" of less intensively managed land around key habitat features.
- Do not drain, plough, fertilise or cultivate semi-natural grassland and marshland. Use, low intensity management or traditional farming methods, such as light grazing or hay cutting in grasslands, light winter grazing in wetlands. Clear any scrub encroachment.
- Create new semi-natural grasslands through restoration and appropriate management. Where sowing is necessary, native wild flower mixes of local provenance and appropriate to the local ecology should be used.
- Avoid tree planting on grasslands and marshlands of interest. Create new woodlands of varied age-class and structure. Stock by natural regeneration or planting with native species of local provenance.
- Convert softwood plantations to native broadleaved or mixed woodlands. Exclude stock from all woodlands and encourage varied, flowery edges, rides and clearings.
- Use new woodland plantings to link existing woodlands. Limit recreational access to selected areas.
- Maintain hedges in stock-proof condition, ideally by periodic laying. Plant any gaps with appropriate native woody species of local provenance. Encourage tall, thick hedges with good canopy density at base. Avoid spraying into hedge bases with pesticides and avoid fertilisers.
- Trim a proportion of hedges in winter, once every two or three years. Encourage development of hedgerow trees. Retain any existing large trees with surgery rather than felling where unsafe.
- Plant new hedges with appropriate native woody species of local provenance in traditional banked style alongside wire fences. Incorporate appropriate native herbaceous species of local provenance.
- Maintain drystone walls and field banks in stock-proof condition, repairing gaps with local stone.
- Clear silt and scrub from ponds, retaining sloping bank profiles to encourage emergent vegetation. Clear overshadowing scrub, limiting shade to <40%. Before undertaking pond works, survey for protected species.
- Create new ponds with gently sloping bank profiles and encourage colonisation by native flora and fauna e.g. great crested newts.
- Protect water quality in aquifers, rivers, streams and ponds incorporating best practice guidance from the Environment Agency such as buffer zones, biofiltration.



Rural lanes and landscape - protection of hedgerows and verges, hedgelaying, inking fragmented areas of ecological interest, creation of headland for wild species and riparian vegetation protection



On larger roads, verge and roadside hedge management for nature conservation value, managing regeneration to encourage native species

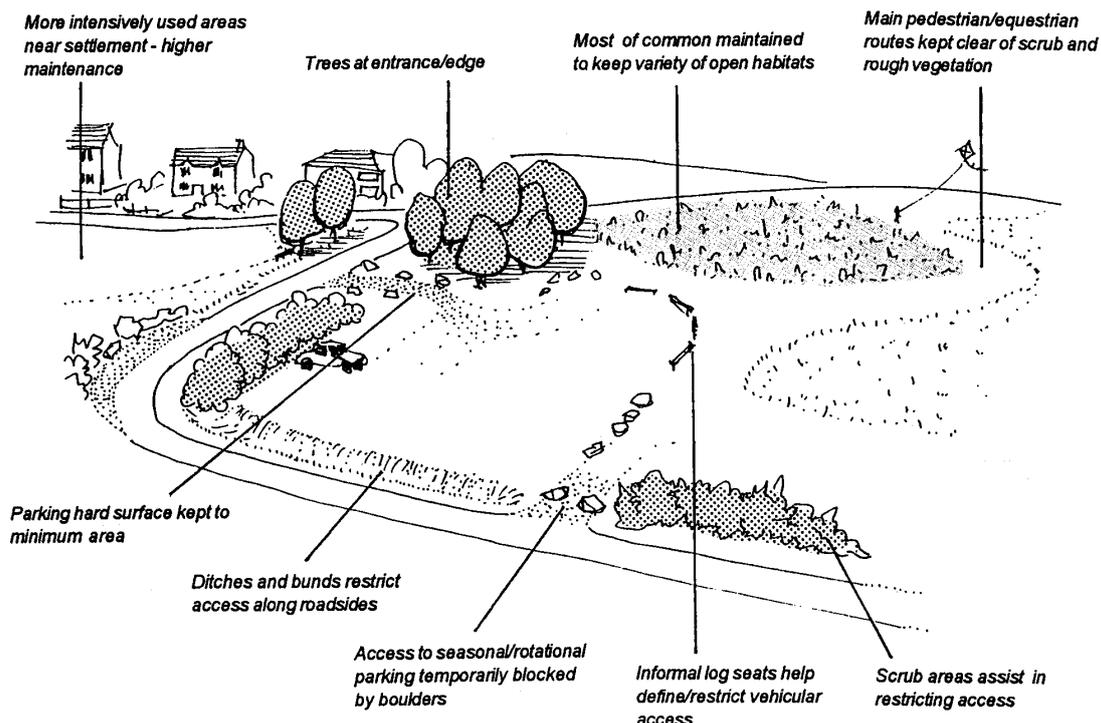
DG18 Designs and Management for Commons

AIM

- To conserve the variety of common land as distinct land use with emphasis on nature conservation and informal public access.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Vehicular access and parking should be controlled / restricted by the use of boulders, ditches / banks rather than high kerbs, bollards or fences.
- To prevent excessive erosion, access points and areas for parking should be available on a rotational basis.
- Vehicular access and parking should be kept near to the edges of commons and roadsides and kept away from skylines or other prominent places.
- Hard surfaces and construction should be kept to a minimum, be robust but informal / rural in character. Use of crushed stone and local rocks is appropriate.
- Seating, if it is necessary, should be rural in character. Picnic seating and park benches are not generally appropriate.
- Signs, litterbins and other infrastructure should be kept to a minimum.
- Tree planting may be appropriate in corners, at entrance points and near parking areas on commons.
- Use of native plants of local provenance and appropriate to the local ecology should be encouraged. Exotic and ornamental species are not appropriate.
- Development of new woodland is unlikely to be appropriate on common land, as most is valuable as more open habitats.
- Re-introduction of grazing by commoners should be encouraged, facilitated by the use of cattle grids, boundary fencing etc.
- Where grazing is not feasible, bracken and scrub should be managed to conserve mosaic of habitats. This includes areas mown in rotation, light control of bracken, mown "rides", and rotational scrub clearance.
- Management of commons should be informed by ecological data wherever possible and should retain and enhance species and habitats of nature conservation.
- Areas of scrub should be used to assist in the restriction of parking and access.
- Smaller areas of common land and greens associated with settlements should be managed for more mixed use. Well-used areas and paths should be maintained more frequently than edges or other areas away from houses and roads.
- Means should be sought whereby the maintenance and management of common land can be adopted by the local community where appropriate, working to approved management plans.



DG19 Palette of Materials Hard - South East Vale

AIM

- To reinforce the distinctive character of the South East Vale using locally available materials.

PREFERRED MATERIALS

Enclosure:

Limestone and sandstone walling
Red or yellow brick coping and quoins on stone walls in some places
Hedgebanks/Laid hedges
Locally sourced timber rail fencing
Mild steel railings on walls, estate steel railings

Surfacing:

Conservation kerbs
Pennant surfacing
Limestone aggregate chippings rolled in bitumen emulsion
Limestone chippings to dust rolled for informal surfacing

Street Furniture:

Mild steel black painted and locally sourced hardwood timber furniture including seating, fingerposts
Timber bollards in rural edge, cast iron bollards in settlements
Colour – black or dark green [see below] for mild steel fittings
Timber /black mild steel signs

Structures:

Stone, natural render, white painted render, slate roofs
Red or yellow brick coping and quoins on stone walls
Dark stained timber for bus shelters [very dark brown] or weather to grey

Lighting:

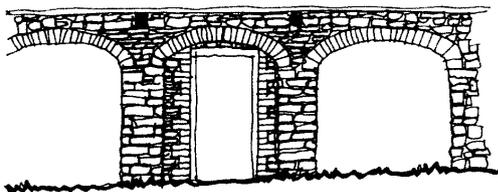
Wherever possible, lighting should be sensitively designed to minimise light pollution and be sympathetic to its surroundings.

Key colours:

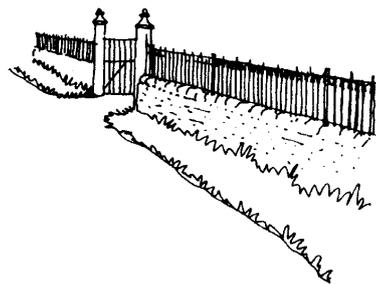
Grey, black, browns, dark green [BS 14C39 or equivalent], muted reds and yellows

Plants:

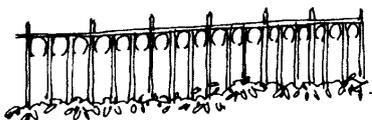
See Design Guideline DG23



Mix of materials in outbuilding construction – limestones, sandstone, red brick



Mild steel railings on stone wall with cast iron gate posts



Mild steel railing detail



Estate mild steel railings, stone well

DG20 Palette of Materials Hard - Rural Vale

AIM

- To reinforce the distinctive character of the rural Vale using locally available materials.

PREFERRED PALETTE OF MATERIALS FOR NON HIGHWAY AREAS

Enclosure:

Lias and limestone walling
 Stone hedgebanks
 Hedgebanks
 Laid hedges
 Timber rail fencing

Surfacing:

For areas other than adopted highways the following surfacing may be appropriate.

Limestone cobbles/setts
 Limestone kerbs/conservation kerbs in settlement only
 Pennant surfacing
 Limestone aggregate chippings rolled in bitumen emulsion
 Limestone chippings to dust rolled for informal surfacing

Rural Furniture:

Locally sourced timber and wrought iron [if necessary] furniture including seating, bollards, fingerposts
 Stone road markers, avoid bollards
 Colour – black or dark green [see below] for mild steel fittings
 Timber /black mild steel signs

Structures:

Stone, natural render, white painted render, slate roofs
 Dark stained timber for bus shelters [very dark brown]

Lighting:

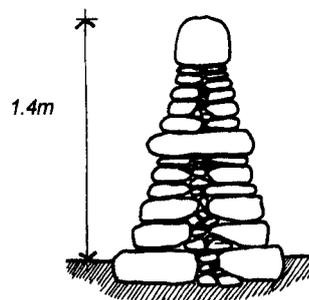
Wherever possible, lighting should be sensitively designed to minimise light pollution and be sympathetic to its surroundings.

Key colours:

Grey, black, buff, dark green [BS 14C39 or equivalent]

Plants:

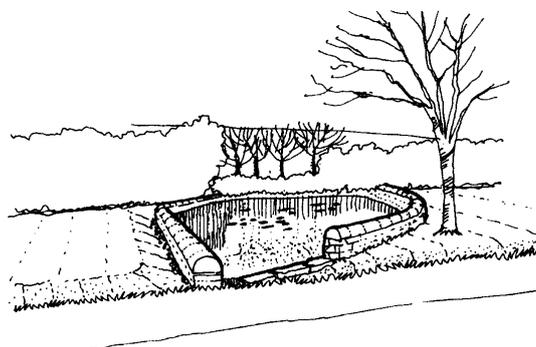
See Design Guidelines DG23



Limestone Wall



Hedgebank in need of laying



Ponds and roadside watercourses are strong landscape elements



Good example of sign post used in rural Vale



Typical rural bus shelter
 - stain sides dark brown and review roof colour
 - or allow to weather to grey
 - to be retained wherever possible

DG21 Palette of Materials Hard - Coastal Vale

AIM

- To reinforce the distinctive character of the coastal Vale using locally available materials.

PREFERRED MATERIALS

Enclosure:

Lias stone walling, limestone in places
 Stone hedgebanks
 Hedgebanks
 Laid hedges
 Timber rail fencing

Surfacing:

Limestone cobbles/setts
 Limestone kerbs/conservation kerbs in settlement only
 Pennant surfacing
 Limestone aggregate chippings rolled in bitumen emulsion
 Limestone chippings to dust rolled for informal surfacing

Street Furniture:

Locally sourced timber furniture including seating, bollards, fingerposts
 Stone road markers, avoid bollards
 Colour – black or dark green [see below] for mild steel fittings
 Slate signs

Structures:

Stone, natural render, slate roofs

Lighting:

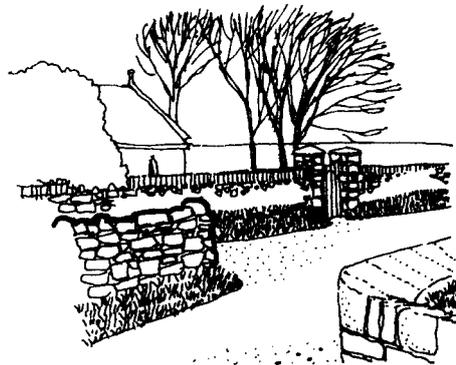
Wherever possible, lighting should be sensitively designed to minimise light pollution and be sympathetic to its surroundings.

Key colours:

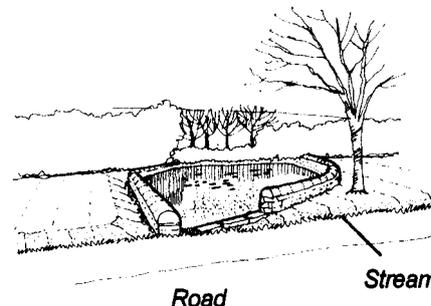
Grey, black, buff, dark green [BS 14C39 or equivalent]

Plants:

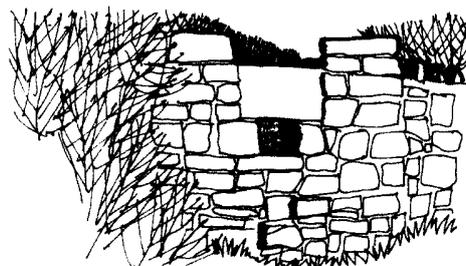
See Design Guideline DG24



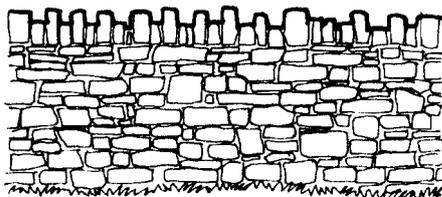
Three different kinds of stone coping to stone walls. Note lack of kerbs



Water in ponds and roadside watercourses are strong landscape elements



Typical slate stile in stone wall with blackthorn hedgebank



Lias stone wall with cock and hen coping



Typical hedgebank with stone and laid hedge [in need of attention]

DG22 Palette of Materials: Planting - General Guidance

The species shown on this table may be used in suitable locations throughout the Vale, including urban and urban fringe areas. Non-native decorative species should generally be avoided except within core areas of settlements and developments, and in gardens. See also Figures DG 23 and DG 24 for guidance on grass, herbaceous and marginal species.

Key

- # Generally rare in the Vale: essential that only locally-native stock is used.
- o Use at low densities only.
- 1 Where soil conditions are damp or wet.

When planting is proposed native species of local provenance and appropriate to the local ecology and location should be used. In general, favour natural regeneration or stock propagated from locally native origin wherever possible.

		Coastal situations	Dry neutral soils	Wet Neutral soils	Calcareous soils
Alder	(<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)			*	1
Apple, crab	(<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)		*		*
Ash	(<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	*	*	*	*
Aspen	(<i>Populus tremula</i>)		*	*	
Beech	(<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)		#		#
Birch, downy	(<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	*	*	*	
Birch, silver	(<i>Betula pendula</i>)	*	*		
Blackthorn	(<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	*	*	*	*
Broom	(<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)		*		
Buckthorn, purging	(<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>)	*	*		*
Cherry, wild	(<i>Prunus avium</i>)		*	*	*
Dogwood	(<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>)			*	*
Elder	(<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)		o		o
Gorse, common	(<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)	o	o		o
Guelder rose	(<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)		*	*	*
Hawthorn, common	(<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	*	*	*	*
Hazel	(<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	*	*	*	*
Holly	(<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	*	*	*	*
Hornbeam	(<i>Carpinus betulus</i>)		#		#
Lime, small-leaved	(<i>Tilia cordata</i>)		#		#
Maple, field	(<i>Acer campestre</i>)		*		*
Oak, pedunculate	(<i>Quercus robur</i>)	*	*	*	*
Oak, sessile	(<i>Quercus petraea</i>)		#		
Privet, wild	(<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)	*	*		*
Rose, dog	(<i>Rosa canina</i>)	*	*		*
Rowan	(<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)		*		
Service Tree	(<i>Sorbus clomestica</i>)		*	*	*
Spindle	(<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>)		*		*
Willow, crack	(<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	*		*	1
Willow, goat	(<i>Salix caprea</i>)	*		*	1
Willow, grey	(<i>Salix cinerea</i>)	*	*	*	1
Willow, osier	(<i>Salix viminalis</i>)			*	
Willow, white	(<i>Salix alba</i>)	*		*	

DG23 Planting in the Inland Vale

- Conserve existing semi-natural habitats, especially unimproved grasslands and marshlands.
- Maintain/create traditional field boundaries, especially hedges on banks.
- Increase area of semi-natural woodland.
- Restore or create areas of species-rich semi-natural grassland and marshland.
- Maintain/create ponds.
- Maintain main river systems, streams and other watercourses.

When planting is proposed native species of local provenance and appropriate to the local ecology and location should be used. In general, favour natural regeneration or stock propagated from locally native origin wherever possible.

Woodlands, scrub and hedges

pedunculate oak	(<i>Quercus robur</i>)
ash	(<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)
beech	(<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> - local provenance only, Eastern Vale)
alder	(<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> - on wetter ground)
birch	(<i>Betula pubescens, pendula</i>)
wild cherry	(<i>Prunus avium</i>)
common hawthorn	(<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
blackthorn	(<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)
hazel	(<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
holly	(<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)
guelder rose	(<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)
willows	(<i>Salix fragilis, cinerea, caprea, alba</i>)
wych elm	(<i>Ulmus glabra</i>)
yew	(<i>Taxus baccata</i> – local provenance only Eastern Vale)

Additionally, on calcareous sites:

dogwood	(<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>)
field maple	(<i>Acer campestre</i>)
wild privet	(<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)
spindle	(<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>)
purging buckthorn	(<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>)
wayfaring tree	(<i>Viburnum lantana</i>)

Grasslands

common bent	(<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>)
crested dog's-tail	(<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>)
red fescue	(<i>Festuca rubra</i> - low productivity cultivars only)
meadow foxtail	(<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>)
sweet vernal-grass	(<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>)
rough meadow-grass	(<i>Poa trivialis</i>)
yarrow	(<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)
bird's-foot trefoil	(<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> - native strain)
common knapweed	(<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)
ribwort plantain	(<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)
primrose	(<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)
yellow rattle	(<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>)
cat's-ear	(<i>Hypochoeris glabra, radicata</i>)
hawkbits	(<i>Leontodon autumnalis, hispidus</i>)
self-heal	(<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)
meadow buttercup	(<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)
vetches	(<i>Vicia cracca, sativa, sepium</i> - native strains only)

Additionally, on calcareous soils:

quaking grass	(<i>Briza media</i>)
---------------	------------------------

salad burnet	(Sanguisorba minor)
lady's bedstraw	(Galium verum)
agrimony	(Agrimonia eupatoria)
kidney vetch	(Anthyllis vulneraria)
field scabious	(Knautia arvensis)
mouse-eared hawkweed	(Hieracium pilosella)
perforate St John's-wort	(Hypericum perforatum)
burnet-saxifrage	(Pimpinella saxifraga)
marjoram	(Origanum vulgare)
yellow-wort	(Blackstonia perfoliata)
common centaury	(Centaurea erythraea)
pale flax	(Linum bienne)

Marshlands

tufted hair-grass	(Deschampsia cespitosa)
meadow fescue	(Festuca pratensis)
sweet vernal-grass	(Anthoxanthum odoratum)
velvet bent	(Agrostis canina)
Yorkshire fog	(Holcus lanatus)
creeping bent	(Agrostis stolonifera)
purple moor grass	(Molinia caerulea)
ragged robin	(Lychnis flos-cuculi)
sneezewort	(Achillea ptarmica)
marsh marigold	(Caltha palustris)
cuckooflower	(Cardamine pratensis)
greater bird's-foot trefoil	(Lotus pedunculatus)
marsh bedstraw	(Galium palustre)
fleabane	(Pulicaria dysenterica)
meadowsweet	(Filipendula ulmaria)
purple loosestrife	(Lythrum salicaria)
devil's-bit scabious	(Succisa pratensis)
bog asphodel	(Narthecium ossifragum)

Ponds and wetlands

common reed	(Phragmites australis)
great reedmace	(Typha latifolia)
reed canary-grass	(Phalaris arundinacea)
yellow flag-iris	(Iris pseudacorus)
water mint	(Mentha aquatica)
gipsywort	(Lycopus europaeus)
brooklime	(Veronica beccabunga)
lesser spearwort	(Ranunculus flammula)
water plantain	(Alisma plantago-aquatica)
water lilies	(Nuphar lutea, Nymphaea alba)
broad-leaved pondweed	(Potamogeton natans)

On more acid/ neutral sites:

bottle sedge	(Carex rostrata)
marsh cinquefoil	(Potentilla palustris)

DG24 Palette of Materials Planting - Coastal Vale

- Maintain and consolidate semi-natural habitats.
- Protect against degradation of habitats, especially from development, recreational use and adjacent agriculture.
- Maintain balance of scrub and trees to open grasslands.
- Maintain/create traditional-type field boundaries, ie walls or hedges.
- Maintain wooded stream-valleys as wet semi-natural woodlands.

When planting is proposed native species of local provenance and appropriate to the local ecology and location should be used. In general, favour natural regeneration or stock propagated from locally native origin wherever possible

Woodlands, scrub and hedges

pedunculate oak	(<i>Quercus robur</i>)
ash	(<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)
alder	(<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> - on wetter ground)
holly	(<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)
hazel	(<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
blackthorn	(<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)
common hawthorn	(<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
wild privet	(<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)

Some additional non-native species suited to exposed coastal locations are acceptable in selected situations, especially near settlements, but should generally be at low densities, eg:

holm oak	(<i>Quercus ilex</i>)
sycamore	(<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)
tamarisk	(<i>Tamarix gallica</i>)

Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) should be avoided, as should any members of the rowan/whitebeam genus *Sorbus*.

Grasslands

red fescue	(<i>Festuca rubra</i> - low productivity cultivars)
sheep's fescue	(<i>Festuca ovina</i>)
crested dog's-tail	(<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>)
sweet vernal-grass	(<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>)
common bent	(<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>)
quaking grass	(<i>Briza media</i>)
black knapweed	(<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)
wild carrot	(<i>Daucus carota</i>)
buck's-horn plantain	(<i>Plantago coronopus</i>)
ribwort plantain	(<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)
primrose	(<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)
salad burnet	(<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>)
lady's bedstraw	(<i>Galium verum</i>)
agrimony	(<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>)
musk mallow	(<i>Malva moschata</i>)
thrift	(<i>Armeria maritima</i>)
greater knapweed	(<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>)

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

THE ADOPTED VALE OF GLAMORGAN UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005 RELEVANT POLICIES

POLICY 1

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN'S DISTINCTIVE RURAL, URBAN AND COASTAL CHARACTER WILL BE PROTECTED AND ENHANCED. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO CONSERVING AREAS OF IMPORTANCE FOR LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE, THE BEST AND MOST VERSATILE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE BUILT HERITAGE. PROPOSALS WHICH ENHANCE THESE AREAS WILL BE FAVOURED.

PART II POLICIES

ENVIRONMENT

POLICY ENV 4 – SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

NEW DEVELOPMENT WITHIN OR CLOSELY RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS WILL BE PERMITTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT IT WOULD NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER, LANDSCAPE FEATURES OR VISUAL AMENITIES OF THE SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA:

- (i) ELY VALLEY AND RIDGE SLOPES
- (ii) LOWER THAW VALLEY
- (iii) UPPER THAW VALLEY
- (iv) NANT LLANCARFAN
- (v) CWRT YR ALA BASIN
- (vi) DUFFRYN BASIN AND RIDGE SLOPES
- (vii) CASTLE UPON ALUN

POLICY ENV 10 – CONSERVATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

MEASURES TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE COUNTRYSIDE, ITS FEATURES AND RESOURCES WILL BE FAVOURED, PARTICULARLY IN THE GLAMORGAN HERITAGE COAST, AREAS OF HIGH QUALITY LANDSCAPE, AND AREAS SUBJECT TO DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE AND / OR CONFLICT SUCH AS THE URBAN FRINGE.

POLICY ENV 11 – PROTECTION OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES

DEVELOPMENT WILL BE PERMITTED IF IT DOES NOT UNACCEPTABLY AFFECT FEATURES OF IMPORTANCE TO LANDSCAPE OR NATURE CONSERVATION INCLUDING: TREES, WOODLAND, HEDGEROWS, RIVER CORRIDORS, PONDS, STONE WALLS AND SPECIES RICH GRASSLANDS.

POLICY ENV 17 – PROTECTION OF BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES OF THE BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT WILL BE PROTECTED. DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE SPECIAL CHARACTER, APPEARANCE OR SETTING OF:

- (i) A BUILDING OR GROUP OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURE OR SITE OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST, INCLUDING LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS;
- (ii) SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND / OR HISTORIC INTEREST;
- (iii) DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES, PARK OR GARDENS OF HISTORIC, CULTURAL OR AESTHETIC IMPORTANCE

WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

POLICY ENV 20 – DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS

PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT OR ALTERATIONS TO BUILDINGS OR FEATURES WITHIN CONSERVATION AREAS WILL BE PERMITTED WHERE THEY PRESERVE OR ENHANCE THE CHARACTER OF THE CONSERVATION AREA. SUCH PROPOSALS WILL NEED TO REFLECT:

- (i) THE SCALE, DESIGN, LAYOUT, CHARACTER, MATERIALS AND SETTING OF THOSE BUILDINGS WHICH ESTABLISH THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA;
- (ii) THE PATTERNS OF USE WHICH ESTABLISH THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA;
- (iii) IMPORTANT OPEN SPACE WITHIN AND ADJOINING CONSERVATION AREAS;
- (iv) IMPORTANT TREES AND HEDGEROWS: AND
- (v) PONDS AND STREAMS.

POLICY ENV 27 – DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT MUST HAVE FULL REGARD TO THE CONTEXT OF THE LOCAL NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ITS SPECIAL FEATURES. NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL BE PERMITTED WHERE IT:

- (i) COMPLEMENTS OR ENHANCES THE LOCAL CHARACTER OF BUILDINGS AND OPEN SPACES;
- (ii) MEETS THE COUNCIL'S APPROVED STANDARDS OF AMENITY AND OPEN SPACE, ACCESS, CAR PARKING AND SERVICING;
- (iii) ENSURES ADEQUACY OR AVAILABILITY OF UTILITY SERVICES AND ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT;
- (iv) MINIMISES ANY DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON ADJACENT AREAS;
- (v) ENSURES EXISTING SOFT AND HARD LANDSCAPING FEATURES ARE PROTECTED AND COMPLEMENTED BY NEW PLANTING, SURFACE OR BOUNDARY FEATURES;
- (vi) ENSURES CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES;
- (vii) PROVIDES A HIGH LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY, PARTICULARLY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT, CYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS AND PEOPLE WITH IMPAIRED MOBILITY;

- (viii) HAS REGARD TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN DESIGN, LAYOUT, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY; AND
 - (ix) HAS REGARD TO MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK AND FEAR OF CRIME.
-

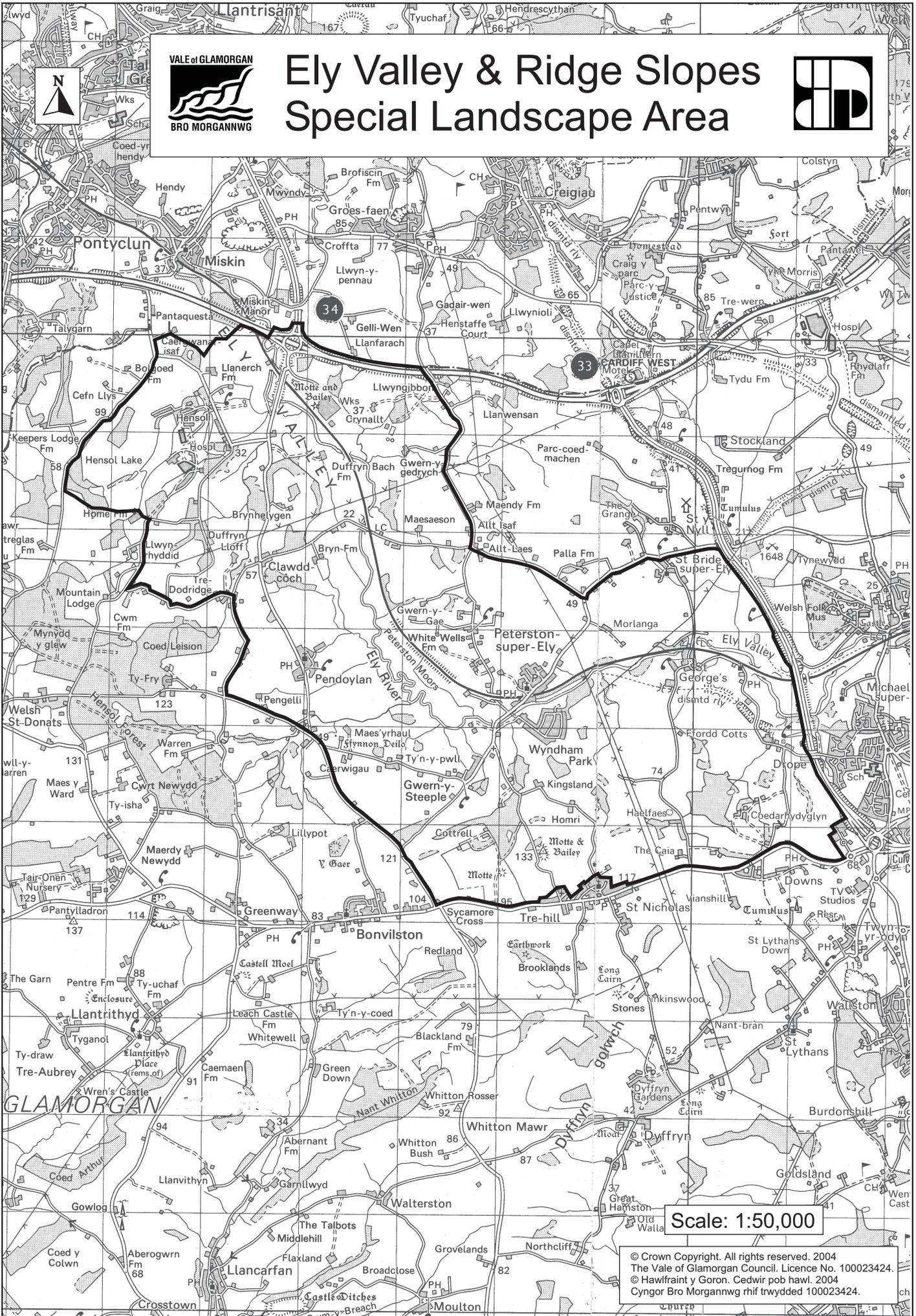
THE ABOVE POLICY LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AND CONTAINS ONLY THE MAIN DESIGN POLICIES WITHIN THE ADOPTED VALE OF GLAMORGAN UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP). THE UDP SHOULD ALWAYS BE REFERRED TO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS GUIDANCE.

APPENDIX 2

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS



Ely Valley & Ridge Slopes Special Landscape Area

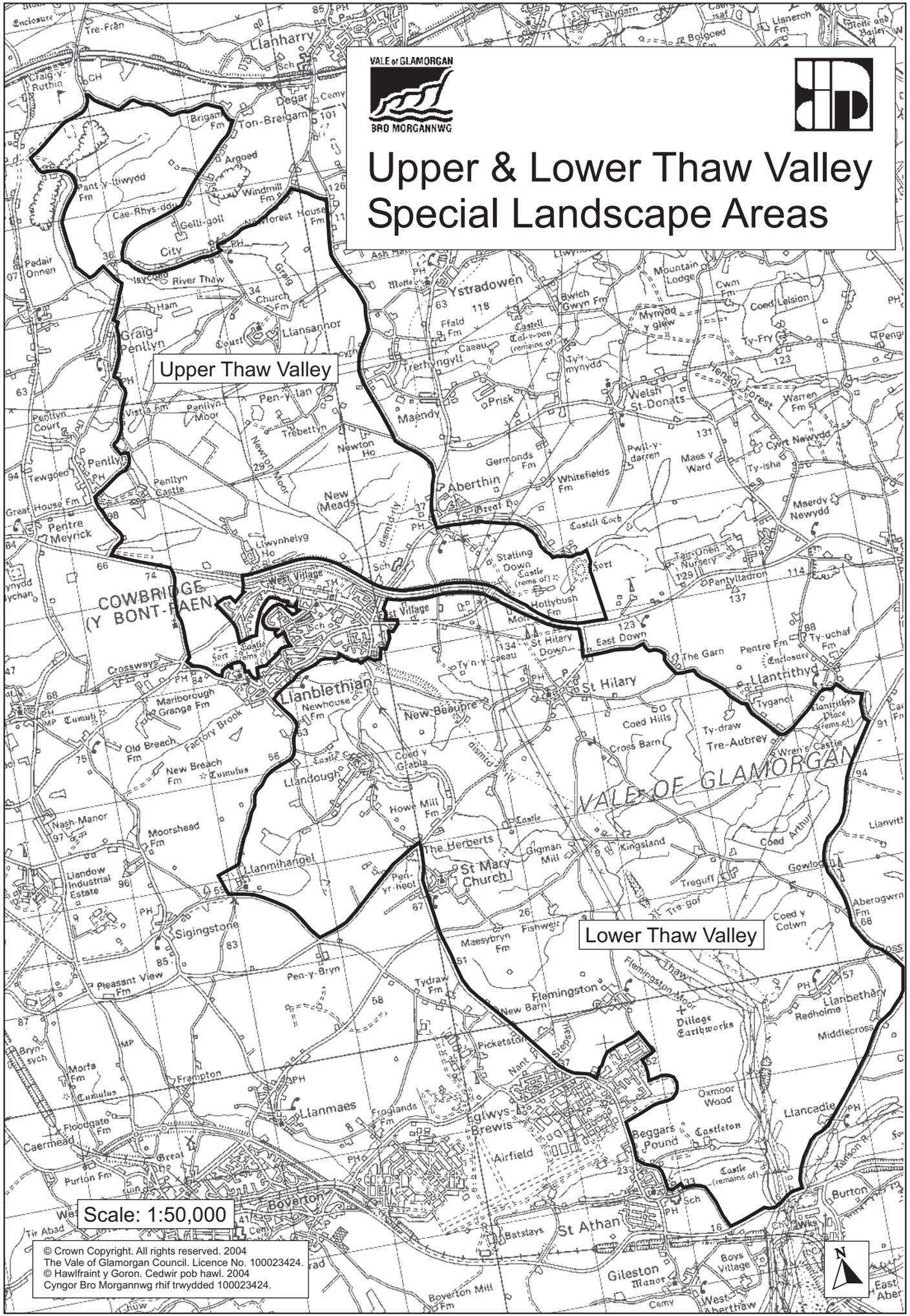


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Upper & Lower Thaw Valley Special Landscape Areas



Upper Thaw Valley

Lower Thaw Valley

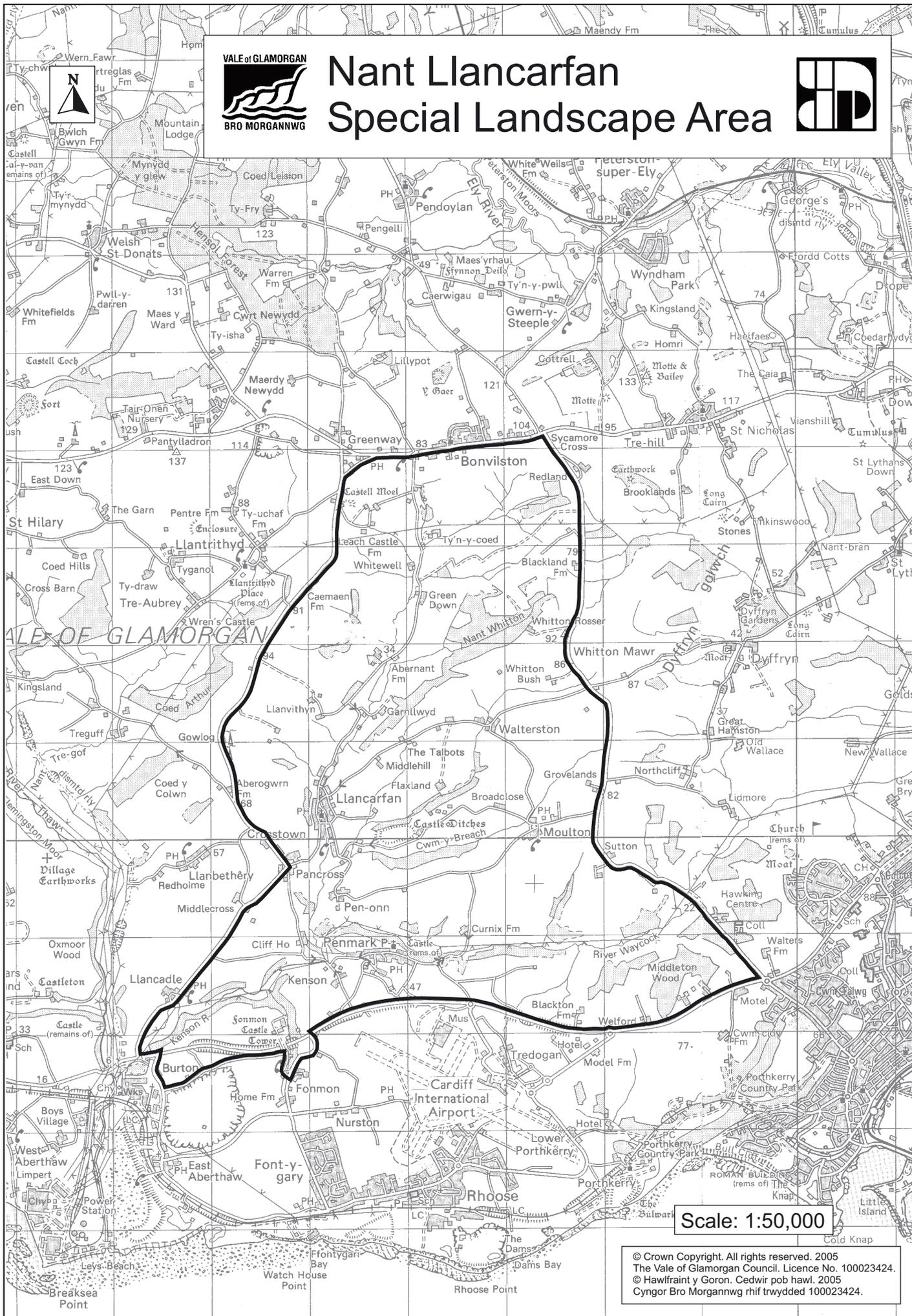
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Nant Llanccarfan Special Landscape Area

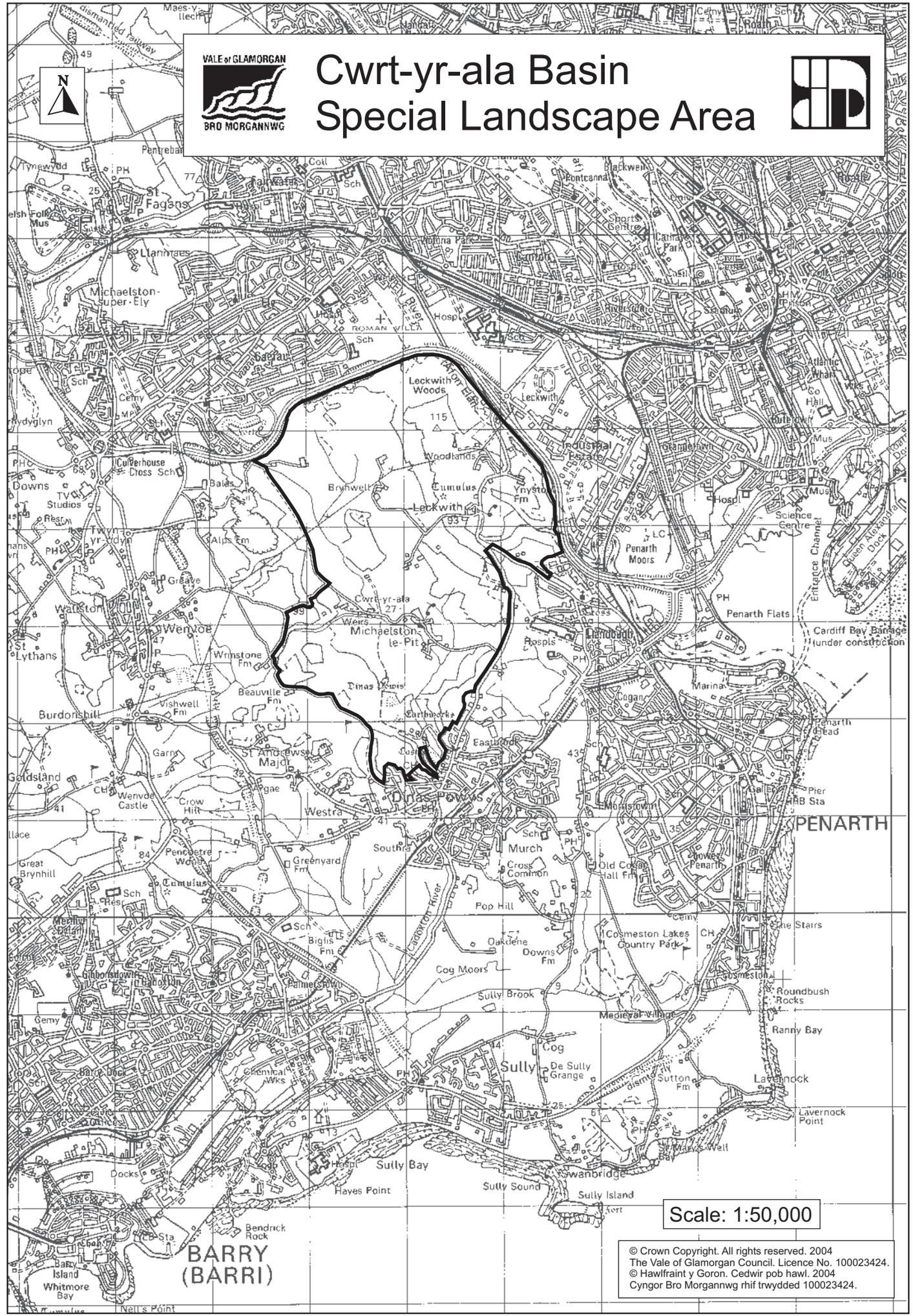


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Cwrt-yr-ala Basin Special Landscape Area



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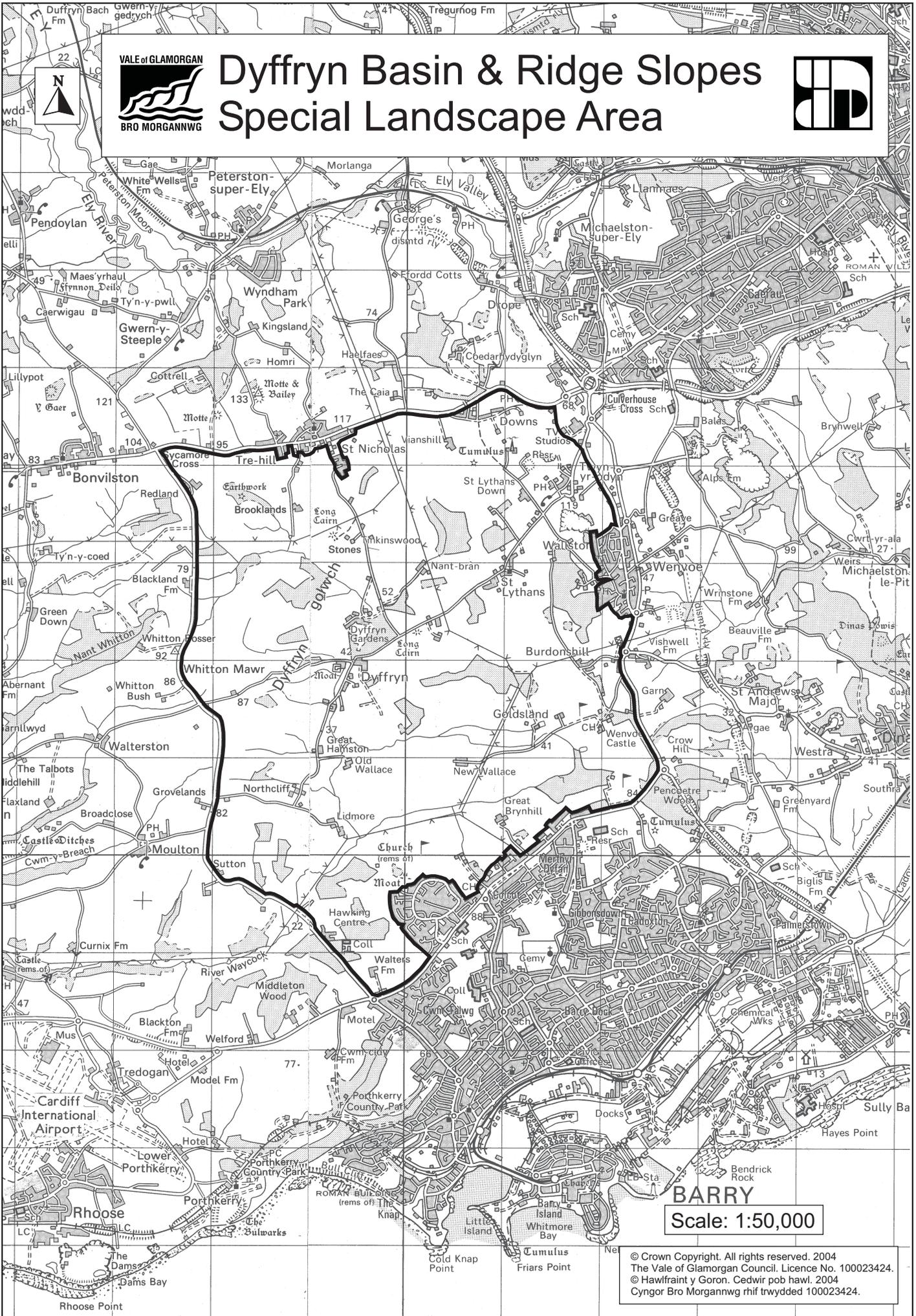
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**BARRY
(BARRI)**

PENARTH



Dyffryn Basin & Ridge Slopes Special Landscape Area

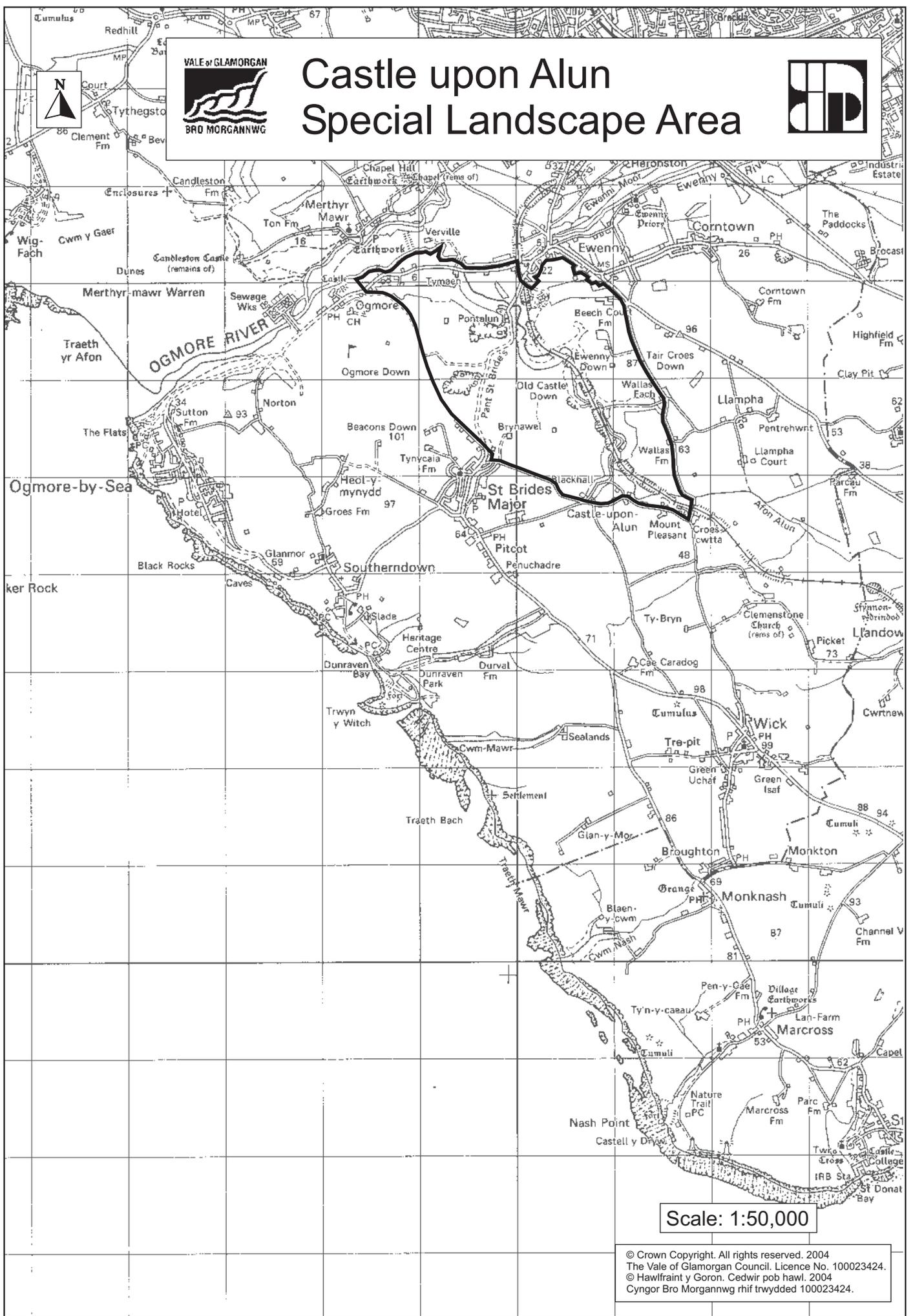


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Castle upon Alun Special Landscape Area



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The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Directorate of Economic Development, Planning,
Transportation & Highways,
Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry. CF63 4RT.