

LAND ADJACENT TO THE A48, PYLE

HEADLINE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

Final Report

for

Geraint John Planning

on behalf of Mr Thomas, Mrs Rees and Mr and Mrs Grant

November 2018

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. White Consultants were appointed on 18 September 2018 by Geraint John Planning on behalf of local landowners Mr Thomas, Mrs Rees and Mr and Mrs Grant to undertake a landscape and visual appraisal of land adjacent to the A48.
- 1.2. The site is being considered for residential-led mixed-use as part of a review of the Bridgend adopted LDP. This report forms part of an overview of the site's opportunities and constraints to form part of the candidate site submission.
- 1.3. The brief requires a headline desk-based landscape and visual appraisal of the character of the site and surrounds, capturing any designations within or adjacent to the site, along with identifying a small number of viewpoints of the site for assessment/comment.
- 1.4. The site owned by the landowners is split into two parts separated by the A48 and defined by red lines on Figure SW1. The adjacent site to the south adjacent to the M4, and delineated by a yellow line, is also being considered as part of the review. This report treats both as one, calling them 'the site'.
- 1.5. An area of around 2 km radius from the edges of the site has been studied. This is the area where there may be most potential for significant adverse visual effects. The site is likely to be visible beyond 2km (to the north and west) but effects are less likely to be significant.
- 1.6. The method used takes into account the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment, Third Edition, 2013 (GLVIA 3). However, this is a preliminary appraisal and not a landscape and visual impact assessment, so a proportionate approach has been taken in considering the key landscape and visual issues. At a later stage it may be appropriate to undertake a fuller assessment. Other guidance taken into account includes:
 - LANDMAP information Guidance Note 3, NRW/CCW, June 2010
 - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, October 2014.
 - Bridgend policies and reports eg Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) report
- 1.7. A chartered landscape architect with over 30 years experience has carried out this appraisal.
- 1.8. The report covers the key landscape policies (2.0), describes the site and the landscape context and issues (3.0), considers visual receptors and issues (4.0) and briefly summarises the report (5.0). In the appendices there are LANDMAP aspect area descriptions (**Appendix A**), a Landscape Character Area description (**Appendix B**) and Special Landscape Area descriptions (**Appendix C**).

2. Policies and designations

- 2.1. The relevant local planning document is the Bridgend Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021 adopted September 2013.
- 2.2. The key relevant landscape-related policies include:
 - SP4 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment
 - ENV1- Development in the countryside
 - ENV3- Special Landscape Areas

- ENV5- Green Infrastructure (GI)
- 2.3. Nature conservation and historic environment policies are also relevant as they relate to the adjacent areas and nearby features.
- 2.4. SLA policy ENV3 is relevant as the south eastern part of the site lies within Laleston SLA (see **Appendix B**). The policy states that development will only be permitted where:
- 1) It retains or enhances the character and distinctiveness of the SLA
 - 2) The design of the development reflects traditions of the locality in its form, materials and details, and/or assimilates itself into the wider landscape; and
 - 3) The proposed development is accompanied by a landscape assessment which takes into account the impact of the development and sets out proposals to mitigate any adverse effects.
- 2.5. Kenfig Burrows SLA lies to the west at around 2km distance. This is also an SSSI
- 2.6. The site does not lie within any national landscape designation such as National Park or Area of Outstanding Beauty.
- 2.7. Statutory access land and common lies:
- On the site in a small triangle to the south of Stormy Farm (although this needs to be verified as it is enclosed and used as improved pasture).
 - At Stormy Down Common adjacent to the east
 - On Cefn Cribwr ridge 1km to the north east.
 - At Kenfig Burrows 2km to the west.
- 2.8. There are no Scheduled Monuments on site. The nearest is Stormy Castle (a motte) which is around 350m to the east. This is not publicly accessible.
- 2.9. There are no listed buildings on the site. The nearest lie at Pyle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel within housing to the west (430m) and accommodation bridge to the north (300m away). There are no Conservation Areas within the site or 2km radius study area.
- 2.10. The nearest Historic Park and Garden is at Tythegston which is just over 2km away and is not intervisible with the site over the plateau top.
- 2.11. To the north beyond the railway, Frog Pond Wood is a nature reserve and SSSI. Stormy Down is also a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- 2.12. Public rights of way (PROW) cross the site:
- To the east between A48 and Stormy Farm.
 - North south between the A48 near Pyle to a farm track bridge over the M4.

3. Site, landscape context and issues

The site

- 3.1. The site itself forms north facing arable and improved pasture slopes falling from Stormy Down at around 95m AOD in the south east corner down to around 45m AOD on the northern edge. The field pattern is a mix of irregular and regular small-medium fields with mainly trimmed hedges and very few trees. There are some outgrown hedges within the site to the north west. There are maturing

trees associated with the A48 road corridor, some of which are pines, and on the M4 embankment to the south. There are discontinuous trees and outgrown native shrubs on the A4229 to the west. Trees and scrub lie on the northern boundary adjacent to the railway. There is a wind turbine in the field in the south eastern corner adjacent to the common and M4.

Landscape Character context

- 3.2. The relevant landscape context reports and other information includes:
- National Landscape Character Assessment, 2013
 - LANDMAP website (and Lle)
 - Designation of Special Landscape Areas, March 2010
 - Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough, July 2013
 - Neath Port Talbot LANDMAP Landscape Assessment, December 2004
- 3.3. This initial appraisal looks at the defined LANDMAP and character areas in which the site lies.

National Landscape Character Areas

- 3.4. The site is covered by two National Character Areas (NCAs). NCA 38: Swansea Bay covers the vast majority of the site. This area includes Llanelli and Swansea to the west and Neath, Port Talbot, Pyle and Porthcawl to the east. NCA 36: The Vale of Glamorgan covers the north eastern corner and runs close to the eastern boundary to the south. This includes the rural Vale, Cowbridge and Bridgend. These areas form the broad brush context but it is interesting to note that the site is considered to be in NCA 38 rather than NCA 36.

LANDMAP

- 3.5. The site is located within the following LANDMAP aspect areas. The value and management parts of the assessment are discussed as the elements of description are generally encapsulated in the Landscape Character Area (LCA) assessment described below. Full LANDMAP descriptions are in **Appendix A**.

Area in which site located prefixed by CYNON....	Overall value	Value and relevant management recommendations	Comment
VS825 Newton Down	Moderate	<p>The overall evaluation states that <i>'The area is relatively unspoilt with some attractive views outwards'</i>.</p> <p>Attractive views are to the coast and Cefn Cribwr. Detractive views include to the M4. The quarries and disused airfield to south are mentioned as detractors. The M4 and A48 are stated as having a noise and visual influence.</p> <p>Management recommendations are maintaining field boundaries so they are well maintained and not over cut back, and ensuring screening to areas such as the stone quarry.</p>	<p>The description only mentions the plateau and slopes to the south/coast, not the northern slopes which apply to the site. The detractors have now been joined by wind turbines on the plateau top. Woodland is generally effective as screening the quarries.</p>

Area in which site located prefixed by CYNON....	Overall value	Value and relevant management recommendations	Comment
HL973 Cornelly to Laleston	Outstanding	<p>The overall evaluation states that this is a <i>'remarkably rich multi - period landscape represented by prehistoric funerary monuments and hill forts, Roman occupation sites, substantial remains of mediaeval castles, monastic granges and relict settlements and field systems'</i>.</p> <p>In terms of survival, elements include Stormy Castle which lies to the east and is the remains of a 12th century motte. The remains of a monastic grange and settlement enclosures lie on Stormy Down.</p>	<p>These features do not appear to apply directly to the site itself although the field systems and other archaeological need to be investigated.</p> <p>The features to the east need to be taken into consideration.</p>
GL045 Porthcawl/N. Cornelly	Outstanding	<p>The overall evaluation states that this is an <i>'important area of Carboniferous limestone, and conformably overlain by Triassic, includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy'</i>.</p>	<p>The site lies on this geology but it is not exposed within it- the sites of interest lie to the east including quarries and an M4 cutting.</p>
LH030	Moderate	<p>The overall evaluation states <i>'generally low value habitat, small areas of broadleaved woodland and marshy grassland add some value as do areas of hedgerow'</i>.</p>	<p>The site has a number of hedgerows, some outgrown and a small area of broadleaf woodland to the north. These need to be retained where possible as part of the layout</p>
CL021 Vale of Glamorgan Rural Landscape	High	<p>The overall evaluation states that it is <i>'high as an evolved historic landscape containing many examples of human cultural activity from prehistory to the present, threatened in the 21st-century by overdevelopment'</i>. In terms of rarity it notes that <i>'this portion of the Vale is subordinate to the better-known and better regarded southern and eastern sectors'</i>. The description notes that <i>'the cultural essence of the landscape is intolerant to further encroachment by development.'</i></p>	<p>The Cultural landscape tends to be less precise than the other aspects but this statement emphasises that any proposed development would need to be sensitive and respond to the cultural/historic features of this landscape.</p>

Bridgend Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

- 3.6. The site lies within LCA 12: Newton Down Limestone Plateau. This is a large, varied LCA between Pyle and Bridgend containing plateau top, sides and lowland, and traversed by the M4 and A48. It is based largely on Newton Down Visual and Sensory LANDMAP aspect area. The full LCA description is in **Appendix B**.
- 3.7. The key characteristics relevant to the site include:
- Improved pasture with some fields of arable cultivation.
 - Closely trimmed hedgerows dividing a regular pattern of medium/large fields on the plateau.
- 3.8. The key LCA sensitivities relevant to the site with comments in italics are:
- The open, elevated downland which provides strong intervisibility with other landscapes in the County Borough- *the site is overlooked by Stormy Down to the east and Cefn Cribwr to the north.*
 - Important patches and semi-natural habitat- *again Stormy Down lies to the east and there is woodland on the northern edge of the site.*
 - Nationally important historic features including prehistoric sites- *Stormy Castle scheduled monument is a national designation and lies to the east as well as Stormy Down relict medieval settlement and grange. It is not clear if the site has any remnant field systems associated with the monastic grange on Stormy Down.*
 - Lightly settled landscape with strong rural character- *the site is open and rural with one farmstead.*
- 3.9. Guidelines to protect and conserve include:
- Protect long views to and from the elevated, open landscape including to the coast northwards towards Cefn Cribwr- *the site reaches the plateau top at 95mAOD and so is intervisible with land to the north east and west and close by locally to the south (M4 and a small length of PROWs). It also lies adjacent to Stormy Down which is higher.*
 - Protect the landscape's lightly settled character avoiding further development on the most prominent hill summits- *the site does reach hill summits when viewed from the north and west.*
- 3.10. Guidelines to manage and enhance include:
- Provide ecological connections between fragmented sites where opportunities allow- *there is an opportunity for the site to link higher value ecological areas adjacent eg Stormy Down to the east and Frog Pond Wood Local Nature Reserve/SSSI to the north of the railway.*
 - Manage hedgerow field boundaries, replanting lost or gappy hedges to strengthen field patterns- *there is an opportunity to improve some hedges building on them as green infrastructure corridors.*
- 3.11. It should be noted that to the south of the M4 the plateau top is capped with a series of woodland areas. This contrasts with the openness of the site and there may be an opportunity to bring a wooded character to the upper parts of the site to complement this and form a stronger skyline and backcloth.
- 3.12. To the north and west the settlements of Pyle and North Cornelly lie outside LCAs. The adjacent LCA to the north east bounding the corner of the site is LCA

15: Cefn Cribwr ridge and settled farmland. This has a distinct ridge character and sandstone geology which is different from the limestone of the site. The LCA to the west beyond M4 junction 37 is LCA 13: Porthcawl coastline and settled farmland. This is lowland generally orientated towards coast, skirting around the plateau to the south.

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)

- 3.13. As mentioned above, SLA 7: Laleston lies between Pyle and Bridgend and the fields within the site south of Stormy Farm and east of the A48 lie within it (see **Appendix C** for full description). The need for the SLA is defined as open agricultural landscape adjacent to Bridgend and crossed by major transport routes with potential pressure for further development to the west of Bridgend. It is stated to be a coherent area as a distinct plateau landscape rising to 100m AOD.
- 3.14. Its primary landscape qualities and features relevant to the site include:
 - The distinctive plateau area
 - Mixed farmland with fields enclosed by hedgerow boundaries
 - M4, A48 and Swansea - Paddington railway line which create local corridors of visual and sensory detractor.
- 3.15. Development would change the character of the plateau area if located on the higher ground and the mixed farmland character, although hedgerow boundaries may be retained in part.
- 3.16. The key policy and management issues include the mitigation of visual and sensory detractors.
- 3.17. The eastern tip of SLA6: Kenfig Burrows lies just within 2km of the site but its qualities are unlikely to be adversely affected due to distance and the intervening settlement.

Issues

- 3.18. The key landscape issues to take into consideration in master planning are as follows:
 - The SLA potentially limits development especially to the south and careful treatment is needed. To meet policy, the development should assimilate itself into the wider landscape and include proposals to mitigate any adverse effects.
 - The site forms the north western corner of the limestone plateau and its convex slopes create a substantial change in level. There are three high gently crowned points along the southern edge and gentle ridges running north and north west. These form the skyline in places. There is also a steep slope within the site to the west on the southern edge by the M4. Along with its limited tree cover, this means the site is open to wide view to the north and west. High points (as LCA 12 guidance in **Appendix B**) and steep slopes should be avoided for built development. Development should be kept below skyline where possible (using vegetation and landform). These areas offer an opportunity for GI- including woodland, access, recreation and open space allowing wide views, including to Swansea Bay, the Margam scarp slope and Cefn Cribwr.
 - Stormy Down's heritage and nature conservation interest and recreational use offers both constraints in terms of careful treatment of this edge and

opportunities for recreation and improving access to the area through the site.

- Stormy Castle's setting- screening on eastern boundary is needed. This is more of a heritage asset setting issue than a landscape/visual issue as the site is not publicly accessible.
- Hedgerow pattern- retain where possible especially to the south and irregular and outgrown field boundaries, using as basis for GI. The ecological survey will identify the most valuable hedgerows and the archaeological study may be able to identify more important historic patterns.
- Trees such along northern edge along the railway should be retained where possible.
- Trees along A48 and A4229 appear to be outside the site boundaries but should be retained where possible, especially along the A48 where the trees often form the skyline.
- Water course corridors and water bodies should be retained where possible as part of GI eg north of Stormy Farm and reinforce link with Frog Pond Wood LNR to the north.

4. Visual receptors and issues

Broad zone of theoretical visibility

- 4.1. The site has been visited to assess views out and various representative and specific viewpoints within 2km have been located and photographs taken using a full frame digital camera with 50mm fixed lens. This, combined with desk study of topography and vegetation has led to the definition of a broad zone of theoretical visibility with the site which includes:
- West and west south west to the coast including Kenfig Burrows and Port Talbot in the distance with areas screened locally by minor ridge lines, vegetation and built form such as North Cornelly. Near views limited largely to roads.
 - North and north west including Margam scarp slope and the rising slopes of the Coalfield Plateau.
 - North and north east to the low-lying land and Cefn Cribwr ridge top including the settlements of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Village Farm industrial estate. Buildings and vegetation locally limit views.
 - Limited views to the east due to Stormy Down, being most open locally, and then increasingly screened by woodland and hedges on oblique north or south facing slopes.
 - Very limited views to the south due to the plateau top topography with woodland. Views are from the M4, A48, a minor road and a limited length of footpath.
- 4.2. The most visible parts of the site appear to be the upper slopes and tops especially to the west. The northern parts of the site at a lower level appear to be more discreet with intervening vegetation and topography.
- 4.3. These findings have not been verified by a GIS based ZTV at this stage.

- 4.4. The main visual receptors are discussed below and representative and specific viewpoints are set out in **Figure SW1** and **photographs** with commentary in **Appendix D**.

Users of the public rights of way (PROWs) and Open Access/Common Land

- 4.5. Users of public rights of way and open access land tend to be sensitive to changes in the landscape around them. There are two footpaths within the site. The footpath to the west runs up the slope from the A48 to a high point and then over a farm bridge on the M4 to a lane to the south. This does not appear to be well used due to the extent of brambles impeding access through stiles. This path allows wide views to the west to the coast and to the north-west including the Margam Scarp. These views are particularly apparent on the western higher ground (see **Photo D**), but the noise and movement of the M4 is also apparent here. Development would be likely to adversely affect users of this footpath. However, there is potential for this footpath to form part of a better connected network linking to the east including Stormy Down.
- 4.6. The footpath to the east runs from the A48 to Stormy Farm. There are views to the Cefn Cribwr ridge to the north east (see **Photo B**). Development would be likely to adversely affect users of this footpath which forms the boundary of the Laleston SLA. However, this path also has potential for forming part of a better connected network including to Stormy Down.
- 4.7. To the east, users of Stormy Down footpaths and common land on its western and northern parts have views of the site and would have views of development (see **Photo E**). The area is in the SLA but does not appear to be very well used due to inconvenient access away from settlements and the current management and possibly the presence of detractors such as the M4 and wind turbines. However, effects are likely to be adverse and careful siting of development and mitigation is needed to minimise effects, especially on the eastern boundary.
- 4.8. To the north/north east footpaths on the Cefn Cribwr ridge and its southern slopes would have views of the development. A significant spread of the site, especially its tops and upper slopes are apparent. Views are from open areas such as common land on the ridge (see **Photo F**) or where views from footpaths are unimpeded by the mostly outgrown hedgerows.
- 4.9. There would be largely oblique views from public footpath on the the Margam scarp and coalfield plateau slopes to the north west at a distance. These would look down on the site and it would be seen in the context of the extended urban settlement of Pyle, Kenfig Hill and North Cornelly.
- 4.10. To the west, there are views from parts of the Kenfig Burrows which is open access land and from some footpaths in the surrounding low-lying landscape (see **Photos G and H**). The site is seen as part of the rising rural slopes of the Vale plateau in the context of the adjacent urban settlements and the M4 as well as the wooded plateau to the south. Development on the upper slopes and skyline would be apparent, extending the settlement.
- 4.11. The site would have very limited, if any visibility, from the Wales Coast Path at a distance. There would be no visibility from other National Trails or from locally promoted paths in Bridgend. Regional trails in Neath Port Talbot may have views at a significant distance.

Road and rail users

- 4.12. Road and rail users can have up to moderate sensitivity depending on the purpose of the travel and the character of the road. Users of the adjacent M4

- travelling east would have semi-direct views into the south western part of the site where the site forms the local skyline with steep slopes in places. Any development on the skyline or steep slopes would be prominent. Vegetation on the road embankment largely screens the site further east although there are some minor gaps. There are also long distance oblique views of the top of the site from the M4 further west beyond Kenfig.
- 4.13. Users of the M4 travelling west would have more limited oblique views, mostly of the local skyline and slopes to the south west of the site.
 - 4.14. Users of A48 have glimpse views across the site from the south east towards the Margam scarp. Maturing trees and scrubby vegetation along the road within the highway boundary tend to channel views and screen the adjacent site. However there are stretches where low trimmed hedges and other gaps allow views into the site which forms the local skyline to the south and west. At present the busy road has a semi-rural character.
 - 4.15. Users of the busy A4229 to the west have intermittent views into the site at close range through gaps in the outgrown hedges with maturing trees. The sloping site forms the local skyline. The road has an urban/rural edge character linking the M4 with Pyle.
 - 4.16. Users of the mainline Swansea-Cardiff/London railway adjacent to the site have intermittent/glimpse views into the site, with the lower parts being visible in the foreground rising to the skyline. Most views are screened by intervening scrubby vegetation or buildings.

Residents

- 4.17. Rural residents are sensitive receptors. Within the site at Stormy Farm and Ty Draw bungalow would be adversely affected if they remain. These properties are occupied by owners who support the development of the site and it is possible that these properties may be removed as part of the development. There are no other nearby residents who would have views from the north and west. Ballas Farm and Ballas Cottage to the south appear to be screened from the site by existing woodland.
- 4.18. Some Cefn Cribwr residents and nearby farms on the ridge slopes have wide views of the site as part of the largely rural Vale plateau and slopes similar to **Photo F**. Development on the upper slopes would be noticeable seen against the treed backcloth of the plateau top and in the context of wind turbines.
- 4.19. Residents in urban settlements are less sensitive than rural residents. Residents in North Cornelly may have views from some east facing slopes but it would be seen in the context of the surrounding 20th-century settlement (see **Photo G**).
- 4.20. Residents in Pyle and Kenfig Hill may have views of the site beyond Village Farm Industrial Estate. As with North Cornelly they would see the site within and beyond a built context. However, the character of the site acting as a rural backcloth to the settlement would change if development rises to the upper slopes and tops. Development would be seen in the context of the woods to the south as well as wind turbines to the south east.

Cynffig Comprehensive School

- 4.21. The school lies to the north adjacent to the industrial estate and has views across its sports fields towards the site. There would be variable sensitivity as most school children and staff will be concentrating on school matters and sport. Trees on the A48 form the skyline and the rising rural slopes are apparent. Development would be visible from this location within the context of the adjacent development.

Visitors to historic features

- 4.22. There may be effects on visitors to the medieval settlement on Stormy Down but this appears of generally limited visibility and intervisibility on the ground. Stormy Castle scheduled monument is not publicly accessible. There are also no effects on visitors to Historic Parks and Gardens, listed buildings or Conservation Areas.

Issues

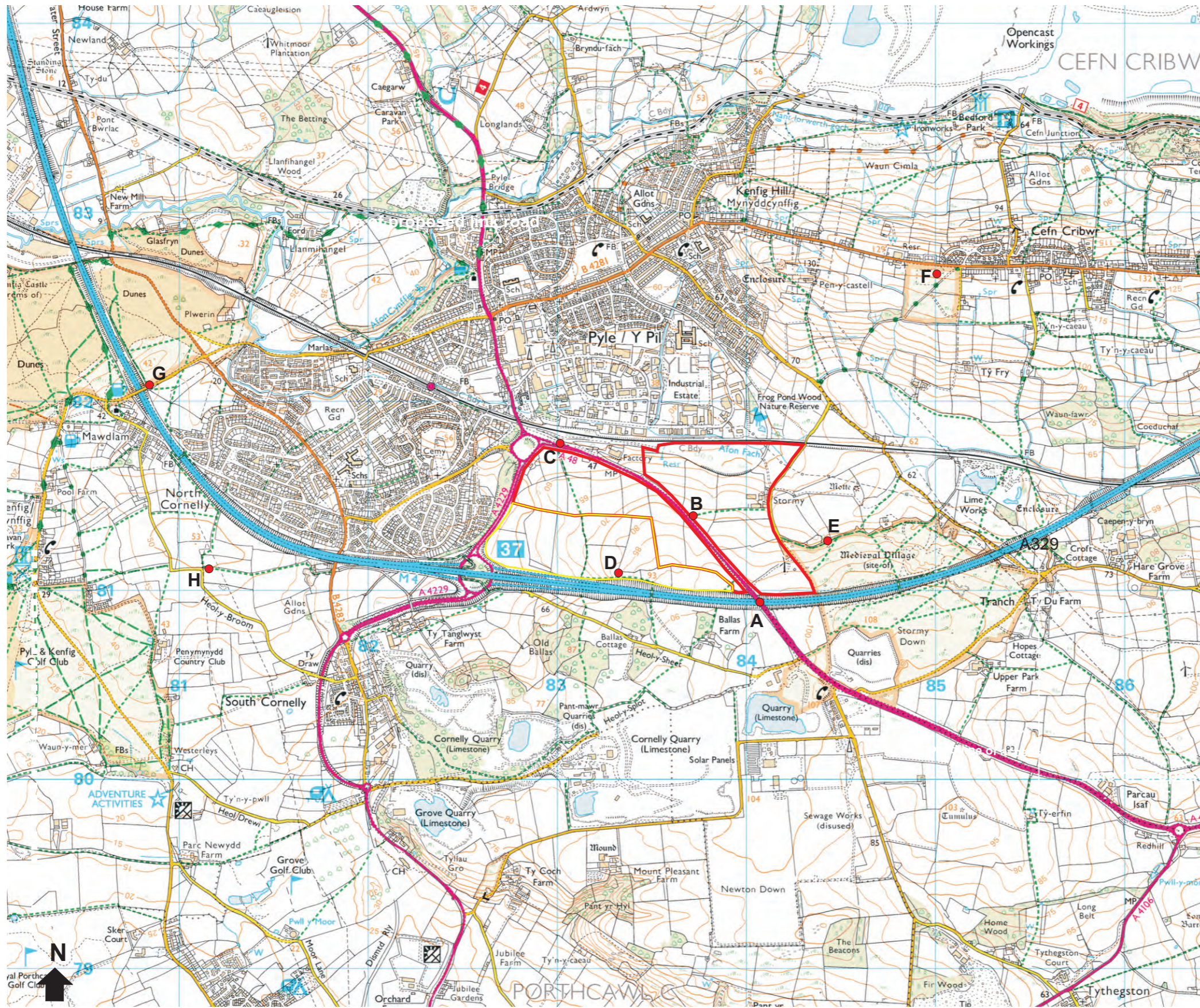
- 4.23. The key visual issues to take into consideration in master planning are as follows:
- Visually the site is open and exposed to views from the north, west and locally to the east as well as views from the M4 to the south.
 - The site acts as skyline in many views and it would be appropriate to use siting of development and green infrastructure to make vegetation form the backcloth and skyline from the more sensitive views.
 - The most sensitive parts are the three high points, upper slopes and associated minor ridges, and the steep slope to the west on the southern edge.
 - The least sensitive areas lie to the north and west on the lower slopes/flat areas. The bulk of higher density development should be located within these areas.
 - The PROWs within and adjacent to the site would be adversely affected but offer a basis for GI corridors improving links east-west (especially along the southern edge of the site) and north-south linking towards Pyle.
 - Views from Stormy Down to the east are potentially sensitive and mitigation on the eastern boundary and avoiding development on the tops and skyline would be desirable.
 - The site is exposed to view from the M4 to the south as the landform rolls over towards the road and forms the skyline. Making development as discreet as possible and avoiding development on the tops and slopes facing the M4 would be highly desirable to minimise effects. A broad green corridor along the M4 would also aid GI- in terms of nature conservation and recreation. The south-western fields at the lower level along the A4229/M4 junction are not so sensitive on this boundary.
 - The A48 gateway to the south east is sensitive as it feels like open country on the plateau top with long views to the Margam scarp. Development in this corner is not desirable.
 - The woodlands on the plateau top to the south assist in forming a backcloth to views and form the skyline from higher viewpoints. There is merit in extending this character into the site to reduce the harsh boundary caused by the M4 as well as to form a skyline, backcloth and screen to development.
 - The high points of the site also offer opportunities for views to Swansea Bay to the west and to Cefn Cribwr and the South Wales coalfield to the north.
 - Close views from sensitive residential receptors appear limited and many views are within the context of existing settlement. Development at lower levels is less constrained although existing and proposed vegetation

should be used where possible to avoid skylines and integrate the development.

5. Summary

- 5.1. In summary, the site offers a number of landscape and visual constraints but a sensitively located and designed development which responds to these constraints could provide an appropriate urban extension to Pyle/North Cornelly.
- 5.2. The main constraints are:
 - Laleston SLA.
 - Plateau tops, skylines and steep upper slopes on the edge of Newton Down which are widely visible to the north and west.
 - Trees along the A48.
 - Outgrown hedgerows.
 - Views in from Stormy Down and related historic features.
- 5.3. The site offers opportunities for better connected footpaths and green infrastructure linking Pyle with Stormy Down and points to the south. The wooded character of the plateau top to the south could be extended onto the site to act as a wooded backcloth and skyline.

PHOTOS AND LOCATION MAP



- KEY**
- F ● Photo viewpoint
 - Site boundary
 - Land outside ownership in LDP review

Scale: 1km

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Figure SW1: Photo Viewpoint Location Plan

Vegetation on the edge of the site along the M4

Glimpse views of Margam scarp in gaps in vegetation



Photo Viewpoint A: View from A48 approach from south east

Site within Laleston SLA

Kenfig Hill

Village Farm Industrial estate

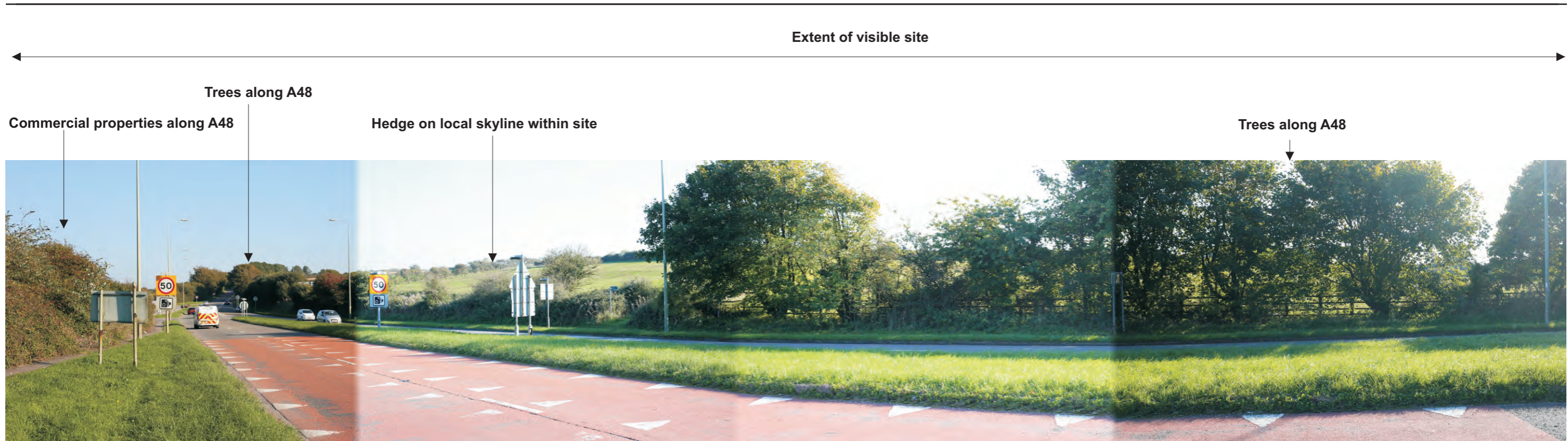
Cefn Cribwr

Stormy Farm

Stormy Down Common rising to the east



Photo Viewpoint B: View from public footpath adjacent to A48 looking east



Commercial properties along A48

Trees along A48

Hedge on local skyline within site

Trees along A48

Photo Viewpoint C: View from A48 looking south east



M4

Exposed steep slope

Long views to Swansea Bay and Gower

Margam scarp slope

Minor ridge top

Photo Viewpoint D: View from public footpath on southern boundary of the site looking west

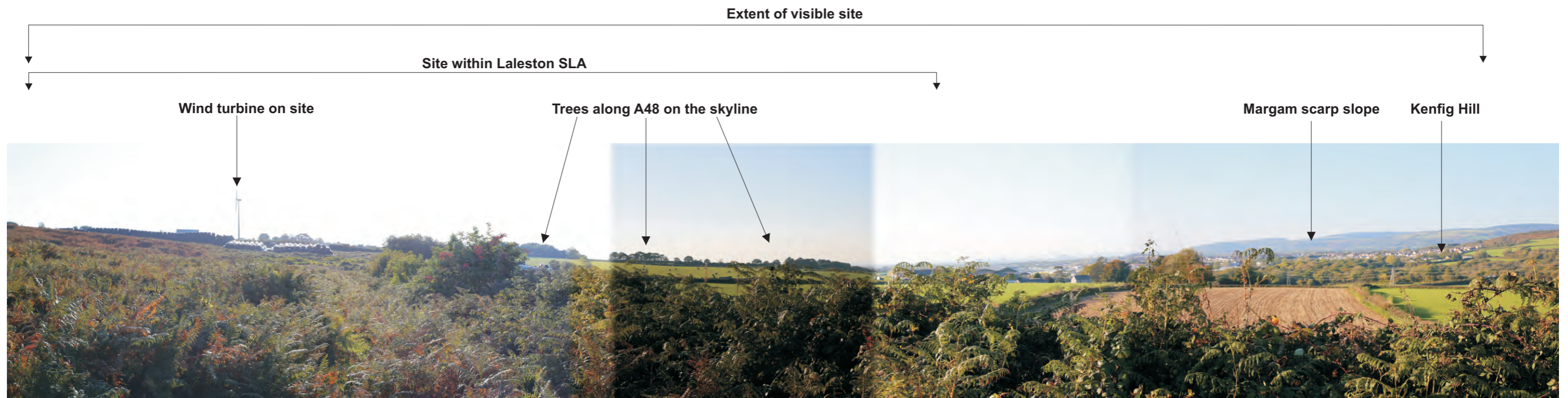


Photo Viewpoint E: View from Stormy Down Common northern footpath looking west



Extent of visible site

Wind turbine and commercial use on plateau south of M4

Woodland on plateau top south of the site Area of high ground on site visible to north and west

Photo Viewpoint F: View from Cefn Cribwr common land/open space

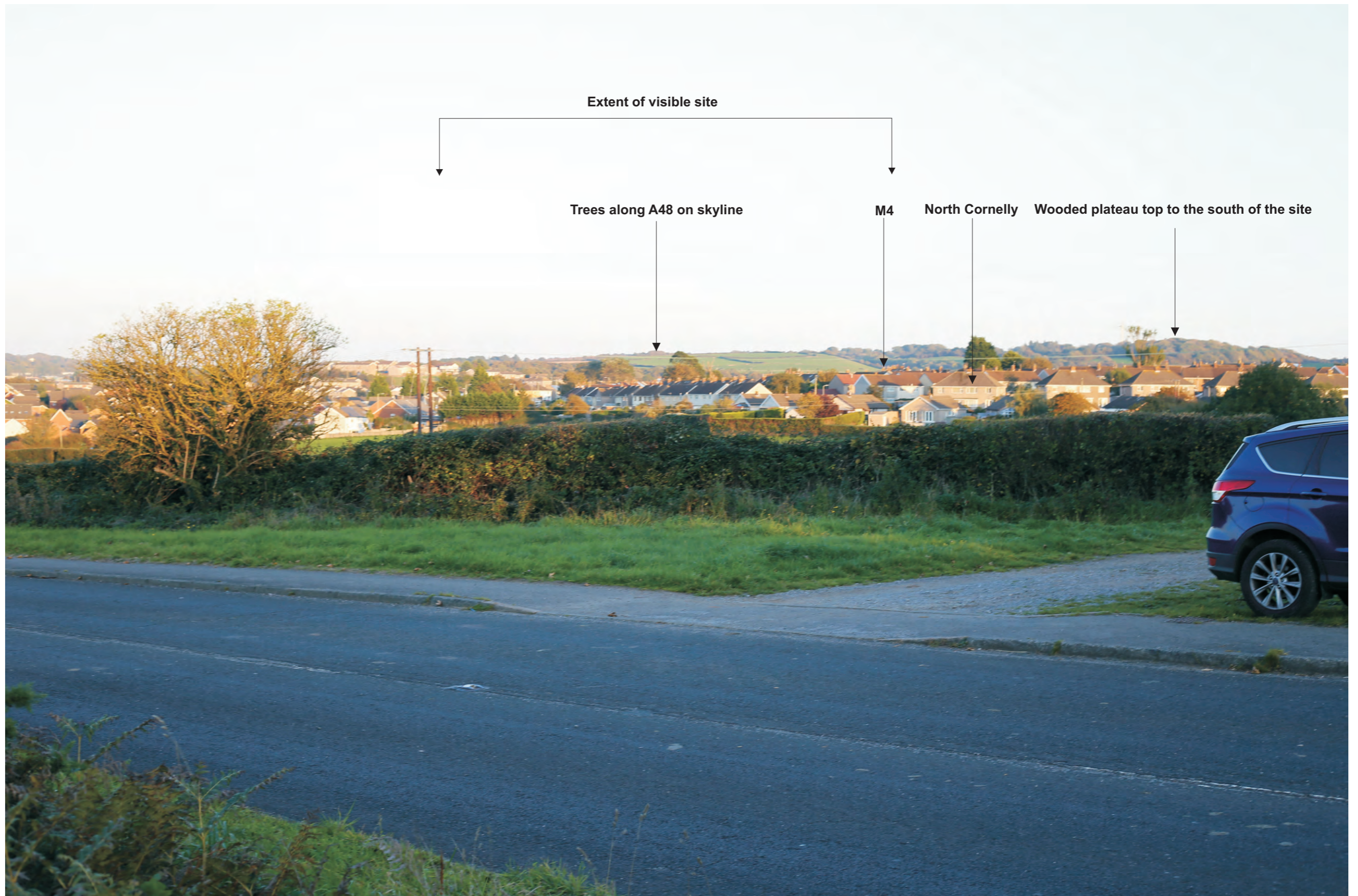


Photo Viewpoint G: View from edge of Kenfig Dunes looking east north of Mawdlam

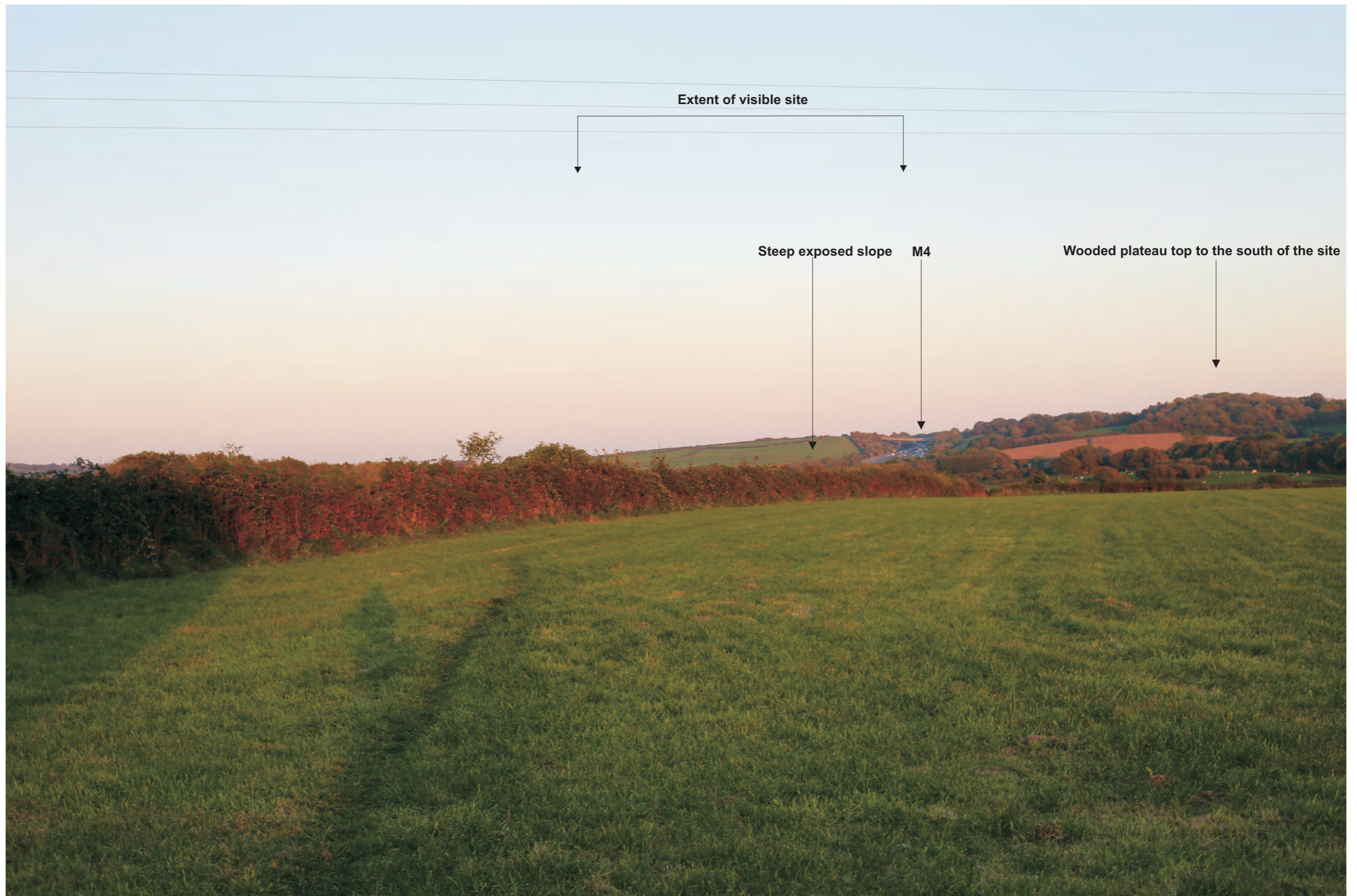
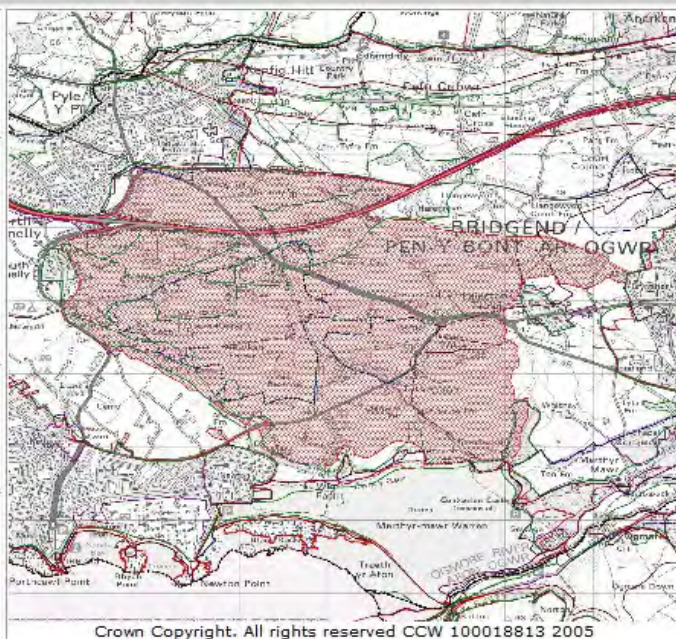


Photo Viewpoint E: View from public footpath south east of Mawdlam looking east

**APPENDIX A:
LANDMAP ASPECT AREAS IN WHICH THE SITE IS LOCATED**

Visual and Sensory

Aspect Area Name	Newton Down
Aspect Area Classification	Lowland/Rolling Lowland/Open Rolling Lowland (Level 3)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONVS825
Date Of Survey : 05/04/2006	



Description

Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?	Plateaux
Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?	Field Pattern/Mosaic
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Open
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Simple
Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?	Angular
Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?	Muted
Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?	Balanced
Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?	Neutral
Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?	Organised
Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?	None
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Frequent
Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?	Slight (Little settlement present, but A48 and M4 does cut across the area.)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	Notwithstanding the incongruous land uses (industrial units on disused airfield etc.) the main building materials are stone or rendered stone.
There are attractive views...out (There are views out to the coast, particularly from the top of the slope that is along the southern edge of the Aspect Area. Also views to Cefn Cribwr to the north from certain points.)
There are detractive views...	...both in and out (There are views out to the M4. Within the area there are limited views to within the large stone quarry, which is well screened however.)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Exposed (On the top of the plateau can be quite exposed.) Settled (The area did appear to be settled, certainly this is the case away from the two main road corridors that influence this area (M4, A48).)
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Moderate (The M4, and views to the coast give the area a certain sense of place but are far from being features unique to the Aspect Area.)

Evaluation

Value:	Moderate (The area is relatively unspoilt with some attractive views outwards.)
Condition:	Fair (No obvious signs of degradation.)
Trend:	Constant

Recommendations

Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	N/A
Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	N/A
Define the key qualities that should be changed:	N/A
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Field Boundaries.
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	N/A
Define the key elements that should be changed:	N/A
Principal management recommendation:	Manage field boundaries so that they are well maintained but not overly cut back.

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?	No
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Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most (N/A)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (OS Landline (digitised), OS maps, Phase 1 (digitised).)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	They encompass an area of raised plateau farmland and on the southern side the steepish slopes that lead up to this. The boundaries are generally formed by the lower land surrounding it or where slopes fall away from the plateau. Also forming a boundary is developed areas such as Pyle and North Cornelly.

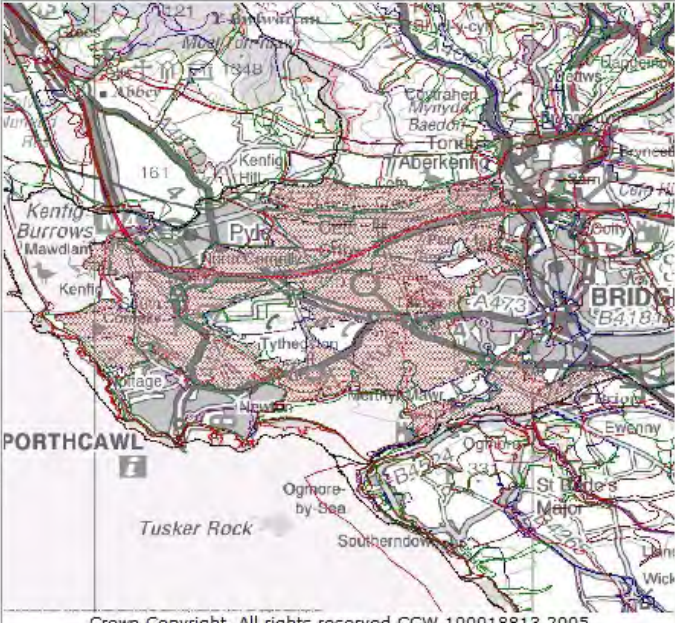
Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	OS data.
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	N/A
Additional Comments	N/A
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate (All criteria moderate.)
Justification of overall evaluation	All criteria are moderate with no obvious very valuable areas and no detractors significant enough to reduce value to low.
Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate (Some attractive views out to coast.)
Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	Moderate (Generally unspoilt, with some notable exceptions/detractors e.g. stone quarry and disused airfield.)
Evaluation Criteria: Character	Moderate (Area has a moderate sense of place.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	Moderate (Not a particularly rare landscape.)
Description	
Summary Description	This area is largely comprised of a raised plateau at approximately 100m AOD, the area also includes the slope that runs downwards to the level lowlands of the Porthcawl hinterland to the south. The area is predominantly farmland with both arable and pastoral elements being present within field enclosures bordered by hedgerows. On top of the plateau there is an open exposed feel. There are views out to Porthcawl and the coast from the southern slopes. Within the landscape there are a number of incongruous elements such as a stone quarry, civic amenity site and old airfield/semi-derelict industrial site, these are quite well screened from the surrounding landscape however. The M4 and A48 both pass through the Aspect Area and have both a visual and noise influence.
Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Scattered Rural/Farm
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Managed Hedge
Recommendations	
Guideline	Long Term (Manage field boundaries so that they are well maintained but not overly cut back.) Long Term (Ensure that the screening to areas such as the stone quarry is maintained and continues to be adequate.)
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Much of the landscape is managed as farmland and as such appears to be in a reasonable condition.
Monitoring	
Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Driven through with various stops to check views.)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
Date of monitoring?	2012-12-01
Monitoring undertaken by	Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Historic Landscape

Aspect Area Name	H19 Cornelly to Laleston 1	
Aspect Area Classification	Rural environment/Agricultural/Other fieldscapes (Level 3)	
Aspect Area Code	CYNONHL973	
Date Of Survey	05/12/2003	

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Description

If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Irregular Fieldscapes <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Fieldscapes <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland <input type="checkbox"/> Marginal Land <input type="checkbox"/> Nucleated Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Extractive <input type="checkbox"/> Designed Landscape
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Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (1:25,000 ...)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (Part of the same historic fieldscape as H34 (CynonHL991); fragmented as a result of the growth of Bridgend; H21 Cwrt Colman (Cynon HL342), H26 Tythegston Court (Cynon HL179) and H29 Merthyr Mawr (Cynon HL231) are gentry houses related to this area; additional grazing provided in H27 Newton Down (CynonHL336) before enclosure...)

Description

Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow With Trees <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgebank <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Wire Fence <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden Fence <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Drainage
What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Buried-dry <input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Earthworks <input type="checkbox"/> Relict-Stone Monuments <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings & Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Archaeology
Which chronological period is dominant in the area?	Medieval (to 1536)
Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?	Yes (Characterisation carried out in 2003 by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT report 2003/081) Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam; CynonHL973 includes HLCAs 007, 009, 014, 017 and 018, but is not limited by them)
Are there SMR sites here?	Yes
Are there SAMs here?	Yes (GM050 New Inn Bridge, GM095 Candleston Castle, GM102 Cae Summerhouse Camp, GM214 Cross in Tythegston Churchyard, GM217 Stormy Castle, GM237 Remains of Llangewydd Church & Churchyard, GM240 Pen-y-Castell Camp, GM241 Cefn Cross Standing Stone, GM417 Cefn Cribwr Ironworks, GM465 Vervil Dyke, GM587 Dan-y-Graig Roman villa.)
Are there Listed Buildings here?	Yes
Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	No
Are there Conservation Areas here?	Yes
Are there World Heritage Sites here?	No
Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?	Yes

Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Landline
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Cefn Cribwr was considered as a possible separate aspect area... However, unlike Newton Down, the boundaries of the parliamentary enclosure on Cefn Cribwr cannot easily be traced, and it was considered inappropriate to attempt to separate it out at Level 3... H19 and H34 are only considered as separate aspect areas due to modern landscape severance...

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	Tithe maps for the parishes of Pyle and Kenfig, Newton Nottage, Tythegston, Merthyr Mawr, Laleston and Newcastle Successive OS 6' maps Granville, N, 1980, Cefn Cribwr: Chronicle of a village
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	
Additional Comments	

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding
Justification of overall evaluation	This area has been assessed as outstanding, based on the fact that it constitutes a remarkably rich multi-period landscape with evidence of human activity ranging from the Mesolithic period up to the present day, represented by prehistoric funerary monuments and hillforts, Roman occupation sites, substantial remains of medieval castles, manor houses and relict settlements and field systems.

Evaluation

Condition:	Unassessed
Value:	Outstanding (This area has been assessed as outstanding, based on the fact that it constitutes a remarkably rich multi-period landscape with evidence of human activity ranging from the Mesolithic period up to the present day, represented by prehistoric funerary monuments and hillforts, Roman occupation sites, substantial remains of medieval castles, monastic granges and relict settlements and field systems.)
Trend:	Unassessed

Recommendations

Existing management	Unassessed
Existing management remarks:	
Principal management recommendations	
Guideline	

Description

Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements	A rural area characterised by relatively regular field systems. The villages of Laleston, Cefn Cribwr, Mawdlam, Kenfig and South Cornelly are found within the area, which also has the M4 running through its landscape on an east-west axis. There are a number of solar farms within the aspect area.
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If Classification is "Other", specify here

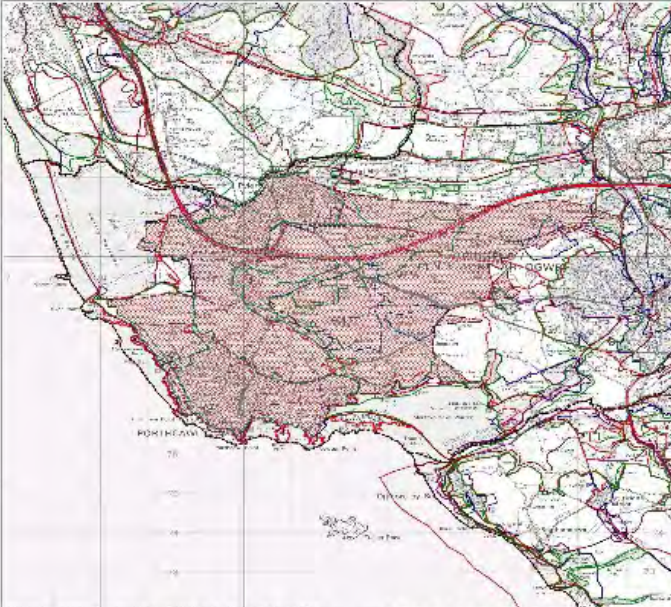
Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Integrity	High (The dominant landscape pattern in this area, characterised by a complex, mixed fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval origin with elements of regular and irregular enclosure, is coherent in visual terms, although its coherence has been disrupted to a certain extent by the M4 motorway, which crosses through the northern half of the aspect area, and its associated slip roads.)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential	Outstanding (This area has been covered by a detailed historic landscape characterisation (Roberts, 2003), forming HLCA's 007, 009, 014, 017 and 018 within the Merthyr Mawr and Margam Burrows historic landscape, however there remains significant potential for further investigation. Although the majority of the prehistoric and medieval monuments within the area have been surveyed by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW, 1976; RCAHMW, 1982), a comprehensive, up to date assessment of the surviving resource would be extremely valuable, taking into account an increasing number of new sites recently identified by aerial photography (such as a probable long barrow site at Witland, N of Tythegston and the earthworks of a monastic grange on Stormy Down). The Neolithic long barrow sites at Tythegston, Witland and Laleston and the Bronze Age barrows at Sker and Tythegston have yet to be fully investigated. The extensive remains of the castles and associated settlement enclosures at Llangewydd and Stormy Down, together with a series of monastic granges within the aspect area, together with associated field systems, especially merit a further programme of detailed study (comprising documentary research, geophysical survey and targeted excavation.)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity	High (Other irregular fieldscapes exist within the Bridgend UA, however this area is distinguished by the remarkable diversity of the archaeological with evidence of human activity ranging from early prehistory up to the present day. This aspect area is also distinguished by a exceptional concentration of remains in the area relating to a series of medieval granges belonging to the Cistercian abbeys of Margam and Neath.)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	Outstanding (The complex, mixed fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval date, defined by an intricate network of hedgerows and hedgebanks, has generally survived in a good condition across the aspect area, although the construction of the M4 motorway and associated slip roads has resulted in the destruction of some field boundaries. The archaeological record in this area is remarkably diverse, with evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic period. Numerous lithic finds of prehistoric date have been found across the area, while the earliest monuments are Neolithic in date, represented by two long barrow sites near Tythegston (GGAT PRN 00287m) and another at Laleston (GGAT PRN 4574m), while Bronze Age funerary activity is represented by several round barrow sites at Tythegston and Sker (GGAT PRN 00229m; GGAT PRN 00356m, PRN 00357m; PRN 00358m) and two, possibly three standing stones on Cefn Cribwr (GGAT PRN 00165m; PRN 00166m; PRN 00167m). Iron Age settlement is evidenced by the remains of hillforts at Pen-y-castell (now partially destroyed by quarrying) and several other smaller defended enclosures, while Roman occupation is attested by a villa/farmstead site at Dan-y-Graig just N of Porthcawl (GGAT PRN 00218m). Medieval settlement is very well-represented within the aspect area, including the earthworks of two 12th century mottes and associated deserted settlements at Stormy Down (GGAT PRN 00158m; 00907m) and Llangewydd (GGAT PRN 01151m; 01149m) and the remains of a 14th century castle and deserted settlement at Candleston (GGAT PRN 00258m; PRN 00256m), as well as by the earthwork and masonry remains of substantial medieval monastic granges at Horegrove, Llangewydd, Sker, Stormy and Tanglwst.)
Evaluation Criteria: Condition	High

Monitoring

Date of monitoring?	2017-03-15
Monitoring undertaken by	Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT) for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor. Trysor have completed the monitoring amendments to the changed surveys and the WATs to the GIS boundaries
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area
Change indicated by	OS Data, Aerial Photographs
What has changed?	

Geological Landscape

Aspect Area Name	Porthcawl/N. Cornelly	
Aspect Area Classification	Lowland hills and valleys/Dissected lowland plateau/Lowland plateau (Level 3)	
Aspect Area Code	CYNOGL045	
Date Of Survey	24/04/2000	

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Description

What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?	Low-level plateau in S- and N-dipping Dinantian limestones (Lower Carboniferous) overlain unconformably by Triassic marginal deposits & dissected by head-filled cwms..... Limestone folded & thrust into Cowbridge antiform & associated synform & cut by NW-SE Newton fault zone..... Patches of glacial sand/gravel..... Major working limestone quarries & disused haematite mines & waste tips.....
What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?	Lowland plateau
Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?	Stratigraphic formation(s) (Carboniferous limestone, Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group marginal facies) Superficial deposits (Head, alluvium, glacial silt/clay) Structural features (E-W regional Cowbridge antiform and synform, NW-SE Newton fault zone) Active processes (Fluvial) Past processes (Glacial)
What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?	Mineral workings Rock cliff and shore Coastal flat
What Level 4 components are notable in this area?	Plateau Coal / mineral spoil tips Cliff Lagoon/lake/pool (natural) Slope Hill top Scarp slope Scarp Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit Urban / industrial development
What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?	Fluvial Coastal
Are there components of significant hydrological importance?	Yes (Cynfig, Ogwr valleys.....)
Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?	No
Is there current mineral extraction?	Yes (Limestone)
Has there been mineral extraction in the past?	Yes (Limestone, iron mines.....)
Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?	Yes (Stormy Down SSSI (Rhaetian, Triassic stratigraphy))
Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?	Yes (Stormy Down Quarry (RIGSID 618): Carboniferous (Dinantian); Pant Mawr Quarry (RIGSID 619): Abandoned quarry face; Gaen Quarry (RIGSID 620): Carboniferous (Dinantian); Lock's Common, Porthcawl (RIGSID 621): Carboniferous (Dinantian) / Karst...)

Evaluation

Value	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Condition	Good (Dominantly rural area with excellent geological exposure in quarries.....)
Trend	Constant (Dominantly rural area with excellent geological exposure in quarries.....)

Recommendations

Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Principal management recommendations	Maintain natural system and maintain SSSI in favourable condition by implementation of management plans and ensure that RIGS are safeguarded using Local Plan policies and constraint mapping and that other features of particular geological or geomorphological significance in the area are not lost/damaged due to development, etc...
Guideline	Long Term (Maintain SSSI in favourable condition by implementation of management plans and ensure that RIGS are safeguarded using Local Plan policies and constraint mapping ...) Medium Term (Maintain natural systems and ensure that other features of particular geological or geomorphological significance in the area are not lost/damaged due to development, etc...)

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?	Yes (Ensure that no significant features of geological or geomorphological significance are lost/damaged due to development or inappropriate restoration of quarries, etc..... Ensure that SSSI is maintained in favourable condition by implementation of management plan and RIGS site is protected through Local Plan policies and constraint mapping..... No net loss of key geological/geomorphological features should be considered acceptable...)
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Aspect Area Boundary

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 3
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	None (Aspect Area boundaries plotted at 1:25,000.....)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (1:50 000 BGS Geological map sheet; 1:25 000 OS Explorer map sheet; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution). Aerial photographs used to exclude coastal foreshore area (LANDMAP monitoring project, 2012-2013) not placed in CynonGL052.)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000

What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	AA corresponds to outcrop of Carboniferous limestone, excluding sand dune and foreshore areas.
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Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Research Value	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Evaluation Criteria: Educational Value	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Evaluation Criteria: Historical Value	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Evaluation Criteria: Classic Example	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding (Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...)
Justification of overall evaluation	Important area of Carboniferous limestone, unconformably overlain by Triassic - includes nationally important site for Triassic geology at Stormy Down SSSI, also four RIGS for Carboniferous stratigraphy...

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	1:50 000 BGS Geological Map Sheet E261, and parts of 262 Bridgend (S&D) 1990; 1:25 000 Explorer Map Sheet 151 Cardiff & Bridgend, 1998; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution); 1:100 000 Groundwater Vulnerability Map, Environment Agency..... Sheet 36, Gwent, South and Mid Glamorgan, 1996; 1:100 000 Groundwater Vulnerability Map, Environment Agency..... Sheet 35 West Glamorgan, 1990; 1:625 000 Geological Map of the UK: Quaternary Geology, S sheet, 1977; Wilson, D..... Davies, J..... R..... Fletcher, C..... J..... N..... and Smith, M....., 1990..... Geology of the South Wales Coalfield, Part 6, the country around Bridgend..... Memoir of the British Geological Survey, Sheet 261 and 262, (England and Wales), HMSO, London, 1990, 62pp.....
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Assessment

Additional Assessments	South Wales RIGS survey (2013); LANDMAP monitoring project (2012-2013)...
Additional Comments	Additional Level 4 features include: Stream; Disused quarry.....

Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Field visit 2/2012.)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No

Description

If Classification is "Other", specify here	N/A
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Recommendations

Existing management remarks:	Dominantly rural area with excellent geological exposure in quarries.....
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Description

Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?	Sedimentary
Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?	Carboniferous
Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?	Limestone

Monitoring

Date of monitoring?	2012-03-01
Monitoring undertaken by	K...N... Page (Geodiversity and Landscape Specialist) in conjunction with L...Cherns (University of Cardiff) at the change detection stage of the monitoring process and with input from the local planning authority (2012-2013)...
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available
Change indicated by	Policies, plans & information resources (South Wales RIGS survey (2013)...) OS Data, Aerial Photographs (South Wales RIGS survey (2013); LANDMAP monitoring project (2012-2013).) Fieldwork
What has changed?	

Landscape Habitats

Aspect Area Name

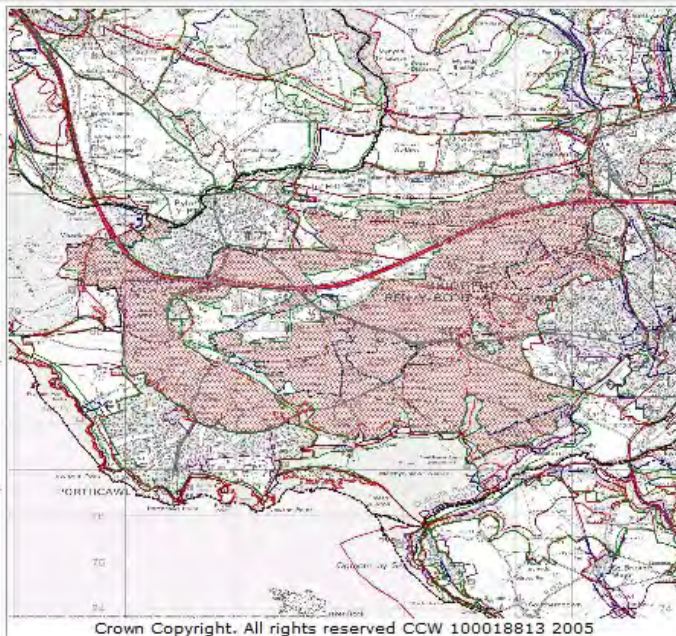
Aspect Area Classification

Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats/Mosaic/Mosaic (Level 3)

Aspect Area Code

CYNONLH030

Date Of Survey : 02/08/2000



Monitoring

Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	No
What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?	3075 Hectares

Description

What are the dominant soil types? (specify up to 3 types)	Brown soils
What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Only select the five most dominant types and, for each of these, specify below what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.	Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland (1%) Semi-improved Neutral Grassland (1%) Improved Grassland (78%) Marshy Grassland (1%) Arable (17%)
Does the area contain habitats of international importance?	No
Does the area contain BAP habitats?	Yes
Does the area contain protected sites?	Yes (LNR(0.12ha) NNR(2.13ha) SAC(0.78ha) SSSI(1.32ha) Local Wildlife Site(158.36ha))
If yes, which ones?	LNR NNR SAC SSSI Local wildlife site
Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?	1-10% (5.21%)
Does the area support important species?	Yes
Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)	Not known
What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?	Hedgerows
Are any of these features in a very good condition? (Field visit required)	Some (In an area this large there will be some hedgerows that are of high value.)
Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)	
What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)	Cutting Stock grazing
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	None
Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)	Some (Stock grazing will prevent the grassland from reaching higher levels of ecological value.)
Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?	No
Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?	Yes (Introduce Tir Gofal scheme.)
Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character	Improved grassland/arable land with some semi-improved neutral grassland and broadleaved woodland/bracken (includes Coedymwster SSSI). Hedges and mature trees are main biodiversity focus.

Evaluation

Value	Moderate (Generally low value habitat, small areas of Broadleaved woodland and marshy grassland add some value as do areas of Hedgerow.)
Condition	Fair
Trend	Constant

Description

If yes, which BAP habitats?	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures
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Recommendations

Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Principal management recommendations	Encourage appropriate management of key habitats.
Guideline	Immediate (Protect existing habitat.) Long Term (Encourage extensification of agriculture.) Long Term (Perhaps leave areas of set aside around edges of arable fields.)

Monitoring

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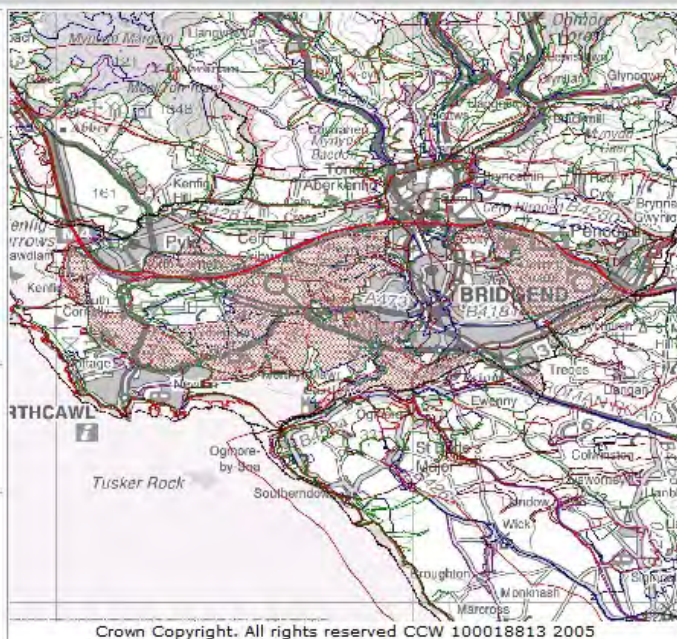
Aspect Area Boundary

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

At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Other (OS raster, OS landline, Phase 1 habitat.)
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:10,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	They encompass a large area of improved grassland with significant areas of arable habitat. This area is bordered by a built up area and an area of marshy grassland to the north, Dune habitat to the west and Bridgend (Built up area) to the east.
Bibliography	
List the key sources used for this assessment	Relevant LBAP Wildlife Site/SINC data used within this project were collated by Local Environmental Records Centres Wales on behalf of the various Local Authorities and Wildlife Trusts involved in the site designation process.
Assessment	
Additional Assessments	N/A
Additional Comments	N/A
Evaluation Matrix	
Evaluation Criteria: Priority Habitats	Moderate (Some very small areas of Purple moor grass marshy grassland. Area could possibly be rated as low.)
Evaluation Criteria: Significance	Low (A common ubiquitous habitat type.)
Evaluation Criteria: Opportunity	Moderate (Introduce Tir Gofal scheme.)
Evaluation Criteria: Expansion rates	Low (Not a declining habitat.)
Evaluation Criteria: Sensitivity	Moderate (Small areas of Purple moor grass Priority habitat could easily be lost.)
Evaluation Criteria: Connectivity/Cohesion	Low (Improved grassland is a common, ubiquitous habitat.)
Evaluation Criteria: Habitat Evaluation	Moderate (Generally low but some areas of Broadleaved woodland, marshy grassland and hedgerows add value.)
Evaluation Criteria: Importance for key species	Moderate (Great Crested Newt are present.)
Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species	Moderate (Generally low value but Great Crested Newt are present.)
Description	
If yes, which species? (for each of the species, also note the source of information)	Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)
Evaluation Matrix	
Justification of overall evaluation	Generally low value but Priority habitat Purple moor grass is present as are Great Crested Newts. Area has some potential for enhancement through Tir Gofal scheme.
Recommendations	
Existing management remarks:	Hedges, mature trees and semi-natural habitats are biodiversity focus.
Monitoring	
Monitoring undertaken by	Environment Systems at monitoring and implementation stages 2 and 3 plus additional consultants at initial change detection stage 1, in consultation with LPA
Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	

Cultural Landscape

Aspect Area Name	Vale of Glamorgan Rural Landscape
Aspect Area Classification	Influences/Material expressions/Rural/Other Rural (specify) (Level 4)
Aspect Area Code	CYNONCL021
Date Of Survey	19/05/2005



Monitoring

Has the information ever been verified in the field?	Yes (Visits and 1:25000)
Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?	Yes (The whole of the Bridgend part of the Study Area)

Description

The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?	Rural Infrastructure
Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?	Agricultural Rural Settlement Communications & Transport
To what extent do the context and level 4 details selected contribute to the cultural identity, local distinctiveness or sense of place of the area?	Strong (The Level 4 details help to establish the cultural essence of the Aspect Area)
To what extent is the cultural information widely recognised or appreciated?	Regionally (The northern and western parts of the Vale of Glamorgan are not as widely appreciated as the southern and eastern parts)
Are there any artistic expressions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any people / movements / institutions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Is there any folklore or are there legends that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any events/traditions that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	Not known
Are there any technical / scientific discoveries that are particularly famous or associated with the Aspect Area?	No
What are the attributes of the cultural elements in the Aspect Area?	Transitional
What chronological periods are culturally dominant in the area?	Post 1950 Inter War Victorian & Edwardian Georgian Late Medieval Medieval Early Christian Roman Pre-Roman
Are there certain place-names in the area that are particularly significant?	No
Summary Description: (no more than 150 words)	The northern and western parts of the Vale of Glamorgan rural landscape contains examples of its evolution from prehistory to the present, typical for the most part of the more well-known southern and eastern Vale. It contains a wide range of historic landscapes, monastic granges, places of devotion, field patterns, hamlets and villages, Anglo-Norman castles, and is bounded on its northern side by the M4 motorway and the GWR railway. The cultural essence of the landscape is intolerant to further encroachment by development

Tolerance To Change

Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Cultural Landscape features of the area?	Yes (Over-development and the possibility of large land-take for new roads)
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Description

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

To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Level 4
At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?	Most (Aspect Area boundaries seek to follow topographical and mapped built features)
What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	OS Raster
If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	1:25,000
What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?	Aspect Area boundaries seek to follow topographical and mapped built features

Bibliography

List the key sources used for this assessment	The Making of Wales, John Davies; Alan Sutton, 1996; The Buildings of Wales, John Newman; Penguin 1995; Glamorgan Historian, various volumes, 1969-1974
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Assessment

Additional Assessment	----
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Additional Assessments	none
Additional Comments	none

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation	High (High as an evolved historic landscape containing many examples of human cultural activity from prehistory to the present, threatened in the 21st century by over-development)
Justification of overall evaluation	see Q40
Evaluation Criteria: Recognition/transparency	Sub-regional recognition (The Vale is appreciated by those who live there, and as an idea by those who do not)
Evaluation Criteria: Period	Very apparent (The landscape contains much evidence of having evolved over millennia)
Evaluation Criteria: Rarity (Culture)	Representative (This portion of the Vale is subordinate to the better known and better regarded southern and eastern sectors)
Evaluation Criteria: Documentation	Unassessed
Evaluation Criteria: Group Value	Substantial (High as a contributor to the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole)
Evaluation Criteria: Survival	N/A (This part of the Vale has been subject to extensive development, hence the "moderate" evaluation)
Evaluation Criteria: Vulnerability	Tolerant (Vulnerable to over-development)
Evaluation Criteria: Diversity	Highly complex (The Vale contains an outstanding range of diverse cultural attributes)
Evaluation Criteria: Potential (Culture)	Unassessed

Description

Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?	Sense of Place Religions & Beliefs Leisure/Recreation
--	---

Evaluation

Condition:	Poor (Threatened by over-development)
Value:	High (High as the surviving (but threatened) landscape containing many examples of human interface with the evolution of the landscape)
Trend:	Declining (Threatened by over development)

Recommendations

Existing management:	Generally Inappropriate
Existing management remarks:	Many settlements in the landscape are identified as having development potential. It is possible also that as demand for fast transport systems increases there will be considerable land-take for new roads
Principal management recommendations	Review the Unitary Development Plan to mitigate inappropriate development in this fragile cultural landscape

Guideline

Description

If Classification is "Other", specify here

**APPENDIX B:
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN WHICH THE SITE IS LOCATED**

12: NEWTON DOWN LIMESTONE PLATEAU

PART 1: DESCRIPTION



LCA LOCATION AND SNAPSHOT

This LCA is located in the south-central part of the County Borough, located between the settlements of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Pyle. It is a distinctive elevated limestone plateau defined by a steep scarp slope to the south and west, classified by LANDMAP as 'Lowland' (Level 2 of the Visual & Sensory aspect).

Link to Special Landscape Areas: The eastern half of the LCA falls within the Laleston SLA. **Other designations** include Gaen and Pant Mawr quarries RIGS, Stormy Down SSSI, RIGS and SINC, Tythegston Court Grade II Registered Park and Garden, Tythegston and Laleston Conservation Areas and several Scheduled Monuments.

12: NEWTON DOWN LIMESTONE PLATEAU

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently undulating plateau, with occasional hill summits rising to just over 100 metres AOD. Southern boundary defined by a steep scarp slope dropping away from Newton Down towards the coast.
- Primarily Carboniferous Limestone geology, with a band of Mercia Mudstones to the north-west and Lower Lias to the east. Glacial till, sand and gravel found around the northern fringes. The disused Gaen and Pant Mawr quarries are designated as RIGS.
- SSSI-designated rock exposures on Stormy Down (also a RIGS), containing a mixture of marine and terrestrial fossil remains (of fish, molluscs and dinosaurs) from the Triassic period.

Woodland cover

- Intensively farmed landscape around Tythegston softened by the presence of parkland trees, retaining an estate character.
- Mixed and broadleaved plantations on prominent ridgelines (e.g. The Beacons).

Agricultural land use and field patterns

- Improved pasture with some fields of arable cultivation.
- Closely trimmed hedgerows or walls dividing a regular pattern of medium-large fields on the plateau, becoming smaller and more irregular on slopes.

Semi-natural habitat

- Bracken, semi-improved grassland and broadleaved plantation on Stormy Down (designated as a SINC).
- Other locally important habitats including broadleaved semi-natural woodlands on slopes, patches of relict calcareous grassland on the downs, and scrub colonising the limestone cliffs of Cornelly Quarry.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Small Grade II listed house, garden and parkland at Tythegston Court (late 18th century).
- Prehistoric barrows and settlement remains found on some hill summits, with the medieval motte of Stormy Castle being a feature in the north.
- Industry relating to the landscape's rich mineral resource forming a key historic driver of the local economy in the wider region (including the steelworks of Neath Port Talbot).

Settlement and road pattern

- A lightly settled landscape fringing onto dense development at Bridgend, Pyle and Porthcawl – with nucleated villages at Tythegston and Laleston. Dispersed farms linked by minor roads and tracks.
- Local vernacular of limestone buildings with slate roofs – with examples of historic significance within the Conservation Areas of Tythegston and Laleston.
- Main A48 and A4106 passing through the landscape, linking Bridgend, Porthcawl and Pyle. The M4 and mainline London-Swansea railway line cuts through the northern part of the landscape.
- The Bridgend Circular Walk passes through the east of the LCA, and Stormy Down provides open access for further recreational opportunities.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Industrial land uses and infrastructure dominating parts of the plateau, including Cornelly Quarry and several other disused quarries.
- Industrial structures on Stormy Down, including a solar farm, prominent in views from across the plateau and beyond (e.g. from Cefn Cribwr).
- Views south from the Newton Down scarp slope to development at Porthcawl and its coastal hinterland. The northern part of the LCA has views to the ridgetop settlement of Cefn Cribwr.

12: NEWTON DOWN LIMESTONE PLATEAU

PART 2: EVALUATION

FORCES FOR CHANGE

- **Industry and infrastructure:** A landscape greatly affected by industrial and infrastructure developments, with quarries and main transport corridors cutting into the landscape – impacting significantly on levels of tranquillity and remoteness.
- **Agricultural intensification:** Intensive farming practices on the plateau have reduced areas of semi-natural habitat to fragmented sites. In addition, the landscape's wider estate influence perceived only through the presence of specimen trees within fields. The national drive for increased domestic food production is likely to put further pressure on unimproved agricultural land.
- **Hedgerows:** Intensive farmland enclosed by closely trimmed hedgerows with few hedgerow trees and little species diversity.
- **Habitat fragmentation:** Bracken and scrub encroachment on Stormy Down due to inappropriate management and a lack of grazing, further reducing the extent of semi-natural habitats within the LCA.
- **Human influences:** Prominent pylon lines, large-scale modern agricultural sheds and views to ridgeline developments in settlements fringing the LCA, contributing to a strong human influence perceived within the landscape.
- **Pressure for renewables:** Open landscape and existing industrial land uses leading to pressure for wind (particularly on Newton Down) and solar energy developments (a solar farm is already located next to industry on Stormy Down).
- **Development pressure** due to the proximity of the landscape to the M4 and Bridgend.

12: NEWTON DOWN LIMESTONE PLATEAU

PART 3: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITIES AND GUIDELINES

KEY LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITIES TO DEVELOPMENT-LED CHANGE

The following landscape qualities and features would be particularly sensitive to development-led change:

- **The open, elevated downland**, providing strong intervisibility with other landscapes in the County Borough.
- **Nationally and regionally important geological exposures**, at Stormy Down SSSI and the Gaen and Pant Mawr quarries.
- **Important patches of semi-natural habitat**, including species-rich limestone grasslands, bracken and scrub.
- **Nationally important historic features**, including prehistoric sites and the 18th century Tythegston estate.
- **The historic villages of Tythegston and Laleston**, both designated as Conservation Areas.
- **A lightly settled landscape** with a strong rural character.

GUIDELINES TO PROTECT / CONSERVE EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND FEATURES

- Protect long views to and from the elevated, open landscape – including to the coast and northwards towards Cefn Cribwr.
- Protect the landscape's archaeological and historic features, including prehistoric remains crowing hill summits, the medieval motte of Stormy Castle (all Scheduled Monuments) and the Grade II Listed Tythegston Court. This includes through sensitive grazing regimes, scrub management and the protection of specimen trees.
- Protect the landscape's lightly settled character, avoiding further development on the most prominent hill summits and protecting the clustered form of the LCA's historic villages.
- Protect the character and setting of the Conservation Areas at Tythegston and Laleston, ensuring any new development incorporates the local limestone vernacular and building styles wherever possible.

12: NEWTON DOWN LIMESTONE PLATEAU

GUIDELINES TO MANAGE / ENHANCE EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND FEATURES

Design Guide
Theme

- Manage and where possible extend areas of semi-natural habitat (including remnant limestone grassland on downland and verges; patches of scrub and bracken), providing ecological connections between fragmented sites where opportunities allow. Support community initiatives to enhance the landscape, such as Laleston Community Council's Biodiversity Improvement Scheme.
- Manage hedgerow and stone wall field boundaries, replanting lost or gappy hedges to strengthen field patterns. Utilise native and climate-hardy hedgerow species in any new planting. Use local limestone and respect the building styles of the area's stone walls when undertaking repairs or building new sections.
- Manage characteristic mixed and broadleaved plantations on ridgelines, seeking to move towards a greater balance of climate-hardy broadleaves to enhance longevity and their nature conservation interest within the farmed landscape.

B

App 1

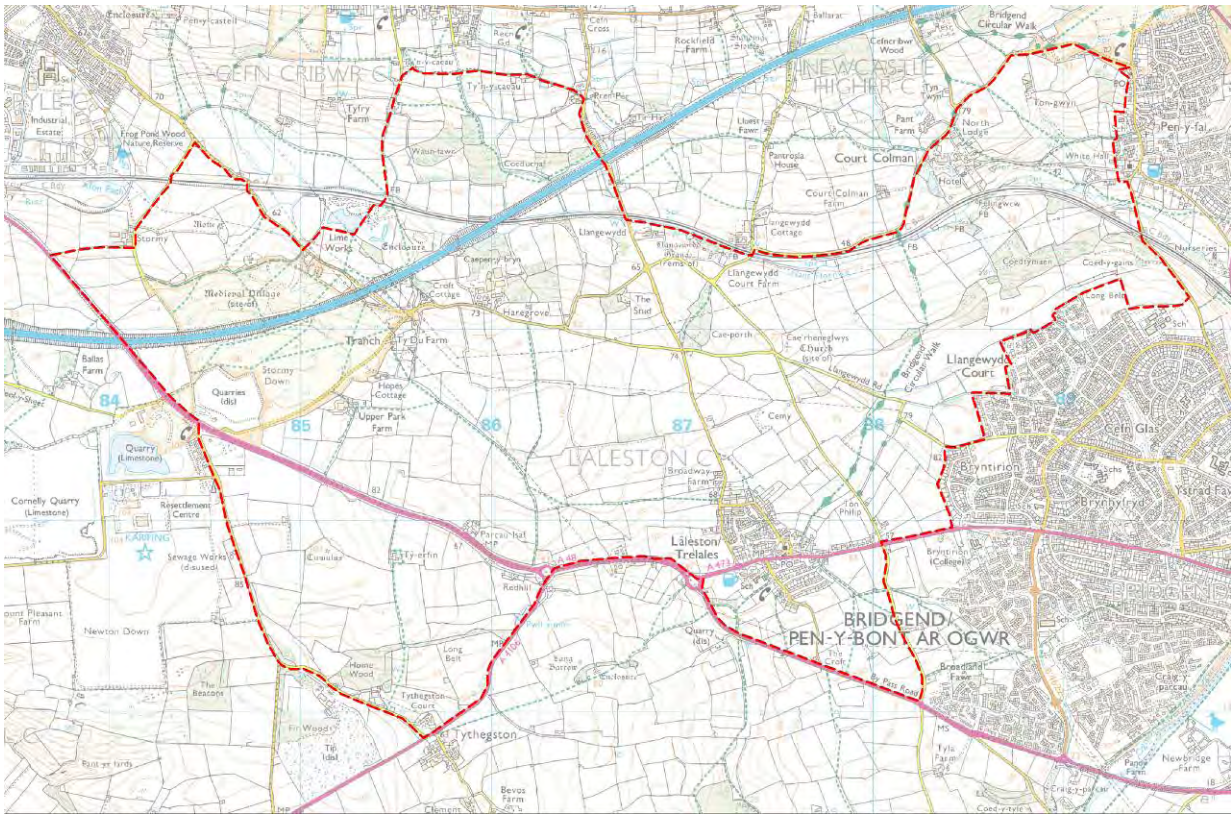
PLANNING AHEAD FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

- Explore opportunities to restore former industrial sites to semi-natural habitats, particularly limestone grasslands and scrub within discussed quarries, incorporating opportunities for public access and enjoyment (as part of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County Borough).

**APPENDIX C:
SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA SPG EXTRACTS**

SLA 7: Laleston

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



From the A48 looking east



From Roger's Lane (north of Broadway Farm) looking east towards Bridgend Circular Walk

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - Open agricultural landscape adjacent to Bridgend and crossed by major transport routes. Potential pressure for further development to the west of Bridgend.

Coherence - Distinct plateau landscape rising to 100m AOD.

Consensus - Identified as a LCA in Bridgend UDP. Important geological landscape with nationally important outcrops/deposition patterns reflected in designation of Stormy Down SSSI and Local RIGS. Also identified for Cultural landscape qualities which relate to lost qualities rather than any existing inherent value.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

A distinctive plateau area rising to 100 metres AOD to the west of Bridgend. It is an area of mixed farmland with fields enclosed by hedgerow boundaries. It includes the Cefn Cribwr Grasslands SAC. The area is dissected by the M48 motorway, A48(T) road and the Swansea-Paddington railway line which create local corridors of visual and sensory detraction. The underlying geology is of national value and is reflected in the designation of a SSSI, where non-conforming deposits are visible through quarrying. Its western boundary abuts the former Newton Down airfield which is used for karting and has a number of industrial units dispersed across the area. These provide further local zones of visual and sensory detraction. The southern boundary abuts the village of Tythegston and includes the house and parkland of Tythegston Court, together with the wider landscape that forms its essential setting. The house is listed (Grade II), and the whole feature stretches back to the medieval period, with the current house and park showing primarily eighteenth century features with additions to the parkland gardens to the Edwardian period. The site is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Mitigation of visual and sensory detractors
- Settlement edge issues – fly tipping, degradation
- Maintenance of Geological SSSI/RIGS site
- Pressure for mineral extraction
- Historic parkland landscape management

Boundary Justification

To be defensible, the boundary follows the A48/A4106/A473 roads to the south and west, urban edge to the east and main roads, footpaths and dismantled railway to the north. The detailed boundary will be confirmed by the County Borough Council.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

The validation of the SLA designations has been made against the criteria used to produce the evaluation level for each of the five evaluated aspect area topics. These are shown on the evaluation matrix.

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as listed in Appendix B.

SLA 7 Laleston

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological Landscapes	GL040	Ogwr Valley	L	L	L	L						Low
	GL044	Bridgend Plain	M	L	M	L						Moderate
	GL045	Porthcawl/N. Cornelly	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
Landscape Habitats	LH027		H	H	M	H	M	H	O	O		Outstanding
	LH029		M	M	M	M	U	H	H	H		High
	LH030		M	L	M	L	M	L	M	M		Moderate
	LH031		M	L	M	L	M	L	L	L		Low
	LH039		L	L	M	L	L	M	L	L		Low
Historic Landscapes	HL179	Tythesgton Court	O	H	H	H	H					High
	HL342	Cwrt Colman	H	H	H	H	M					High
	HL973	Cornelly to Laleston	H	O	H	H	O					Outstanding
Visual & Sensory	VS004	M4 Motorway	L	L	M	M						Low
	VS825	Newton Down	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	VS828	Between bridgend & Merthyr Mawr	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	VS842	Porthcawl	M	L	M	M						Moderate
	VS955	Cribwr	L	M	M	M						Moderate
Cultural Landscapes	CL001	M4 Motorway	O	O	O	U	H	U	L	L	H	Outstanding
	CL003	Great Western Railway	O	H	H	U	H	O	L	L	H	Outstanding
	CL012	South Cornelly Quarries	L	H	M	U	H	U	M	U	U	High
	CL013	Laleston & Coychurch	L	L	L	U	L	U	U	L	L	Outstanding
	CL015	Bridgend	H	H	M	H	O	H	M	H	U	Outstanding
	CL019	Cefn Cribwr Parc/Slip Bedford Park	L	H	L	U	M	U	U	M	U	High
	CL021	Vale of Glamorgan Rural Landscape	M	H	M	U	H	M	H	O	U	High

SLA 6: Kenfig Burrows

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Kenfig Nature Reserve coastline



Kenfig Nature Reserve looking north towards M4



Kenfig Nature Reserve looking west across Kenfig Pool



Kenfig Nature Reserve looking east

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - A distinctive landscape form within the County Borough Area, it is already subject to a range of statutory designations, including a Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000 site), Site of Special Scientific Interest, National and Local Nature Reserve and is included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (CCW/Cadw/ICOMOS).

Coherence - Discrete landscape unit formed by the coastal sand dune deposits and its related vegetation. It includes the intertidal zone between the low and high water.

Consensus - Requires agreement of all stakeholders, then the designation of a SLA will add value to the protection and management of the landscape given the stringent requirements associated with the SAC designation.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

One of a group of windblown littoral sand deposits found along the South Wales coast, Culturally it represents an important banded landscape that derived from adverse weather conditions and tidal phenomena in the Middle Ages, which had considerable impact upon local societies. Kenfig forms an extensive dune system that overlies the Upper Carboniferous Limestone. It includes intertidal zone between

mean low and high water lines, and in places strips of storm gravels are found on the wave cut platform. Within the dune system are a number of ponds and water bodies, the most significant being Kenfig Pool which lies close to the visitor centre and car park. Its land form is a distinctive landscape unit, providing a unique foreground setting to the industrial and transport communication corridors (M4 motorway and Swansea-London railway line). Inland its significance is reflected in a range of designations including Kenfig Pool and Dunes National and Local Nature Reserve, Kenfig Site of Special Scientific Interest and Kenfig Burrows Special Area of Conservation. It is also included in the Cadw/CCW/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Maintenance of geographical and nature conservation character
- Conflict of overuse by public and resultant damage to resource
- Degradation of edge due to proximity to settlements
- Requirements of Natura 2000 designation

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the local authority boundary to the north and west, roads and footpaths to the east and south. The detailed boundary will be confirmed by the County Borough Council.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

The validation of the SLA designations has been made against the criteria used to produce the evaluation level for each of the five evaluated aspect area topics. These are shown on the evaluation matrix.

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as listed in Appendix B.

SLA 6 Kenfig Burrows

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological Landscapes	GL045	Porthcawl/N. Cornelly	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GL047	Kenfig Burrows	O	M	H	O						Outstanding
Landscape Habitats	LH030		M	L	M	L	M	L	M	M		Moderate
	LH034		O	O	M	H	M	H	O	O		Outstanding
	LH035		L	M	M	L	M	M	H	M		High
Historic Landscapes	HL413	Kenfig Burrows & Golf Course	O	O	H	H	O					Outstanding
	HL654	Foreshore	H	O	H	O	O					Outstanding
	HL973	Cornelly to Laleston	H	O	H	H	O					Outstanding
Visual & Sensory	VS459	Porthcawl Hinterland	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	VS630	Kenfig Burrows	H	M	H	H						High
	VS847	Pyle	L	L	L	L						Low
	VS920	Kenfig Sands	H	H	H	H						High
Cultural Landscapes	CL005	Kenfig & Margam Burrows	M	H	L	H	O	H	H	O	U	Outstanding
	CL007	Sker House	H	O	H	H	H	O	L	M	U	High
	CL018	Pyle Kenfig Hill et alia	L	M	L	U	L	U	U	L	U	Low
	CL021	Vale of Glamorgan Rural Landscape	M	H	M	U	H	M	H	O	U	High

APPENDIX D: REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS

Land south of the A48, Pyle: Representative viewpoints

Vpt No.	Location	Distance to site (m approx)	Receptor type	Comments
A	A48 bridge over M4	40	Users of A48	The busy A48 forms the gateway to the site from the south east. The site is largely screened by vegetation along the M4 although the degree of screening would reduce in the winter. There are gaps in the vegetation which allows views across to Margam scarp across the eastern part of the site which is also in the Laleston SLA. Trees along the A48 form a strong corridor. It would be preferable if no development was visible from this point or at least kept to a low-level to still allows views to the scarp.
B	Public footpath east of A48	Within site	PROW user Edge of Laleston SLA	The footpath links the A48 with Stormy Farm and thence Stormy Down. The Laleston SLA occupies the upper slopes of the site to the east and includes Stormy Down Common which is on a high point which encloses the site from views from further east. The site falls to the north towards the well vegetated edge along the railway which helps to contain the site. Modern rural sheds at Stormy Farm are apparent. There are wide views to the north and north-east towards the Cefn Cribwr ridge. The settlement of Kenfig Hill climbs the lower slopes of the ridge and so there is some precedent for this pattern of development.
C	A48 south of Village Farm Industrial estate	30	Users of A48	The site abuts the busy A48 close to the roundabout with the A4229 with gappy hedge vegetation including some trees which screen or filter some views further into the site. The convex slope of the site means that hedges in the fields adjacent to the A48 form the local skyline and help to contain this lower area. Commercial properties to the north of the A48 form minor detractors with security fencing.
D	Public footpath on site north of M4	Within site	PROW user	This view lies on the edge of the westernmost high point of the site which is exposed to wide views to the north and west towards the sea including Port Talbot steelworks and Margam scarp slope in the distance. Pyle and North Cornelly are clearly visible. In the foreground, a steep slope falls to the south west before levelling out. The local skyline/ridgetop lies to the right/north and behind the viewpoint. The M4 forms a source of noise and movement and users would have a clear view of this exposed area.

Vpt No.	Location	Distance to site (m approx)	Receptor type	Comments
E	Public footpath on Stormy Down Common	200	PROW user Within Laleston SLA	This view from the lower part of Stormy Down Common has views of some of the upper parts of the site which terminate at the skyline of trees along the A48 which form important features. The rest of the site is screened by a combination of the landform and boundary hedge, although built form on it would be apparent. Locations from higher up on the common would have clearer views across the site but were inaccessible due to high bracken growth. This part of the common appears to have very limited use with bracken and paths limited to tracks made by farm vehicles. There is no apparent grazing.
F	Open space on Cefn Cribwr ridge	1150	Open space/access land user	This is a wide view to the south across Stormy Down and Newton Down plateau and lower parts of the borough towards the Bristol Channel and England beyond. There are wind turbines and commercial buildings on the high ground which are detractors. Beyond the site to the south west the plateau top is well wooded and acts as a backcloth. The site itself forms a wide tranche of gently undulating and sloping farmland, divided by the well treed A48. There is a gently crowned high point on the site to the west.
G	Public footpath on edge of Kenfig Burrows north east of Mawdlam	1990	PROW user Edge of Kenfig Burrows SLA	View of the site rising up to the Vale plateau beyond housing in North Cornelly. This housing reaches around 50mAOD to the left of the site. The site forms both the slopes and skyline, including trees on the A48. The plateau is noticeably wooded south of the site, beyond the M4 which forms an abrupt boundary.
H	Public footpath south of Mawdlam and M4	1450	PROW user	View of the site beyond the M4 rising up to the Vale plateau. The site forms both the slopes and skyline, including trees on the A48. The plateau is noticeably wooded south of the site and the M4 which forms an abrupt boundary.

PROW- public right of way; SLA- Special Landscape Area