

Appendix 8.1 LANDMAP Information Relating to Viewpoints

LANDMAP Information Relating to Viewpoints

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 In the case of those LANDMAP aspect areas that would not be directly affected by the *Development* (i.e. where there would be no physical change to an aspect area) and for which the search area is defined by intervisibility with the Development, viewpoints have been used to represent the range of aspect areas affected across the respective Aspect Area Study Areas and form the basis for an assessment of indirect effects. The Aspect Areas represented by each viewpoint, together with associated information, are recorded in the tables below:

8.1.2 Viewpoint 1: Fan Llia, Brecon Beacons National Park, Looking South West

Table 8-1 Viewpoint 1 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
BRCKNVS141 Fan Fawr/Fan Llia [Fforest Fawr East]	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Summary description:	Dramatic exposed upland moorland rising from around 400mAOD to a maximum of 734mAOD at Fan Fawr. The landform is particularly distinctive on the northern escarpment which has steep faces of exposed rock in parts [Craig Cerriggleisiad]. This upland continues the distinctive skyline of the Brecon Beacons. The area is drains to the south to the Taf Fawr, Mellte and Hepste. The steep sided valley of the Afon Dringarth holds the Ystradfellte Reservoir. Vegetation is dominated by coarse grasses, grazed by sheep, interspersed with rushes in wet flushes, which gives a consistent landcover. There are very occasional areas of dwarf woody vegetation [gorse/bilberry] and scrub is encroaching on lower slopes. Occasional trees are found valley bottoms. Stone walls are used in parts to define the edge of the moorland or boundaries. These are in a poor state of repair in most places. Long views are possible over lower areas to north and south and along the upland massif east and west. The northern area is popular with walkers and hikers. Often the tops are shrouded in clouds and mists and the area can be very bleak and wild. The A4059 passes through the south eastern fringes introducing noise but reducing the feeling of isolation in this area.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	This area of upland has a high scenic quality due to its dramatic landform such as at Fan Frynych and Fan Fawr. These peaks are important parts of the Beacons skyline. The area has panoramic views and forms the backcloth to the lower valleys to the north and south. The area has consistent character throughout and a strong sense of place due to its topography and remoteness. It is popular		

	for walking in its northern parts, along the escarpment, which indicates consensus on value.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
BRCKNVS833 Brecon Beacons	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
BRCKNVS270 Ystradfelltefellte Reservoir	High	Moderate	High
BRCKNVS955 Fforest Fawr West	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
BRCKNVS307 Mynydd y Garn	High	High	High
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, the landscape value at Viewpoint 1 is considered to be high .			

8.1.3 Viewpoint 2: Comin Y Rhos, Brecon Beacons National Park, Looking South West

Table 8-2 Viewpoint 2 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
BRCKNVS876 Nedd Fechan and Mellte Valleys	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Summary description:	The pastoral upland valleys of the Mellte and Nedd Fechan run south from the upland massif of Fforest Fawr cutting through the limestone upland. Between them is a low ridge which has rock outcrops and common land in places. This area is more open with larger fields and little woody vegetation. The landcover is dominated by pasture with riparian deciduous woodland, particularly on steep slopes, and grown out hedgerows, all of which contribute to an enclosed, sheltered landscape. Some of the woodlands are grazed,		

	eliminating understorey and allowing clear views. Rectilinear blocks of coniferous forest lie on the upper slopes below Fan Llia and Fan Nedd. Occasional conifers associated with dwellings reinforce the upland character. Settlement is mainly scattered farmsteads. Ystradfellte and Pontneddfechan are the only settlements, nestling in the valley floor of the Mellte and Nedd Fechan respectively. The latter has crept up the hill with suburban housing which is out of character. The main interest in the area is focussed on the rivers with their associated waterfalls and limestone caves. The river courses are rocky and have strong riparian vegetation. Visitors focus on these areas for walking and caving.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	The valleys have a high scenic quality through their unspoilt upland pastoral mosaic character. The main interest is in the river courses with their superb landscape of rocky beds, waterfalls and caves in a woodland setting. The area is known as Waterfall Country and has a strong sense of place. It is well visited for the beauty of the countryside as setting for the waterfalls which indicates consensus on value. The area is generally of consistent character.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
BRCKNVS230 Carreg Cadno	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
BRCKNVS738 Taf Fawr Valley	High	High	High
BRCKNVS811 Upper Tawe Valley	High	High	High
BRCKNV838 Upper Taf Fechan Valley	High	High	High
NPTVS430 Gelliceibryn / Pont Walby	Moderate	High	Moderate
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
BRCKNHL798 Ystradfellte			High
Summary description:	Valleybottom and hillside with landscape of small, evolved and irregular fields, dispersed farms and houses of medieval and early postmedieval origin. Residual areas of ancient broadleaved woodland along some watercourses and steeper slopes and including a small area of common. Early settlement and land use indicated by early prehistoric house sites and burial monuments and later prehistoric defended enclosure. Early medieval and medieval settlement denoted by inscribed stone, medieval settlement being		

	represented by the small nucleated church settlement at Ystradfellte and castle at Castell Coch. Postmedieval industry represented by scattered small quarries and limekilns. Rural depopulation in the 19th and early 20th centuries represented by abandoned and derelict farmhouses and cottages.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	A mixed landscape of small irregular fields of medieval / early post medieval date with woodland. Archaeological sites surviving from all periods which increases its score.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
BRCKNHL830 Pontneddfechan			Outstanding
CYNONHL150 Moel Penderyn			Outstanding
CYNONHL176 Penderyn			Outstanding
CYNONHL117 Cynon Valley Corridor			Outstanding
NPTHL019 Banwaen ToryBetal			Outstanding
BRCKNHL735 Dyffryn Tawe			High
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
BRCKNCL501 Waterfall Country	Moderate	High	High
Summary description:	The combination of waterfalls, rivers, the variety of scenery and their importance as a visitor attraction over the past 200 years has given the area great significance. Its importance is enhanced by the number of historic references to the beauty and delights of the area. During the 19th and 20th centuries it was also a small scale centre of industry with quarrying, mining and explosives production. The intricate and complex geology of the area has been the subject of study for some 100 years. Besides the foregoing it is also an area that is rich in legend and folk lore. For example King Arthur is said to rest beneath Ogof Craig Dinas.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	A popular area that is growing in recognition and use.		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
BRCKNCL966 No name	Low	Unassessed	Outstanding
CYNONCL041 The Rhigos	Unassessed	High	High
NPTCL036 Glynnaeth, Pont Walby, Blaengwrach and C	Moderate	High	High
NPTCL047 Vale of Neath	Unassessed	Outstanding	Outstanding
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.4 Viewpoint 3: Brecon Beacons National Park Near Penderyn, Looking South West

Table 8-3 Viewpoint 3 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
CYNONVS735 Cadair fawr	High	High	High
Summary description:	Dramatic landscape of rough grazed grassland with rock outcrops and some marshy areas lying between approximately 300m and 485m AOD. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. Spectacular upland views dominated by large expanse of sky/clouds. Strong visual link with Brecon Beacons.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	Attractive largely unspoilt upland area with strong sop and good views.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
CYNONVS473 Mynydd baedan	High	Moderate	High
MRTHRVS387 Vaynor Uplands	High	High	High
MRTHRVS858 Gelligaer	High	High	High

Common			
BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte	High	High	High
CYNONVS361 Rhoslas	High	Moderate	Moderate
CYNONVS352 Brynoer Patch	Moderate	High	Moderate
CYNONVS605 Cefn Y Brithdir	High	High	High
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.5 Viewpoint 6: Mumbles Hill, Swansea/Gower AONB, Looking North East

Table 8-4 Viewpoint 6 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
SWNSVS541 Mumbles Head west to Caswell Bay	High	High	High
Summary description:	Rock platform with loose rock and scattered pools, and strong coastal sense of place, with attractive views along coast of cliffs and beaches. Mumbles Head forms the southernmost point of Swansea Bay and as such is an important landscape unit.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	All criteria high.		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
SWNSVS847 The knab	High	High	High
SWNSVS320 Swansea Bay	High	High	High
SWNSVS105 Limeslade to Langland Bay	Outstanding	High	High
SWNSVS113 Parkmill	High	High	High
SWNSVS196 Cefn Bryn	High	High	High
SWNSVS876 Llanddewi	High	High	High
SWNSVS877 Three Cliffs Bay	High	High	High
SWNSVS881 South East Gower	High	High	High
SWNSVS922 Bishopston Valley	High	High	High
SWNSVS987 Pwlldu head	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
SWNSVS552 Pennard Burrows	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
NPTVS697 Margam Sands / Aberavon Sands	High	High	High
NPTVS297 Swansea Bay	High	High	High
NPTVS811 Margam Scarp	Moderate	High	High
VLFGVLS950 Heritage Coastal Strip	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
VLFGVLS890 Heritage Coast Hinterland	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding

VLFGLVS765 Bristol Channel	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
VLFGLVS663 Ogmore and Old Castle Downs	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
CYNONVS987 Merthyr Mawr Warren	High	Outstanding	Outstanding
SWNSVS141 Three crosses	High	Moderate	Moderate
SWNSVS337 Llanrhidian sands	High	High	High
SWNSVS683 llanrhidian marsh	High	High	High
SWNSVS878 No name	High	High	High
CRMRTVS948 LLwchwr Estuary	Moderate	High	High
CRMRTVS651 National Wetland Centre	Moderate	High	Moderate
CRMRTVS820 Millennium Coastal Park	Moderate	High	Moderate
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Seascape			
Seascape Unit 45 Worms Head to Mumbles Head – South Gower			
Key Characteristics:	An indented, eroding, south-facing coast of steep, distinctive limestone, sloping, rocky cliffs, wave-cut platforms, headlands, sandy bays and coves. A significant coastal strip of semi-natural vegetation in places backed by predominantly pastoral farmland. A Popular recreational area. Key views from coastal path, Port Eynon Bay, Oxwich Bay, Three Cliff Bay, Caswell Bay, Llangland Bay and Limeslade Bay. Inland Cefn Bryn and Penmaen are key viewpoints. Long open views from a generally outward looking coast seen		

	against a distant backcloth of England to the south east.
Value:	Based on the criteria set out in Section 8.3, landscape value is considered to be high .
Seascape Unit 46 Mumbles Head to Porthcrawl Point (Swansea Bay)	
Key Characteristics:	A large, sweeping, curving, sandy bay with the headland at Mumbles as the focal point to the west. A predominantly urban coast from Mumbles in the west to Kenfig in the east. The seascape is dominated by development on rising land in Swansea, and by heavy industry around Port Talbot including the Corus (margam) steel works, whose tall apparatus and chimneys are clearly visible from the beach. There are extensive coastal dune systems to the east at Kenfig, Margam and Crylyn Burrows. Cliffs only occur at the south-western end near Mumbles, with the rest of the coastline being low lying. There is a high, hilly backdrop, particularly in the Port Talbot area. The Neath and Tawe fault valleys emerge between the hills.
Value:	Based on the criteria set out in Section 8.3, landscape value is considered to be medium .
Seascape Unit 47 Porthcrawl to Nash Point	
Key Characteristics:	Imposing lias cliffs, wavecut platforms and beaches of Glamorgan Heritage Coast with incised valleys. Extensive dunes of Merthyr Mawr rising on underlying landform flanked by flat Ogmore valley and fronted by a wide sandy beach. Flat coastal plain around Porthcawl with low rocky headland and sandy enclosed beaches. Gently undulating, rural, mixed farming to the east. Bristol Channel causes slight lateral flow and the sea is opaque with suspended solids. Key views from Glamorgan Heritage Coastal Path, Porthcawl Point, Dunraven Bay and Park, Nash Point and Ogmore by Sea. Long open views of Bristol Channel seen against backcloth of English coast including Exmoor.
Value:	Based on the criteria set out in Section 8.3, landscape value is considered to be medium .
Overall Value	
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .	

8.1.6 Viewpoint 7: M4/West of Neath, Looking North East

Table 8-5 Viewpoint 7 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a	Aspect area does not meet overall evaluation, scenic quality and character evaluation selection criteria.		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
SWNSVS955 Crymlyn	High	High	High
NPTVS592 Gellibwch works	Moderate	High	Moderate
NPTVS229 Gellibwch hills	High	High	High
NPTVS944 Crymlyn Bog	Moderate	High	High
NPTVS274 Coastal Dunes	Moderate	High	Moderate
NPTVS187 Mynydd Dinas	Moderate	High	High
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
The proposed development lies within the following aspect area:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.7 Viewpoint 8: A465/North of Neath, Looking North East

Table 8-6 Viewpoint 8 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS431 Neath valley (bottom)	Moderate	High	Moderate
Summary description:	Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx 20m AOD at Neath to approx 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances		

	<p>the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercial developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.</p>		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL007 Neath Estuary			High
Summary description:	<p>The Neath Estuary is characterised by the extent of intertidal flow along the Lower Neath Valley from the sea to the settlement of Tonna... The aspect area is defined by the wetland nature of this part of the valley; large areas of marshland and sand banks flank the Afon Nedd from the coast to the flood plains of the Vale of Neath... The estuary can be divided into three distinct areas; a small saltmarsh at the estuary mouth, then, travelling inland the estuary narrows between two outcrops of Millstone Grit before opening into a much larger expanse of intertidal saltmarsh... From here it narrows again around the medieval castle of Neath before opening out onto a pastoral floodplain; the settlement of Tonna marks the limit of tidal influence... The northern boundary of the aspect area generally follows that of the Tennant Canal, likewise the southern boundary follows the course of the Neath Canal... As one would imagine the historical emphasis is heavily bias to the Medieval and Post.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>The assessment of this area as high reflects the diverse, multiperiod nature of the archaeological resource, with evidence of Roman, medieval and postmedieval activity. Industrial communications features, represented by the Neath and Tennant Canals and associated features, constitute important components; however, the majority of industrial processing works depicted on the OS 1st3rd</p>		

	edition maps have been demolished to make way for the A465 trunk road or modern manufacturing facilities, detracting from the overall coherence of what was once a thriving industrial landscape.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
NPTHL054 Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor			Outstanding
NPTHL032 Mynydd y Gaer			Outstanding
NPTHL055 Cefn Morfudd			Outstanding
NPTHL013 Cwmavon Pontrhydyfen Urban/Industrial Co			High
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL047 Vale of Neath	Unassessed	Outstanding	Outstanding
Summary description:	From Aberdulais to Glynneath the Vale of Neath's topographical beauties have attracted painters, poets, photographers in large numbers over several centuries. It is their interest and the result of their activities that have caused the identification of this Aspect Area.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	Outstanding as the subject matter for high quality depictions of topography and scenery, and for its literary and Welsh culture connections.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
NPTCL014 Neath Centre	High	Unassessed	Outstanding
NPTCL021 Neath Abbey and Business Park	Low	Low	Outstanding
NPTCL022 Nidum, DwryFelin and Court Herbert	Outstanding	Unassessed	Outstanding
NPTCL024 Cilfrew, Aberdulais, Craig Gwladys	High	High	High

NPTCL025 Tonna	High	High	High
NPTCL048 Neath River Tidal Estuary to Aberdulais	Unassessed	Unassessed	Outstanding
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.8 Viewpoint 9: Cilfrew, Looking East

Table 8-7 Viewpoint 9 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS846 Dulais Valley	High	High	High
Summary description:	Upland valley encompassing valley floor and predominantly open landscape on valley sides, ranging from approx 50m AOD at confluence with Neath to approx 220m AOD. A wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries many grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape. Although grown out hedges dominate on lower ground, the upper reaches of the valley sides are dominated by drystone walls. The trees produce a sense of enclosure and reduce views out. The pastoral picture of the valley creates a settled character. The settlement of Crynant sits mostly hidden in the valley bottom. A number of other dwellings, primarily farmsteads, are scattered through the valley. The valley road [A4109] runs through this area along with a number of minor roads, tracks also the mineral railway line. Riparian vegetation marks the line of the river as it winds down the valley. Small-scale commercial development in the valley bottom is a minor detractor.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	This enclosed heavily wooded pastoral mosaic valley has high scenic qualities, presents attractive views both within at an intimate scale and also to higher ground around. Minor detractors exist but area not sufficient to significantly diminish the character. Out grown hedges heighten the sense of enclosure provided by the topography. These elements create a strong sense of place in the valley bottom, while clumps of woodland retain the sense of enclosure on higher ground, and the change in boundary type provides altitudinal distinction and variety.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			

LANDMAP Historic Landscape		
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:		
Reference		Overall evaluation
NPThL043 Neath Valley Bottom		Outstanding
Summary description:	<p>The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of largeregular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary atPontneddfechan... The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39)... The Neath valley bottom resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history... However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys... The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads... The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have beenbuilt on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides... One of the most significant..</p>	
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>This area has been assessed as being of outstanding overall value as an historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally wellpreserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).</p>	
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:		
Reference		Overall evaluation
NPThL040 Bryncoch Cilybebyll		Outstanding
NPThL028 Mynydd Marchywel		High
NPThL046 Crynant & Seven Sisters Urban Corridor		High

LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL045 West Central High Ridge: Mynydd Marchywe	High	High	High
Summary description:	Although connections are mostly Roman, the landscape contains many examples of prehistoric landscape use alongside the Roman camps and fortlets. The high ridge conveys the sense of the terrain having formed the ancient tribal frontier between the Silures and Demetae. Although now heavily forested in the east, open cast mining in the north of the Aspect Area also demonstrates a geological "frontier" between surface outcrops and the deep mines of the Tawe, Dulais and Neath Valleys. The northeast is geologically and topographically dominated by sundry small rivers and waterfalls, suggesting a natural boundary between the CBC administrative area and the high moorland below the Breconshire Fans. This areas is also notable for its SSSI.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	High as an evolved landscape containing evidence from prehistory, important Roman remains, open cast and forestry but especially as a landscape containg evidence of being a " frontier".		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a			
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.9 Viewpoint 10: St Illtyd's Walk near Melincourt, Looking East

Table 8-8 Viewpoint 10 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS624 Carn caca	Moderate	High	Moderate
Summary description:	Moorland plateau beyond Melincourt ranging from approx 250m AOD to 454 m AOD. This area is surrounded by woodland of Mynydd Nanty bar and mainly located beyond the ridge line from Neath valley. The area is moorland with numerous cairns, disused mine		

	works and other historic elements which add to the natural features of valley and water falls. There are no settlements or roads in this area but it is crossed by the St Illtyds Walk a long distance track.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	This simple exposed upland moorland landscape, contrasts with the afforested surrounding area and provides a significant sense of place. Waterfalls, streams and cultural relics along with the unspoilt character place additional interest on the area. The area has little impact on the surrounding areas being relatively inaccessible, both visually and physically.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL039 Vale of Neath (southern valley side)			Outstanding
Summary description:	This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan... The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL027) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017)... The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two... This is an aspect area, which exhibits evidence of almost all periods... During the Bronze Age the elevated slopes were chosen as funerary and ritual sites to build cairns; singular, in pairs and in cemeteries such as at Gwenffrwd... To the east of this cairn cemetery lie the extensive remains of the Blaencwmbach Roman Marching Camp (Gm258) and Blaencwmbach Iron Age hillfort (Gm277), both bordering this the southern b.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	This area presents some problems in assessment; while the appearance of the heavily wooded valley may well superficially resemble that captured by late 18th/early 19th century landscape painters such as Hornor, it should be emphasised that much of the existing woodland represents modern coniferous plantation, not the ancient and seminatural woodland which is shown on the OS 1st edition map. Much of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown in this area on historic maps has survived; however, there has been limited loss of field boundaries and some farmsteads are in a ruined, derelict state or have completely vanished. However, while taking this serious loss of coherence into account, it has been decided to categorise this area		

	as being of overall outstanding importance, in view of the presence of industrial remains of exceptional rarity and national importance, in particular the remains of the early ironworking site at Melincwrt and the remarkably well preserved remains of the Glynneath inclined plane on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad, the second oldest steam powered incline known to have been built in the United Kingdom.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL046 Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain, M	Low	Moderate	High
Summary description:	Cultural distinctiveness is of a landscape now given over to conifer forest plantations, an activity that has subsumed extensive evidence of human occupation in prehistory and through the mediaeval periods to the 19th and 20th centuries. The Aspect Area contains extensive SSSI designations between Pont Walby and through Cwm Ceffyl to Llyn Fach adjacent to the leisure trail of Coed Morgannwg/St Illtyd's Way that traverses the mountainous terrain from Carn Foesen to Melincourt and Resolven, with a branch down the presumed Roman Way to Fairyland past the Roman camps at Blaen Cwmbach and Banwen Torybetel.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	High as an example of 20th century landscape exploitation with limited commercial value; extensive protected SSSI; and insensitivity to archaeological evidence of previous periods of occupation).		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a			
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.10 Viewpoint 11: Approach to Resolven at A465 Roundabout Junction, Looking South East

Table 8-9 Viewpoint 11 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS431 Neath valley (bottom)	Moderate	High	Moderate
Summary description:	Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx 20m AOD at Neath to approx 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercial developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL043 Neath Valley Bottom			Outstanding
Summary description:	The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a		

	<p>fieldscape of largeregular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary atPontneddfechan... The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39)... The Neath valley bottom resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history... However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys... The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads... The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have beenbuilt on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides... One of the most significant..</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>This area has been assessed as being of outstanding overall value as an historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally wellpreserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).</p>		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference		Overall evaluation	
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL047 Vale of Neath	Unassessed	Outstanding	Outstanding
Summary description:	<p>From Aberdulais to Glynneath the Vale of Neath's topographical beauties have attracted painters, poets, photographers in large numbers over several centuries. It is their interest and the result of their activities that have caused the identification of this Aspect Area.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>Outstanding as the subject matter for high quality depictions of topography and scenery, and for its literary and Welsh culture connections.</p>		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL016 A465	Low	Unassessed	High
Overall Value			
<p>Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high.</p>			

8.1.11 Viewpoint 12: Public Car Park off A4069, Brecon Beacons National Park, Looking South East.

Table 8-10 Viewpoint 12 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
CRMRTVS016 The Black Mountain	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Summary description:	The area is a large scale exposed limestone and millstone grit upland massif rising to 600m AOD at Foel Fawr and Foel Fraith from 200m AOD on the western fringes. It has some rock exposure in scree and outcrops and is potted with shakeholes and evidence of limestone quarrying, now defunct, on its northern flanks. Its uneven appearance distinguishes it from the smoother lines of sandstone to the north. Small incised valleys are evident in places with rocky stream beds and some scrub. The vegetation cover is dominated by coarse grasses with some heath/dwarf woody upland shrubs. The skyline is generally gently undulating with some high points and forms a strong backcloth to the surrounding lowland to the north and south. The rights of way are limited but the area is open access land and the Beacons Way runs along the northern edge linking to Carreg Cennen to the north.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	Outstanding (This upland moorland massif gives drama to the area and is of high scenic quality with attractive long views to the north. While it has been quarried in the past it is essentially unspoilt by development and has a consistent open character. Overgrazing is an issue leading to rough grass dominating. This strong limestone and millstone grit massif with rock exposure has a wild and remote character. The topography is varied by shakeholes and cairns which give further interest. High open limestone upland is rare in the county).		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
CRMRTVS274 Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south	Outstanding	High	Outstanding
CRMRTVS665 Crwbin Ridge	Moderate	High	High
CRMRTVS504 Mynydd Betws	High	High	High
NPTVS188 Mynydd Uchaf / Mynydd Garth	Moderate	High	High

Appendix 8.1 LANDMAP Information
Relating to Viewpoints

NPTVS344 Cwm Twrch	Moderate	High	Moderate
NPTVS485 Nant Melyn & Bryncwyth	Moderate	High	Moderate
NPTVS951 Bryn Mawr Mynydd Carnllechart	High	High	High
NPTVS541 Cefn Gwrhyd enclosure	High	High	High
NPTVS612 Upper Clydach River valley	High	Moderate	High
SWNSVS735 Pentwyn mawr	High	High	High
SWNSVS738 Rhydypanyd	High	Moderate	Moderate
SWNSVS127 South East of Graig Fawr	High	Moderate	Moderate
SWNSVS580 Cwmcerdinen	High	Moderate	Moderate
SWNSVS146 North of Clydach	High	Moderate	Moderate
SWNSVS415 East of Banc Maestir Mawr	High	Moderate	Moderate
SWNSVS469 Mynydd Gelliwastad	High	Moderate	Moderate
CRMRTVS136 Coastal saltmarsh	High	Moderate	High
CRMRTVS905 Mynydd Sylen	Moderate	High	Moderate
CRMRTVS988 Swiss Valley and Morlais Valley	High	High	High

SWNSVS691 NW of Gorseinon	High	Moderate	Moderate
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a			
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.12 Viewpoint 13: Sarn Helen Public Right of Way, Looking South East

Table 8-11 Viewpoint 13 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a	Aspect area does not meet overall evaluation, scenic quality and character evaluation selection criteria.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL027 Hirfynydd			Outstanding

<p>Summary description:</p>	<p>An extensive area of unenclosed upland situated between the Vale of Neath (HL39) and the Dulais Valley (HL48), with Banwen Tor y Betal (HL19) bounding the north... Largely under modern forestry the aspect area has few surviving tracts of open moorland; Waun Glynnnyd, Gellibenuchel, and to the north of Craig Clwyd Fechan, for example... The aspect area supports a wealth of archaeological monuments and records occupation evidence from the Bronze Age into the present... The most prolific monuments are those belonging to Bronze Age funerary and ritual activities; an extensive and impressive assemblage of cairns adorn the elevated slopes and the ridge crest of Mynydd Hirfynydd, they appear singularly, in pairs and in cemeteries... The well preserved Roman road of Sarn Helen runs along the ridge of Mynydd Hirfynydd; beacon towers are interspersed at regular intervals along the road... This road continued in use into the medieval period and is used today as a byway... Medieval house platform.</p>		
<p>Justification of overall evaluation:</p>	<p>This area has been assessed as "outstanding" as it represents a rich multiperiod landscape with a wealth of surviving archaeological monuments attesting to occupation from the Bronze Age, Roman, medieval and postmedieval periods. Modern forestry plantation and opencast mining has detracted slightly from the coherence of the landscape but has not significantly affected its overall value.</p>		
<p>Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:</p>			
<p>Reference</p>			<p>Overall evaluation</p>
<p>NPTHL072 Vale of Neath (northern valley side)</p>			<p>High</p>
<p>NPTHL041 Clydach Cwm Du</p>			<p>High</p>
<p>LANDMAP Cultural Landscape</p>			
<p>Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:</p>			
<p>Reference</p>	<p>Rarity</p>	<p>Group value</p>	<p>Overall evaluation</p>
<p>NPTCL045 West Central High Ridge: Mynydd Marchywe</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Summary description:</p>	<p>Although connections are mostly Roman, the landscape contains many examples of prehistoric landscape use alongside the Roman camps and fortlets. The high ridge conveys the sense of the terrain having formed the ancient tribal frontier between the Silures and Demetae. Although now heavily forested in the east, open cast mining in the north of the Aspect Area also demonstrates a geological "frontier" between surface outcrops and the deep mines of the Tawe,</p>		

	Dulais and Neath Valleys. The northeast is geologically and topographically dominated by sundry small rivers and waterfalls, suggesting a natural boundary between the CBC administrative area and the high moorland below the Breconshire Fans. This areas is also notable for its SSSI.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	High as an evolved landscape containing evidence from prehistory, important Roman remains, open cast and forestry but especially as a landscape containing evidence of being a "frontier".		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL026 Sarn Helen and Roman Camps	High	Moderate	Outstanding
BRCKNCL847 Brecon Beacons National Park	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.13 Viewpoint 14: Banwen Gwyn, Brecon Beacons National Park, Looking South East

Table 8-12 Viewpoint 14 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
BRCKNVS118 Dorwen ar Gledd	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Summary description:	The area is a large scale exposed limestone upland massif rising to 550m AOD from 205m AOD in Tawe valley. It is potted with shakeholes and evidence of quarrying, now defunct. Its uneven appearance distinguishes it from the smoother lines of Fan Hir to the north. The vegetation cover is coarse grasses, heath, bracken/gorse and other scrub encroaching from lower levels. The land form is particularly distinctive viewed from the Tawe valley.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	The area is a high, impressive and distinctive massif of limestone upland which dominates the Tawe valley. It gives drama to the area and is of high scenic quality. While it has been quarried in the past it is essentially unspoilt and provides a wild area close to settlements in the Tawe valley. The topography is varied by shakeholes and cairns give further interest to the landscape and indicate heritage value.		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
CRMRTVS015 Bannau Sir Gaer and environs	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
BRCKNVS363 Black Mountain	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a	Viewpoint is not within the 10km study area.		
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.14 Viewpoint 15: Public Footpath East of Glyncorrwg, Looking West

Table 8-13 Viewpoint 15 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a	Aspect area does not meet overall evaluation, scenic quality and character evaluation selection criteria.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS547 Mynydd y Gelli	Moderate	High	High
CYNONVS622 Mynydd llangeinwyr	High	High	High
CYNONVS113 Cwm dar	Moderate	High	High
CYNONVS430 Hirwaun Common	High	High	High
CYNONVS129	Moderate	High	Moderate

Mynydd Y Grug			
CYNONVS317 Mynydd Eglwysilon & Mynydd Meio	High	High	High
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL045 Upper Afan Valley			High
Summary description:	<p>A large aspect area, following the course of the Afon Afan and Afon Corrwg, characterised by irregular fieldscapes and intense areas of industry with several settlements... The aspect area lies between the settlements of Pontrhydyfen and Blaengwynfi and includes Cwm Glyncorrwg and Cwm Blaenpelenna... This large valley corridor is for the most part hidden beneath 20th century forestry... Relict irregular fieldscapes have been obscured beneath this evergreen canopy; a general trend that characterises this aspect area... Industrial features typify the length of Cwm Glyncorrwg, Cwm Cregan, Cwm Blaenpelenna and the wider Cwm Afan... Some of the more outstanding monuments include the Cwm Pelenna Ventilation Furnace (Gm458), a unique surviving example of a colliery ventilation furnace with hillside flue, a type common in the nonferrous metal smelting industries, and also used to ventilate mines... This furnace was connected with the Fforchdwm level, driven by Robert Parsons and Charles S.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects the fact that it is a diverse, multiperiod landscape with evidence of prehistoric ritual and settlement activity, medieval upland settlement and 19th/early 20th century industrial activity and associated settlement, although extensive modern forestry plantation has detracted somewhat from its overall coherence and the condition of individual sites and field boundaries. There is a greater distribution of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement sites in this area, in contrast to HL031 (Lower Afan Valley); moreover, industrial activity, although extensive, has not impacted as significantly on the archaeological resource as in HL031, where significant opencast mining has taken place.</p>		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
CYNONHL687 Rhondda Uplands			Outstanding
CYNONHL805 Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side			Outstanding

NPTHL060 Mynydd Penhydd and Foel Trawsnant			High
NPTHL070 Mynyddau Emroch a Bychan			High
NPTHL021 Margam Mountain			Outstanding
CYNONHL227 H01 Llangynwyd			Outstanding
CYNONHL242 H02 Maesteg			Outstanding
CYNONHL224 H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest			High
CYNONHL215 H05 Unenclosed Uplands			Outstanding
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL046 Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain, M	Low	Moderate	High
Summary description:	Cultural distinctiveness is of a landscape now given over to conifer forest plantations, an activity that has subsumed extensive evidence of human occupation in prehistory and through the mediaeval periods to the 19th and 20th centuries. The Aspect Area contains extensive SSSI designations between Pont Walby and through Cwm Ceffyl to Llyn Fach adjacent to the leisure trail of Coed Morgannwg/St Illtyd's Way that traverses the mountainous terrain from Carn Foesen to Melincourt and Resolven, with a branch down the presumed Roman Way to Fairyland past the Roman camps at Blaen Cwmbach and Banwen Torybetel.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	High as an example of 20th century landscape exploitation with limited commercial value; extensive protected SSSI; and insensitivity to archaeological evidence of previous periods of occupation).		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
CYNONCL056 Designated Landscape Areas	Low	Outstanding	High
NPTCL028 Margam Mountain	High	Unassessed	Outstanding
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.15 Viewpoint 16: Public Footpath East of Duffryn, Afan Valley, Looking North

Table 8-14 Viewpoint 16 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a	Aspect area does not meet overall evaluation, scenic quality and character evaluation selection criteria.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS916 Cwm Dyffryn	High	High	High
NPTVS936 Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna	Moderate	High	Moderate
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL045 Upper Afan Valley			High
Summary description:	A large aspect area, following the course of the Afon Afan and Afon Corrwg, characterised by irregular fieldscapes and intense areas of industry with several settlements... The aspect area lies between the settlements of Pontrhydyfen and Blaengwynfi and includes Cwm Glyncorwg and Cwm Blaenpelenna... This large valley corridor is for the most part hidden beneath 20th century forestry... Relict irregular fieldscapes have been obscured beneath this evergreen canopy; a general trend that characterises this aspect area... Industrial features		

	<p>typify the length of Cwm Glyncorrwg, Cwm Cregan, Cwm Blaenpelenna and the wider Cwm Afan. Some of the more outstanding monuments include the Cwm Pelenna Ventilation Furnace (Gm458), a unique surviving example of a colliery ventilation furnace with hillside flue, a type common in the nonferrous metal smelting industries, and also used to ventilate mines... This furnace was connected with the Fforchdwm level, driven by Robert Parsons and Charles S.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>The overall value of high assigned to this area reflects the fact that it is a diverse, multiperiod landscape with evidence of prehistoric ritual and settlement activity, medieval upland settlement and 19th/early 20th century industrial activity and associated settlement, although extensive modern forestry plantation has detracted somewhat from its overall coherence and the condition of individual sites and field boundaries. There is a greater distribution of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement sites in this area, in contrast to HL031 (Lower Afan Valley); moreover, industrial activity, although extensive, has not impacted as significantly on the archaeological resource as in HL031, where significant opencast mining has taken place.</p>		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL046 Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain, M	Low	Moderate	High
Summary description:	<p>Cultural distinctiveness is of a landscape now given over to conifer forest plantations, an activity that has subsumed extensive evidence of human occupation in prehistory and through the mediaeval periods to the 19th and 20th centuries. The Aspect Area contains extensive SSSI designations between Pont Walby and through Cwm Ceffyl to Llyn Fach adjacent to the leisure trail of Coed Morgannwg/St Illtyd's Way that traverses the mountainous terrain from Carn Foesen to Melincourt and Resolven, with a branch down the presumed Roman Way to Fairyland past the Roman camps at Blaen Cwmbach and Banwen Torybetel.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>High as an example of 20th century landscape exploitation with limited commercial value; extensive protected SSSI; and insensitivity to archaeological evidence of previous periods of occupation).</p>		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL031 Cynonville, Dyffryn, Cymer, Croeserw, Bl	Unassessed	Moderate	High
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.16 Viewpoint 17: Rheola Entrance/B4242, Looking South

Table 8-15 Viewpoint 17 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
Neath valley (bottom)	Moderate	High	Moderate
Summary description:	Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approx 20m AOD at Neath to approx 70m AOD at the county borough boundary. A mixture of settlements, individual dwellings and scattered commercial units lie within a mosaic of pasture, bounded predominantly by fences and deciduous woodland which enhances the sense of enclosure. In places, the boundary trees add interest and mark where boundaries once lay. The dualled A465(T) runs through the area, as do a number of minor roads which give a sense, with the Neath canal of a strong communication corridor. The River Neath winds its way down the valley and is complemented by the Neath canal both containing attractive features including locks, bridges etc. which add to the settled character of the valley floor. The river has riparian vegetation and a natural course which has been canalised in places. The valley floor also contains a number of large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. On the whole the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	The combination of river, canal and hidden elements among the wooded/pastoral mosaic provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley. This is enhanced by the sense of enclosure. However the presence of commercial developments and road corridor detracts from the area. Pleasant views are afforded to higher ground around.		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL042 Rheola			Outstanding
Summary description:	Two former gentry estates that add to cultural essence of Vale of Neath through their artistic and literary connections in addition to. Aberpergwm having been subsumed into the National Coal Board estate, and Rheola having a vast aluminium factory built to destroy its prospect during World War 2. Nonetheless, literary, musical and artistic connections survive along with Aberpergwm's estate church of St Cadoc, its fine set of wroughtiron gates and Rheola's registered estate landscape.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	High (as examples of high culture in the 18th/19th centuries and retaining their cultural essence).		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL035 Rheola and Aberpergwn	Moderate	High	High
Summary description:	Rheola is a surviving example of an early 19th century villa by the architect John Nash with its contemporary picturesque setting (Grade II* listed, PGW Gm53 NEP)... Although part of the park has been built over by a wartime aluminium factory, the greater part of the setting, which was kept deliberately simple, survives, as do some of Nash's picturesque estate buildings... Rheola is characterised as a small picturesque park, informal grounds and a walled kitchen garden... The gardens were enhanced in the 19th century by tree and shrub planting... Rheola is also known to be the site of a medieval grange, this is now restored as part of the estate; a medieval watermill also existed but has since been destroyed (RCAHMMW 1982, 253)... Rheola is a substantial, two storey house in a simple Regency style, situated on the north side of the Vale of Neath... Built in several phases the estate was bought by John Edwards, a successful engineer from Neath, from Capel Hanbury Leigh of Pontypool P		

Justification of overall evaluation:	A well-preserved example of an early 19th century mansion, formal gardens and landscape park, of outstanding value due to its association with the distinguished Regency architect John Nash, representing his only surviving (and securely attributed) work in South Wales		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a			
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.17 Viewpoint 18: Melincourt Waterfalls Car Park, Looking South East

Table 8-16 Viewpoint 18 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
NPTVS422 Neath valley sides	Moderate	High	Moderate
Summary description:	Mosaic sides of Neath valley, running from valley floor to moorland (approx 20m AOD to approx 250m AOD). The area is a pastoral and deciduous mosaic providing diversity within the valley and contrasting with the heavily coniferous wooded nature of much of the valley. The land is primarily sheep grazed. The Gnollpark baove Neath provides a fine setting to the town. Field boundaries vary altitudinally, from hedges to walls many of which are now replaced or supplemented by fences. The areas are settled by a scattering of dwellings. Footpaths and bridleways facilitate views across the valley. Some encroachment of bracken has occurred especially on higher ground.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	Mosaic valley sides provide a settled and diverse contrast to the heavily, coniferous, wooded nature of the rest of the valley sides. The areas have consistent characteristics and are in relatively good condition. They are an important contributor to the character of the Neath valley over which pleasant views are possible. The Gnoll Park is a fine landscape of high quality.		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL039 Vale of Neath (southern valley side)			Outstanding
Summary description:	<p>This aspect area is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan... The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL027) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017)... The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two... This is an aspect area, which exhibits evidence of almost all periods... During the Bronze Age the elevated slopes were chosen as funerary and ritual sites to build cairns; singular, in pairs and in cemeteries such as at Gwenffrwd... To the east of this cairn cemetery lie the extensive remains of the Blaencwmbach Roman Marching Camp (Gm258) and Blaencwmbach Iron Age hillfort (Gm277), both bordering this the southern b.</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>This area presents some problems in assessment; while the appearance of the heavily wooded valley may well superficially resemble that captured by late 18th/early 19th century landscape painters such as Hornor, it should be emphasised that much of the existing woodland represents modern coniferous plantation, not the ancient and seminatural woodland which is shown on the OS 1st edition map. Much of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown in this area on historic maps has survived; however, there has been limited loss of field boundaries and some farmsteads are in a ruined, derelict state or have completely vanished. However, while taking this serious loss of coherence into account, it has been decided to categorise this area as being of overall outstanding importance, in view of the presence of industrial remains of exceptional rarity and national importance, in particular the remains of the early ironworking site at Melincwrt and the remarkably well preserved remains of the Glynneath inclined plane on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad, the second oldest steam powered incline known to have been built in the United Kingdom.</p>		

Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL034 Resolven and Melincourt	Unassessed	Unassessed	High
Summary description:	Resolven developed later than the earlier industrial centre at Melincourt, both of which were dependent upon first the Neath Canal and then the mineral railway followed by the old A465 for transport of goods. Cultural essence is based on these transport connections: most recently as a regeneration exercise a light industrial estate has been formed and expanded at Resolven. The Canal Basin and the canal trips for disadvantaged people from it add to the distinctiveness of the Aspect Area.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	High for (a) survival of historic industrial features, (b) socio-economic regeneration efforts, (c) use of the canal for welfare purposes		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
n/a			
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			

8.1.18 Viewpoint 19: B4242, Abergarwed, Looking South East

Table 8-17 Viewpoint 19 LANDMAP Information

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a	Aspect area does not meet overall evaluation, scenic quality and character evaluation selection criteria.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Scenic quality	Character	Overall evaluation
n/a			

LANDMAP Historic Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
NPTHL072 Vale of Neath (northern valley side)			High
Summary description:	<p>Discontinuous area of similar landscape character and historical identity to the Vale of Neath (southern valley side); please refer to HL039 for technical information:</p> <p>NPTHL039 is characterised by the enclosed irregular fieldscape which adheres to the valley sides of the Vale of Neath, from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan... The aspect area is bounded to the north by the unenclosed upland of Hirfynydd (HL027) and to the south by Afan Wallia (HL026), Cefn Morfudd (HL055) and the Gnoll Estate (HL017)... The internal boundary of the aspect area follows the valley bottom, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals and the Afon Nedd, effectively cutting the aspect area in two... This is an aspect area, which exhibits evidence of almost all periods... During the Bronze Age the elevated slopes were chosen as funerary and ritual sites to build cairns; singular, in pairs and in cemeteries such as at Gwenffrwd... To the east of this cairn cemetery lie the extensive remains of the Blaencwmbach Roman Marching Camp (Gm258) and Blaencwmbach Iron Age hillfort (Gm277), both bordering this the southern b</p>		
Justification of overall evaluation:	<p>Extensive modern forestry plantation has obscured and detracted from the coherence of the irregular fieldscape and pattern of dispersed settlement shown on the OS 1st3rd edition maps, however the area does contain the historically important remains of Aberpergwm House, the residence of the influential Williams family and the site of a monastic grange of Neath Abbey during the medieval period. The industrial remains in this area, though extensive, are not of quite as high importance as those surviving on the southern slopes of the Vale (eg. Melincwrt Furnace) which have contributed to the overall decision to categorise this area as high rather than outstanding.</p>		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference			Overall evaluation
n/a			
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape			
Aspect area within which the viewpoint lies:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL047 Vale of Neath	Unassessed	Outstanding	Outstanding

Summary description:	From Aberdulais to Glynneath the Vale of Neath's topographical beauties have attracted painters, poets, photographers in large numbers over several centuries. It is their interest and the result of their activities that have caused the identification of this Aspect Area.		
Justification of overall evaluation:	Outstanding as the subject matter for high quality depictions of topography and scenery, and for its literary and Welsh culture connections.		
Other aspect areas represented by viewpoint:			
Reference	Rarity	Group value	Overall evaluation
NPTCL016 A465	Low	Unassessed	High
Overall Value			
Taking into account the considerations above and criteria set out in Section 8.3, above, landscape value is considered to be high .			