

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Ynysarwed Minewater Treatment Scheme

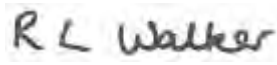
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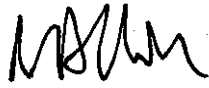
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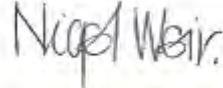
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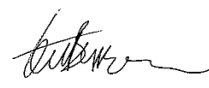
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Figure LVA-03A (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3315): National Landscape Character Areas

Figure LVA-03B (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3316): Neath Port Talbot Landscape Character Areas

Figure LVA-03C (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3317): Landscape Character - LANDMAP (Geological, Habitats and Visual / Sensory);

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Figure LVA-04A (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3325): Landscape Designations;

Figure LVA-04B (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3326): Tranquil Areas Wales 2009;

Figure LVA-05.1 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330): Photoviewpoint 1;

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1. Introduction

Scope

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared to appraise the effects of the construction and operation of a replacement mine water treatment building and other ancillary development alongside the retained existing mine water treatment building situated at Ynysarwed in the Vale of Neath.
- 1.2 The appraisal of effects is made in relation to landscape character and visual amenity on the site and its surroundings, ascertained through the establishment of the baseline situation and likely effects of the proposed development on it.
- 1.3 Visual effects are appraised through selected representative viewpoints within a study area that has been defined by a combination of professional judgment and a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) relating to the proposed development.
- 1.4 A brief summary of landscape and visual terminology used within this report is provided in Appendix B. For the purposes of the appraisal, a clear distinction is drawn between landscape and visual effects as follows:
 - landscape effects: effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right;
 - visual effects: effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
- 1.5 The appraisal aims to provide an assessment of the importance of likely residual effects (those effects which cannot practicably be further reduced through mitigation) on landscape character and visual amenity.

Description of the site/proposed development

- 1.6 The proposed development is located at the existing Ynysarwed mine water treatment site, which is located adjacent to the B4242 in the Neath Valley, 2km to the south-west of the village of Resolven and 3.5km north-east of the village of Tonna. The site comprises an existing mine water treatment building - which is used for active treatment - and associated piping / infrastructure and is underlain by concrete hardstanding. Aside from the existing mine water treatment building, the site also contains an attenuation pond and a portacabin for welfare and security purposes. The site is accessed directly off the B4242, with a layby parallel to the road for use as parking.
- 1.7 The Coal Authority is seeking to install a new mine water treatment scheme at the site using Permitted Development Rights via a Prior Notification, incorporating an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Request. It is understood that the proposed development will be of comparable size and scale to the existing building. For a full description of the development proposals and site, please refer to the Prior Notification submission and the accompanying drawings.
- 1.8 A secondary site comprising a reedbed, which is used for passive treatment is situated approximately 1.2 west of the active treatment site.

2. Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 The methodology for this appraisal is based upon guidance within “Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment”, Third Edition (2013) referred to as GLVIA3 (see Appendix A, Ref 1). This is the standard reference for undertaking landscape character and visual assessments or appraisals in the UK. As the scheme is not expected to require an Environmental Impact Assessment (Environmental Statement), the landscape and visual report takes the form of an appraisal not an assessment.
- 2.2 In addition, photography accompanying this appraisal has been undertaken in accordance with guidance given in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 “Visual Representation of Development Proposals” (see Appendix A, Ref 2) published on 17 September 2019 (see Figures LVA-05.1-05.12 (drawing references MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330 to MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3341)). Photographs included in the figures are stitched panoramas (with an individual frame identifiable) taken with a Canon EOS 6d full frame sensor digital SLR with a 50mm lens. They are presented as Type 1 visualisations, intended to illustrate a range of representative views by use of annotated photographs to accompany a non-EIA landscape and visual impact appraisal (Type B).

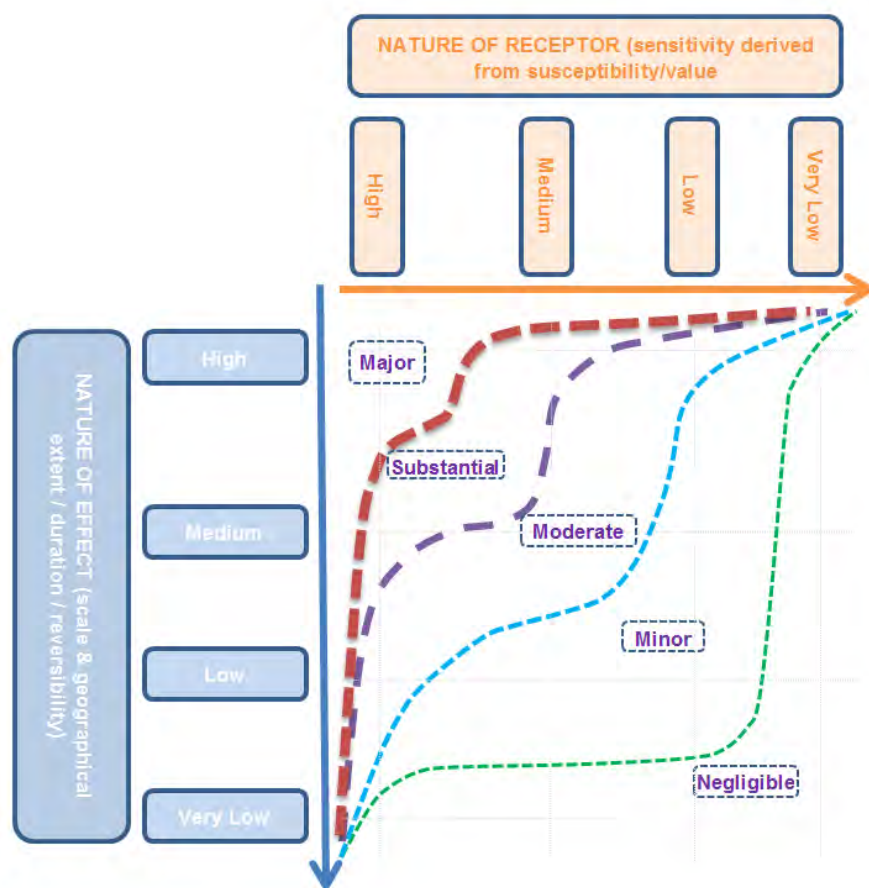
Appraisal Process

- 2.3 This appraisal will establish the baseline and visual conditions of the study area. Following appraisal of the baseline landscape and visual context of the proposed development this LVA appraises the:
- nature of the receptor based on sensitivity of both landscape and visual receptors derived from susceptibility and value;
 - nature of effect based on magnitude derived from scale/extent, duration and reversibility, whether adverse or beneficial; and
 - importance of effects based on a comparison of nature of the receptor and nature of the effect.
- 2.4 A detailed description of methodology, including flow charts showing the appraisal of importance for both landscape and visual effects are provided in Appendix B.

Sensitivity/Magnitude and Importance

- 2.5 Indicative linkage between sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of effects in order to determine importance is set out below in Figure 2.1. In this LVA, reasoned explanation of judgements on importance are based on consideration of the factors set out in Appendix B as an indicative framework. However, conclusions of importance may differ from those in the diagram when supported by evidence.

Figure 2.1: Indicative linkage of Sensitivity and Magnitude to determine Importance



- 2.6 Effects predicted to be minor or negligible are considered to be 'non-important'. Effects appraised as moderate may be important with reasoned justification. Substantial or major effects are considered to be 'important' and require weighing in the planning balance against other benefits of the proposed development.

Study Area

- 2.7 GLVIA3 (see Appendix A, Ref 1) suggests that the study area should cover the geographical area from which the proposed development would potentially be visible. The area should also be proportionate to the proposed development itself and may include refinement by professional judgement.
- 2.8 In the case of the proposed development, the study area of the appraisal was defined by a combination of the ZTV, professional judgement and field survey verification. The combination of these factors has resulted in a study area which encompasses 2km from the site (see Figure LVA-01 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3305)). Beyond this distance it is anticipated that the proposed development would be unlikely to give rise to important landscape or visual effects.

Appraisal Stages

- 2.9 The appraisal considers the effects arising from the proposed development on the main part of the site during Construction and Year 1 of Operation. As no mitigation of effects is proposed the difference between Year 1 and any other subsequent operational year is not appraised due to the likely similarity of effects. As the works at the reedbed part of the site involve the installation of underground piping and other small-scale construction activities, the effects in this part of the site are considered in construction only.
- 2.10 Effects are appraised as adverse unless specifically described as beneficial in nature.

Data Sources

- 2.11 Baseline data has been gathered from a study of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, aerial photographs and publicly available documents such as the LANDMAP Welsh landscape baseline from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (see Appendix A, Ref 3).
- 2.12 A site visit was undertaken by two Landscape Architects (one of whom is chartered) on 3rd and 4th February 2020 to appraise the existing character of the landscape and record views from representative photoviewpoints which were identified and recorded at 12 locations within the study area.

Limitations

- 2.13 No technical difficulties or practical problems were encountered in carrying out the LVA presented in this document although private land was not assessed.
- 2.14 The site visit was conducted during February 2020. Therefore, a comparison of visibility or visual effects over two seasons and a wide range of light and weather conditions was not possible. The site visit was undertaken in overcast weather with good visibility. The GLVIA3 guidance (see Appendix A, Ref 1) suggests that consideration be given to seasonal variation in effects where appropriate, but acknowledges that the timing of the appraisal may mean that this is not practical. In this LVA, potentially important differences between seasonal views have been indicated in the appraisal and taken into consideration in reaching conclusions.

Figures

- 2.15 This LVA chapter should be read in conjunction with the following figures:
- Figure LVA-01 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3305): Viewpoint Locations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure LVA-02 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3310): Topography and Hydrology;
 - Figure LVA-03A (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3315): National Landscape Character Areas
 - Figure LVA-03B (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3316): Neath Port Talbot Landscape Character Areas
 - Figure LVA-03C (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3317): Landscape Character - LANDMAP (Geological, Habitats and Visual / Sensory);
 - Figure LVA-03D (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3318): Landscape Character – LANDMAP (Historic and Cultural);
 - Figure LVA-04A (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3325): Landscape Designations;
 - Figure LVA-04B (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3326): Tranquil Areas Wales 2009; and
 - Figures LVA-05.1-05.12 (drawing references MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330 to MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3341): Photoviewpoints 1-12.

3. The Landscape Baseline

National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs)

- 3.1 NRW produces mapping and written descriptions of the landscape character of Wales within National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) (see Appendix A, Ref 4). The aim is to assist those who make decisions regarding local plans to consider how best to enhance and respect local distinctiveness.
- 3.2 The broad landscape character of the study area is identified by NRW as NLCA 37: South Wales Valleys, as illustrated in Figure LVA-03A (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3315). This NLCA forms a roughly kidney-bean shape parallel to, but north of the south Wales coastline. It stretches from Ammanford in the north-west to Abergavenny in the north-east, and roughly lies north of the M4 corridor. The topography of the NCA is a series of broadly north-south valleys, separated by upland plateaux. The published character description summarises its general character in terms of the following 'key characteristics', as set out in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: NLCA 37: Key Characteristics within the study area

Characteristic

Extensive Upland plateaux – typically wild and windswept, often with unenclosed tracts, running roughly north-south as 'fingers' parallel between intervening deep valleys.

Numerous steep-sided valleys - typically aligned in parallel, flowing in southerly directions, shaped by southward flowing glaciers, leaving behind distinctive corrie ('cwm') and crag features. Major rivers include the Tawe, Taff and Rhymney.

Ribbon urban and industrial areas in valleys – in places extending up valley sides and to valley heads. The area is sometimes regarded as being part of a 'city region'. Middle and eastern valleys tend to be the most heavily and continuously developed, e.g. Rhondda Valley. The uplands by comparison have little or no settlement.

Extensive remains of heavy industry – with a mix of derelict, preserved and largely redeveloped areas, notably for coal mining. Preserved as heritage (World heritage Site) at Blaenafon this typically includes old railway alignments, buildings and former tips.

Contrast of urban valley activity next to quiet uplands – e.g. busy roads, new developments, traffic noise, night lighting, vs the adjacent wilder, remoter, quieter uplands.

Large blocks of coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland fringes – covering many steep hillsides and hilltops, most notably in the middle to western portion of the area, providing a softer contemporary landscape where there was once industry.

Heather, rough grassland and steep bracken slopes – dominate many plateaux and are grazed mainly by sheep. Much is common land.

Improved pastures on some lower valley sides – grazed by sheep and some dairy cattle.

Field boundaries – dry stone walls mark the boundary of common land while fields on lower slopes are bounded by dense hawthorn hedges, interspersed with swathes of broadleaved woodland.

Transport routes restricted to valleys – the intervening topography makes valley to valley travel difficult, except at heads and bottoms of valleys. Occasionally there are roads that climb steeply over passes with dramatic views and 'hair pin' bends.

Iconic cultural identity – many popular images of a tough, rugby-playing, religious, radically-minded society remain associated with the South Wales Valleys, however today's post-industrial, internet-connected reality is somewhat different.

- 3.3 The landscape context of the study area exhibits some of these key characteristics, and they are taken as an appropriate description of it at a national scale.

LANDMAP landscape assessments

- 3.4 In Wales the LANDMAP database (see Appendix A, Ref 3) provides the national layered process of description and analysis of landscape character. LANDMAP character areas/landscape types are shown on Figure LVA-03C (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3317) and Figure LVA-03D (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3318). The LANDMAP database has been consulted in order to provide the National/Regional context for the site-specific landscape character assessment.
- 3.5 The database provides a more site-specific characterisation within the following categories; Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, the Historic Landscape and the Cultural Landscape.

The published summary of each of these categories, relevant to the study area, taken from the LANDMAP database and illustrated on Figure LVA-03C (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3317) and Figure LVA-03D (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3318) is provided below;

Table 3.2: The Geological Landscape – Key Characteristics

Afon Nedd: NPTGL020

Description

NE-SW fault controlled U-shaped broad valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes, broadening below Neath to plain with sand flats. Alluvium in valley floor. Terraces of sand and gravel flank floodplain in upper stretch, with alluvial fans at valley mouths. Glacial sand and gravel terraces, recessional moraine at Tonna, Aberdulais and Clyne, lake sediments at Resolven. Fluvioglacial terrace below Aberdulais, broadening at Neath. Sand flats on both sides and widely meandering channel at Briton Ferry.

Level 3 Characteristics

Other (Tectonically controlled topography)

Landscape Elements

River terrace

Alluvial fan (ancient)

Value: High (Neath Fault Zone tectonically controlled, major glacial valley)

Condition: Fair

Trend: Constant

Table 3.3: Landscape Habitats – Key Characteristics

Unnamed: NPTLH026

Phase 1 Habitats

Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland

Improved Grassland

Standing Water

Running Water

Buildings

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Reedbeds

Protected Sites

Local wildlife site

Value: High (major watercourse; important river system; riverine habitats; mainly improved grasslands, but with numerous areas of semi-natural habitats; BAP habitats present locally; good range of key species present, including otter)

Condition: Unassessed

Trend: Declining

Table 3.4: Visual & Sensory – Key Characteristics

Neath Valley (bottom): NPTVS431

Description

Wide valley bottom of the Neath Valley gently rising from approximately 20m AOD at Neath to approximately 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 several 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 several large tracts of water related to the A465 and industrial works. Overall the main settlements are industrial in character and do not have a strong relationship with the river or with the surrounding landscape.

Physical Form and Elements: Hills/Valleys
Topographic Form?

Physical Form and Elements: Mixture
Landcover Pattern?

Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern	Village
Physical form and elements: Boundary type	Fences
Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?	Medium
Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?	Enclosed
Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?	Diverse
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?	Mixed
Other Factors: Level of Human Access?	Constant
Other Factors: Night-time Light Pollution?	Slight (A465(T) and settlements)
Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?	Generally Appropriate
What materials? Give Details:	
There are attractive views...	...both in and out (to from higher ground)
There are detractive views...	...into (development in valley)
Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities	Attractive Noisy Sheltered Settled
What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness	Moderate (wide valley with heavily wooded sides and relic of industrial history)
Evaluation	
Moderate (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.)	
Existing management	Generally Appropriate
Existing management remarks:	Grazed valley floor with commercial development
Principal management recommendation:	Maintain field pattern and pasture and natural river course
Guideline	Medium Term (enhance field pattern by replanting gaps in hedges) Medium Term (Manage riparian vegetation to emphasise watercourse) Long Term (retain field trees and replant to provide continuity) Medium Term (enhance and protect canal corridor and historical industrial heritage elements) Medium Term (Maintain grazing regime)
Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	Enclosure
Define the key elements that should be conserved:	Field trees and hedges
Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	Canal corridor

Define the key elements that should be changed: Relation to road corridors and settlements

Table 3.5: The Historic Landscape – Key Characteristics

Neath Valley Bottom: NPTHL043

Description

The Neath Valley Bottom is identified as a broad floodplain, a communications corridor of roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39).

Dominant Historic Features

Communications
Regular Fieldscales
Water & Wetland
Nucleated Settlement

Boundaries

Post & Wire Fence
Cut Drainage

Evaluation

Value: Outstanding (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 well-preserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10-arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).

Condition: Unassessed

Trend: Constant

Table 3.6: The Cultural Landscape – Key Characteristics

Vale of Neath: NPTCL047

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.

The classification at level 3 describes the dominant cultural context, but which other contexts are important to the cultural landscape of this area?

Rural
Industrial
Urban
Infrastructure
Places
People
Institutions
Customs
Artistic

Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Influences?

Agricultural
Forestry
Fishing/ hunting
Rural Settlement
Minerals & Mining
Power Generation & Distribution
Light Industry & Technology
Trade, Retail & Commercial
Urban Settlement
Communications & Transport
Tourism

Which level 4 classes are particularly significant to the cultural landscape character of this area - Associations?

Places & Place Names
Sense of Place
Famous People
Leisure/Recreation
Art
Literature
Music

Evaluation**Value:** Good**Condition:** Outstanding**Trend:** Constant

- 3.6 The site therefore lies within the u-shaped Neath Valley, the river providing some valuable habitats locally. The combination of river, canal and hidden elements provide a strong scenic quality through sections of the valley, influenced and enhanced by the sense of enclosure. The valley itself is a historically important industrial communications corridor and has been incorporated in works of art multiple times over the years.

Local Landscape Character Assessments

- 3.7 The study area falls into the area covered by Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC); its website was consulted in order to establish whether local level landscape character assessments have been prepared for the site. The following landscape character assessments, relevant to the study area / context of the site, has been completed:

- Neath Port Talbot Landscape Character Assessment (2004) (see Appendix A, Ref 5).

Neath Port Talbot Landscape Character Assessment (2004)

- 3.8 The landscape character assessment for Neath and Port Talbot was published by NPTC in December 2004. It identified 53 landscape character areas (LCAs). For each LCA, key characteristics are described, along with an overall description of the character, information on forces for change and the sensitivity of the landscape. The locations of these LCAs are illustrated on Figure LVA-03B (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3316).
- 3.9 The site is situated within the Landscape Character Area (LCA) 19: Neath Valley, which has the following key characteristics:
- Broad U-shaped valley with valley bottom ranging approximately 20m AOD to approx. 70m AOD;
 - Mosaic landscape throughout, the valley bottom and minor tributaries containing substantial deciduous tree cover;
 - Communication corridor, both historically (Neath Canal) and contemporary (A465);
 - Numerous relics of industrial heritage;
 - Settled and enclosed nature in valley bottom, exposed on higher ground;
 - Mosaic of habitats, river valley system dominating valley floor, higher ground significant fridd and heath habitat;
 - Intimate and dramatic Afon Pyrdin created visual and physical link to Brecon Beacons National Park;
 - Significant Geological SSSI to the eastern extent of the valley; and
 - Strong associations with Picturesque movement practitioners and artists generally.
- 3.10 The area is evaluated through LANDMAP as follows in Table 3.7:

Table 3.7: LANDMAP value evaluation of aspect areas within LCA 19: Neath Valley which are relevant to the study area

Geological Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Aspect Areas	Cultural Aspect Areas
NPTGL017 - Moderate	NPTLH024 - High	NPTVS431 - Moderate	NPTHL039	NPTCL016 - Outstanding
NPTGL020 - High	NPTLH026 - High	NPTVS422 - Moderate	NPTHL043	NPTCL034 - High
	NPTLH031 - High	NPTVS252 - Low	NPTHL072	NPTCL045 - High
	NPTLH033 - High	NPTVS967 - Low		NPTCL046 - High

Geological Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Aspect Areas	Cultural Aspect Areas
Moderate / High	High	Low / Moderate	-	NPTCL047 - Outstanding High / Outstanding

3.11 The study area contains LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg; LCA 21: Hirfynydd; LCA 24: Dulais Valley and LCA 17: Foel Fynyddau.

3.12 LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg has the following key characteristics:

- Expansive upland plateau separating the Afan and Neath Valleys, rising to 600m AOD;
- Extensive coniferous woodland cover, which acts as distinct element in the adjacent valleys;
- Large areas of open moorland and grazed upland;
- Evidence of human history from prehistory to the Industrial Revolution;
- Extensive geological SSSI designations contained primarily to the north; and
- Sustrans National Cycle Network passes through this upland.

3.13 The area is evaluated through LANDMAP as follows in Table 3.8:

Table 3.8: LANDMAP value evaluation of aspect areas within LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg which are relevant to the study area

Geological Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Aspect Areas	Cultural Aspect Areas
NPTGL022 - Moderate NPTGL024 - Moderate	NPTLH098 - Moderate NPTLH024 - High NPTLH034 - High	NPTVS962 - Moderate NPTVS624 - Moderate	NPTLH026 NPTLH039	NPTCL046 - High
Moderate	Moderate / High	Moderate	-	High

3.14 LCA 21: Hirfynydd has the following key characteristics:

- Upland plateau rising from the Neath and Dulais valley to 481m AOD;
- Large expanse of coniferous plantation;
- Remote nature enhanced by minimal access and lack of dwellings;
- Evidence of prolific Bronze Age funerary and ritual activities across the high ground;
- The Sarn Helen Roman road formed part of a longer communication route to North Wales; and
- Disturbance from opencast mining to the north east of the plateau.

3.15 The area is evaluated through LANDMAP as follows in Table 3.9:

Table 3.9: LANDMAP value evaluation of aspect areas within LCA 21: Hirfynydd which are relevant to the study area

Geological Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Aspect Areas	Cultural Aspect Areas
NPTGL015 - High NPTGL017 - Moderate	NPTLH024 - High NPTLH031 - High NPTLH096 - Moderate	NPTSV357 - Moderate NPTVS751 - Moderate	NPTLH027 NPTLH072	NPTCL045 - High
Moderate / High	Moderate / High	Moderate	-	High

3.16 LCA 24: Dulais Valley has the following key characteristics:

- Valley ranging from approximately 50m AOD to 223m AOD;
- River corridor with strong riparian vegetation;
- Settled and sheltered valley;
- Significantly wooded pastoral landscape in valley floor;
- Strong outgrown hedge field boundary; and
- Historical Industrial relics present through the valley including the Cefn Coed Colliery Museum.

3.17 The area is evaluated through LANDMAP as follows in Table 3.10:

Table 3.10: LANDMAP value evaluation of aspect areas within LCA 24: Dulais Valley which are relevant to the study area

Geological Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Aspect Areas	Cultural Aspect Areas
NPTGL008 - Moderate NPTGL015 - High	NPTLH036 - Moderate	NPTSV846 - High NPTSV422 - Moderate	NPTHL048	NPTCL038 - Outstanding NPTCL045 - High
Moderate / High	Moderate	Moderate / High	-	High / Outstanding

3.18 LCA 17: Foel Fynyddau has the following key characteristics:

- The mass of Foel Fynyddau, topped with communication masts, is the dominant landform;
- Field are enclosed by numerous field boundary types across the area;
- The landscape contains two distinct areas of coniferous plantation, within a predominantly ffridd (upland fringe) landscape;
- Individual dwellings are scattered through the area, predominantly on the lower elevations;
- Connects the Afan and Neath valley, straddling the ridge at its lowest point;
- The riparian corridors, significantly lined with deciduous trees;
- The settled character evident on lower ground gradually dissipates on high ground; and
- Bronze Age cairns and Iron age hillforts present represent historically, a highly organised landscape.

3.19 The area is evaluated through LANDMAP as follows in Table 3.11:

Table 3.11: LANDMAP value evaluation of aspect areas within LCA 17: Foel Fynyddau which are relevant to the study area

Geological Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Aspect Areas	Cultural Aspect Areas
NPTGL024 - Moderate	NPTLH037 - Moderate NPTLH038 - High NPTLH057 - Moderate	NPTVS703 - Moderate	NPTHL055	NPTCL046 - High
Moderate	Moderate / High	Moderate	-	High

3.20 There are no other LCAs in the study area. Information derived from the assessment has been incorporated into this appraisal as appropriate and is illustrated on Figure LVA-03B (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3316): Landscape Character; Figure LVA-03C (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3317): Landscape Character (LANDMAP) Geological, Habitats and Visual / Sensory; and Figure LVA-03D (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3318): Landscape Character (LANDMAP) Historic and Cultural.

Site Specific Landscape Character Assessment

- 3.21 Landscape character study is a hierarchical process descending from the national to county to local scale and ultimately to site specific studies. The national and county-based landscape referred to in this appraisal are at a scale further up the hierarchy and serve to provide an overview of landscape context in which to place the site-specific landscape context.
- 3.22 A site-specific landscape appraisal has been undertaken in order to identify the key characteristics of the landscape in accordance with current guidance, and also to consider factors such as the landscape quality, value and susceptibility change or development.
- 3.23 The site-specific appraisal deals with the site and land in the immediate vicinity. The site-specific appraisal adds detail to the less specific assessments undertaken at a broader scale and described above.
- 3.24 The visual and landscape context of the site is illustrated on Figure LVA-01 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3305).

Site context and landscape characteristics

- 3.25 The main mine water treatment site lies to the south of the B4242 Neath Road, with a reedbed and access track also within the red line. The reedbed and access track are situated between the A465 and the River Neath, just north of the village of Clyne.
- 3.26 The main site comprises an existing mine water treatment building and associated infrastructure, attenuation pond and hardstanding. It is surrounded by vegetation on the north-eastern, south-western and south-eastern boundaries, as well as woodland parallel to the north-western boundary, all of which serve to filter views of the site from the wider landscape. The reedbed area is situated approximately 500m south-west of the main site and comprises both reeds and regeneration woodland, with mature vegetation on its boundaries.
- 3.27 The land within the study area is comprises a u-shaped valley which runs north-east to south-west, with upland plateaus to either side. Ground levels are typically between approximately 10-365m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) as indicated on Figure LVA-02 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3310), which shows the topographical context within the study area. There is a high point of 368m AOD at Penybegwyn in the north of the study area, with the lowest point in the far south-west along the course of the River Neath. Aside from the River Neath, which flows north-east to south-west through the study area, there are several other watercourses present. These include the Neath Canal, which flows along the valley floor, and several tributaries of the River Neath, which flow perpendicular to the main river, down the valley sides. These tributaries include Melin Court Brook, Garwed Brook, Dyfnant and Twrch Brook, as well as other minor watercourses.
- 3.28 Land use is primarily farmland, with arable farmland on the valley floor and pastoral farmland on the slopes. Fields tend to be semi-regular or irregular fields. These fields are generally separated by hedges with occasional hedgerow trees or fences. There are several large forestry blocks present, particularly on the south-facing slopes (and on the upland plateau in the far south of the study area); as well as other woodland blocks on the north-facing slopes and the valley floor, generally adjacent to watercourses. The study area also contains several trees on field boundaries, or along contours on the steeper slopes.
- 3.29 There are three main roads in the study area, the primary road being the A465 Heads of the Valleys dual carriageway, flanked by the B4242 Neath Road to the north and the B4434 to the south. These main roads run roughly parallel along the length of the valley. Aside from these main roads, other roads tend to be minor residential streets, or small lanes which zigzag up the steep valley sides. Aside from a railway line which runs along the valley floor parallel to the B4434, there are no other transport or infrastructure elements within the study area.
- 3.30 There are several Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the study area, including the St Illtyd's Walk long distance route, National Cycle Route 46 and National Cycle Route 47. These tend to lead up the valley slopes or along the upper contours, with very few PRoW available on the valley floor. The exception to this is the towpath along the Neath Canal, which also forms part of National Cycle Route 46. PRoW tend to be footpaths, although there are also a handful of bridleways, and one byway (which is the route of a Roman road). There are several areas of access land in the form of Dedicated Woodland (as designated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act) on the valley slopes, some owned by NRW (see Appendix A, Ref 6). The study area also contains several facilities to encourage or support recreational activity including parks

/ play areas, car parks, picnic areas etc, as well as the Melincourt waterfall, which is a visitor attraction. The locations of PRoW and other recreational features are shown on Figure LVA-04 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3325).

- 3.31 Settlement within the study area tends to follow roads, but are only loosely clustered, particularly along the B4434 where the loose settlement pattern blurs the boundaries between settled areas and the surrounding countryside. The main clusters occur at Resolven / Resolfen, Melincourt, Clyne and Abergarwed. There are several properties which are isolated on the valley slopes or set back from the road on private drives. To the south-west of Resolven / Resolfen, there is an industrial area comprising large industrial buildings, car parks and some brownfield land.
- 3.32 Tranquillity mapping by NRW (see Appendix A, Ref 7) – illustrated on Figure LVA-04 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3325) – shows that the Neath valley floor is less tranquil than the upper slopes of the valley, due to the presence of the A465 dual carriageway and the numerous settlements (including industrial development at Resolven / Resolfen) situated on the valley floor. The valley floor is within Zone B, defined as a disturbed area e.g. with significant traffic disturbance. The valley slopes are within Zone C, defined as a tranquil area with some disturbance e.g. light traffic noise, small villages etc. The only 'undisturbed' part of the study area is situated in the far north, on the upper slopes of the Hirfynydd ridgeline. This 'undisturbed' area is defined as a tranquil area which is generally free of daytime significant disturbance. Definitions of each of these tranquillity zones is taken from the LANDMAP Area Statement for the South West Wales Landscape (see Appendix A, Ref 8).

Establishing the Value of the Landscape

International, National and Local Landscape Designations

- 3.33 There are no international or national designations of landscape quality or value within the study area.
- 3.34 On a local level, the study area is substantially covered by Special Landscape Area (SLA) 3: Vale of Neath, which is described in the Landscape Advice Report commissioned from TACP by NPTC in 2011 (see Appendix A, Ref 9) as '*... a prominent broad valley of considerable importance within the South Wales Coalfields and it has a different character to other narrower valleys of the County Borough. This is a high value landscape in terms of its underlying geology, cultural and historical heritage, ecology, visual amenity and sense of place. It has visual links with the Brecon Beacons National Park.*'
- 3.35 Its key qualities and features (as set out in the NPTC Landscape and Seascape Supplementary Planning Guidance from March 2018 – see Appendix A Ref 10) are:
 - The Vale of Neath is similar to the south east valley side of the Dulais valley with its NE-SW fault controlled U-shaped broad glacial valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes. The area is a pastoral and deciduous mosaic providing diversity within the valley and contrasting with the heavily coniferous wooded nature of the upper slopes;
 - The broad floodplain makes the Neath valley distinctive from the Tawe or the Dulais;
 - The topography and woodland cover on the northern and southern slopes of the Neath valley is a significant and dominant feature and provides coherence and integrity to the SLA;
 - The landscape contains many examples of prehistoric land 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 demonstrates a geological "frontier" between surface outcrops and the deep mines of the Tawe, Dulais and Neath Valleys;
 - To the north-east of the SLA it is geologically and topographically dominated by sundry small rivers and waterfalls, suggesting a natural boundary between the County Borough and the high moorland of the Brecon Beacons National Park;
 - The SLA includes Cwm Gwrelych and Nant Llyn Fach SSSI and to the south east of the Selar opencast is the Graig-y-Llyn geological SSSI;
 - A strong sense of place, coherence, local distinctiveness and cultural identity combine to contribute to the special qualities of the Vale of Neath. From Aberdulais to Glynneath the Vale of Neath's topographical

beauties have attracted painters including Turner, poets, photographers in large numbers over several centuries;

- The upper reaches of the valley have a tranquil and remote feeling, removed from settlements and dwellings although this contrasts significantly with the valley floor which is an important communications corridor;
- The unforested areas of the valley sides are primarily sheep grazed, and there is evidence of relict post-medieval fieldscapes within the forested areas. Footpaths, long distance paths to include St Illtyd's Walk and bridleways facilitate views across the valley;
- Cut into the hillslopes of the valley, on both the north and south sides, are many small collieries, levels and quarries and Fynnon Oer windfarm lies to the south east of the SLA; and
- The settlements of Resolven, Blaengwrach and Glynneath are not included in the SLA.

3.36 The SLA listing also incorporates key policy and management issues for the area, namely:

- Encourage sensitive felling and forest management and enhance edges of forest to improve integration with adjacent open landscape;
- Ensure protection of rare habitats of fauna and flora especially in relation to the SSSI;
- Prevent encroachment by open cast mining activity or other developments that will detract from the landscape quality;
- Enhance field pattern of hedges and stone walls maintaining altitudinal distinction between them;
- Maintain grazing regime to retain open aspect and biodiversity; and
- Ensure historic and cultural landscape context, such as views, representations and history are properly addressed in considering any management proposals.

Other Designations Influencing Landscape Quality and Value

3.37 The study area includes several listed buildings, generally concentrated in the north of the study area and two scheduled monuments, on the north-facing valley slope.

3.38 There are no other cultural heritage or ecological designations of note within the study area.

Landscape Value

3.39 Baseline landscape value is appraised both at the site scale, and for the wider landscape of the study area, taking the site's contribution to overall character and value into account.

3.40 Table 3.12 considers factors which determine the value of the site whereas Table 3.13 considers factors which determine the landscape value of the study area. Examples of landscape quality category descriptions are provided in Appendix B.

Table 3.12: Factors in Determining the Landscape Value of the site

Factor	The proposed site	Value
Landscape quality / condition	The two parts to the site include an existing mine water treatment site, as well as a reedbed, both areas without any features of particular quality, except for the surrounding vegetation which provides screening of the two parts of the site. Overall, the landscape quality and condition are considered to be low.	Low
Scenic quality	The two part of the site have few elements which can be considered to have scenic or aesthetic quality. However, the mature vegetation on the boundaries of both sites has a higher level of scenic quality. Overall the value for the site is considered to be low.	Low
Representativeness	Due to the industrial nature of the site, particularly the main mine water treatment part of the site, it is not very representative of the rural farmland / woodland surroundings. The reedbed is more representative, being situated in the floodplain adjacent to the River Neath	Medium
Rarity	The site does not contain any elements considered to be rare within the wider study area. The value is considered to be very low.	Very low

Conservation interests	There are no designations indicating heritage or wildlife value on the site. The value is considered to be very low.	Very low
Recreation value	The site has no public access. As such the recreation value is very low.	Very low
Perceptual aspects	The overall perception of the main part of the site is of an industrial area surrounded by woodland and farmland, which is influenced by ongoing operations on the site. There is some sense of tranquillity, particularly at the reedbed part of the site, but this is influenced by the adjacent A465. Perceptual value is considered to be low.	Low
Associations	No specific cultural or literary associations of the site have been identified.	None
3.41	The site is generally not representative of the surrounding rural land use which forms much of the study area. Overall, based on the factors contributing to landscape value, the site is appraised as being of low landscape value by virtue of land use, scenic quality, rarity, conservation interests and perceptual aspects.	

Table 3.13: Factors in Determining the Landscape Value of the study area

Factor	The study area	Value
Landscape quality / condition	The landscape within the study area has a quality generally consistent with rural valleys and uplands, comprising a combination of managed agricultural and forestry uses. Landscape elements such as hedges tend to be in good condition. Woodland is managed and generally in good condition. The quality of the landscape in the study area is recognised in the designation of the Neath Valley Special Landscape Area.	Good
Scenic quality	The study area is generally consistent with a managed rural upland landscape, with scenic quality influenced by the presence of the steep valley sides, the mixed farmland and forestry, the presence of small villages and other settlements, as well as more open pasture on the uplands. However, this is balanced in part by the presence of the A465 dual carriageway and various industrial areas, particularly to the south-west of Resolven/Resolfen, both of which affect the perceived aesthetic quality. Overall, scenic quality within the study area is considered to be medium.	Medium
Representativeness	The study area is generally representative of the LCAs within it, particularly LCA19, LCA18 and LCA21. It is less representative of LCA24 and LCA17.	High
Rarity	There are few elements within the study area which are considered to be rare, although there are prehistoric remains present in the south of it.	Low
Conservation interests	The study area contains a some of listed buildings and a handful of scheduled monuments, but no other elements of built or ecological conservation interest.	Low
Recreation value	There is a network of PRoW within the study area, which include two National Cycle Routes and a long-distance path, as well as the Neath Canal. These tend to either run parallel to the valley floor, or up the valley sides into adjacent valleys. Much of the study area is access land, and there are several elements and amenities to facilitate recreational activity, such as parks and car parks providing direct access to recreational routes. Overall there is a high recreational value.	High
Perceptual aspects	The study area is perceived as a mix of mixed farmland, forestry and villages within a key communications corridor. There is a distinct sense of tranquillity away from the A465 dual carriageway and the industrial units to the south-west of Resolven / Resolfen. This tranquillity is related to the limited road network and low-density settlement. There is a sense of remoteness throughout the study area, particularly on the upper slopes of the valley and the upland plateaux. Overall perceptual aspects for the study area as a whole are medium.	Medium
Associations	The study area has a history of being represented in works of art, such as 'The Waterfall at Melincourt, Vale of Neath' by J.M.W. Turner (painted in 1795) (see Appendix A, Ref 11).	High

3.42 The study area has several factors which contribute to landscape value including landscape quality, recreational value and associations with works of art. The presence of a good landscape condition, recreational assets and feelings of tranquillity and remoteness combine with a lack of rarity and conservation interests in the study area to give overall medium landscape value.

3.43 These conclusions on value are broadly supported by the LANDMAP evaluation of landscape value within the study area (see Appendix A, Ref 3) as per Table 3.14:

Table 3.14: LANDMAP evaluation of landscape value for LCAs within the study area

Landscape Character Area	Value of Geological Aspect Areas	Value of Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas	Value of Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Value of Historic Aspect Areas	Value of Cultural Aspect Areas
LCA 19: Neath Valley	Moderate / High	High	Low / Moderate	-	High / Outstanding
LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Lyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg	Moderate	Moderate / High	Moderate	-	High
LCA 21: Hirfynydd	Moderate / High	Moderate / High	Moderate	-	High
LCA 24: Dulais Valley	Moderate / High	Moderate	Moderate / High	-	High / Outstanding
LCA 17: Foel Fynyddau	Moderate	Moderate / High	Moderate	-	High

4. Appraisal of Potential Landscape Effects

Landscape Appraisal of Effects on Landscape Receptors

- 4.1 National Landscape Character Area 37: South Wales Valleys (see Appendix A, Ref 4) is of national scale and incorporates such varied landscape components that any changes in the scale of the site level would not be important on its overall character. As no important effects are anticipated, consideration of the effects at the NLCA level is not discussed further as part of the LVA.
- 4.2 For the purposes of this LVA, the landscape effects of the proposed development are considered at the scale of Neath Port Talbot Council Landscape Character Assessment (2004) (see Appendix A, Ref 5) by consideration of LCAs, and at the site scale. The appraisal of likely effects on the site and at the published local landscape assessment scale is set out in Tables 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Due to the small proportion of LCA24 and LCA17 in the study area, these are not assessed going forward.

Table 4.1: Appraisal of direct effects on the main part of the site

Susceptibility of receptor to specific change / landscape value	Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> Construction will intensify industrial related activity on the main site but given its mine water treatment use and the likely nature of the construction, the site has a medium ability to accommodate construction of similar infrastructure. The red line boundary also incorporates riparian woodland, which is of higher susceptibility to construction activity. However, on balance, there is a low susceptibility to construction of the type proposed. When combined with overall low value, the main site has a low sensitivity to the proposed development.	Low
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The site is an operational mine water treatment site with the treatment building and related infrastructure being the primary component and key characteristic. Riparian woodland in the red line is generally of higher susceptibility to change, but the susceptibility of the site to change is low overall. It therefore has a high ability to accommodate similar infrastructure without undue negative consequences. When combined with overall low value, it has a low sensitivity to the proposed development.	Low
Size / scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of effect	Magnitude of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> Some of the riparian woodland, which form part of the site character will be lost as a result of the development on the main site. Construction will influence and directly occupy most of the site but be temporary and reversible. Overall there will be a medium magnitude of effect at a site level given the baseline characteristics.	Medium
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The proposed development will be similar to the existing development and will largely be perceived as an extension to the existing infrastructure rather than new development. However, there will be a noticeable reduction in riparian vegetation. The scale and geographic extent of change will be relatively small and occur within the context of the existing mine water treatment site and will be long term and permanent. Overall the magnitude of effect on the site character will be low.	Low
Importance of landscape effect	Importance of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> The low sensitivity combined with the medium magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the landscape character of the site.	Minor
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The low sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the landscape character of the site.	Negligible

Table 4.2: Appraisal of direct effects on the reedbed part of the site

Susceptibility of receptor to specific change / landscape value	Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> Construction will introduce industrial elements to a site which currently has few industrial influences, the site therefore has a relatively low ability to accommodate construction activity	Medium

and hence has a high susceptibility to construction of the type proposed. When combined with overall low value, it has a medium sensitivity to the proposed development.

Size / scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of effect	Magnitude of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> No key characteristics of the site character will be lost, as the proposed development involves only limited removal of parts of the reedbed. The perimeter vegetation, which aids screening and landscape integration, will be retained. Construction will influence and directly occupy some of the site but be temporary and reversible. Overall there will be a low magnitude of effect at a site level.	Low
Importance of landscape effect	Importance of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the landscape character of the site.	Minor

Table 4.3: Appraisal of effects on character of LCA 19: Neath Valley

Susceptibility of receptor to specific change / landscape value	Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> The LCT has a reasonable level of naturalness, but is influenced by man's activities, such as the presence of the A465 dual carriageway. There are few industrial elements in the area which are comparable to construction activity. The LCA has a medium ability to accommodate construction and hence has a medium susceptibility to it. When combined with overall medium value, it has a medium sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.	Medium
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The existing mine water treatment site and reedbed already exert a direct influence on the baseline character of the LCA. It therefore has a high ability to accommodate similar infrastructure without undue negative consequences and hence has a very low susceptibility to the development during operation. When combined with overall medium value, it has a low sensitivity to the proposed development.	Low
Size / scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of effect	Magnitude of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> There will be a slight loss of important or valued landscape elements within this LCA through the removal of riparian vegetation to facilitate the construction of the new mine water treatment building. Construction activity will be a noticeable addition to the area; although effects on landscape character derived from views of construction activity will be relatively localised in scale and geographical extent. The construction effects will be short term, reversible and of low magnitude.	Low
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The addition of infrastructure will occur on an existing mine water treatment site and be an addition to the existing baseline development. The operational site will not introduce new or incongruous elements in the LCA and effects on character will be of such a small scale and localised geographical extent, albeit long term and irreversible, that the magnitude of effect on the LCA will be very low.	Very Low
Importance of landscape effect	Importance of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the landscape character of LCA 19: Neath Valley during construction.	Minor
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The low sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the landscape character of LCA 19: Neath Valley during operation.	Negligible

Table 4.4: Appraisal of effects on character of LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Lyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg

Susceptibility of receptor to specific change / landscape value	Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> The LCA contains relatively few detractors, comprising a mixture of open grazing land and woodland. Construction activity would introduce incongruous activity in an adjacent LCA, potentially reducing some of its perceptual qualities. Overall, the LCA is assessed as being of high susceptibility to construction. Taking the high susceptibility and medium landscape value into account, the LCA has a medium sensitivity to the proposed scheme at this stage.	Medium
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The existing mine water treatment site already exerts an indirect influence on the baseline character of the LCA. It therefore has a high ability to accommodate similar infrastructure such as the proposed development without undue negative consequences. Therefore, the LCA has a very low susceptibility to the development during operation. When the medium value is combined with the very low susceptibility, the LCA has an overall low sensitivity to the proposed development.	Low
Size / scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of effect	Magnitude of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> There will be no loss of important or valued landscape elements within this LCT and the addition of construction activity in the adjacent LCA will occur on an existing mine water treatment site. Any effects on landscape character derived from views of construction activity which will be localised in scale and geographical extent. The construction effects will be short term, reversible and of very low magnitude.	Very Low
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The LCA is already influenced by the existing mine water treatment site and the proposed development will constitute an extension to this. When operational, it will not introduce new or incongruous elements in the LCA. The scale of effect would be limited and the geographical extent localised. Overall, the effect will be long term and irreversible, but will be of very low magnitude due to its limited extent.	Very Low
Importance of landscape effect	Importance of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u> The medium sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the landscape character of LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Lyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg during construction.	Negligible
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The low sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the landscape character of LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Lyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg during operation.	Negligible

Table 4.5: Appraisal of effects on character of LCA 21: Hirfynydd

Susceptibility of receptor to specific change / landscape value	Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> Comprising mostly plantation woodland, the LCA has some detractors in the form of clear-felled trees but is in fair condition. With the ongoing forestry work, construction activity is only slightly incongruous. The LCA therefore has a medium ability to accommodate construction and hence has a medium susceptibility to it. When combined with overall medium value, it has a medium sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.	Medium
<u>Operation Year 1</u> Given the presence of the existing mine water treatment site adjacent to its southern boundary, the LCA is already indirectly affected by a similar development. There is a high ability to accommodate the change associated with the proposed development and an overall very low susceptibility to it. When considered with the medium landscape value, there is and overall low sensitivity to change.	Low
Size / scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of effect	Magnitude of landscape effect
<u>Construction</u>	

Construction on the existing mine water treatment site would not result in any direct impacts on this LCA but would add construction activity to an area adjacent to the LCA, thus influencing it. The effect on the LCA would be very localised in scale and of limited geographical extent. The effect would be short term and reversible. Overall, the magnitude would be very low.

Very Low

Operation Year 1

The proposed development will extend the existing mine water treatment site but will not remove or introduce any elements adjacent to the LCA. The effects will be small scale and of limited geographic extent. The changes will also be long term and irreversible. Overall, the magnitude of effect on the LCA will be very low.

Very Low

Importance of landscape effect

Importance of landscape effect

Construction

The medium sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the landscape character of LCA 21: Hirfynydd during construction.

Negligible

Operation Year 1

The low sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the landscape character of LCA 21: Hirfynydd during operation.

Negligible

5. The Visual Baseline

ZTV Analysis

- 5.1 The existing visibility of the application site was initially appraised by a desktop study of Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping in order to identify potential viewpoints and the potential Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the application site. A ZTV analysis of the maximum theoretical visibility of the tallest elements of the proposed development (a 50m spaced grid of 10m high objects) was undertaken in LSS software using a terrain model of the site and a digital terrain model (DTM) of the surrounding landscape. Woodland taken from the National Woodland Dataset (see Appendix A, Ref 12) was included within the ZTV model and given an indicative height of 10m. The ZTV analysis then appraised visibility of the grid points at 10m height by an observer with an eye height of 1.6m located at 50m intervals across the whole of the study area.
- 5.2 The maximum theoretical availability of views from surrounding locations within the study area, modelled on landform data and taking the main intervening vegetation into account (but not all) is illustrated on Figure LVA-01 (drawing reference MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3305): Photoviewpoint Locations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility.
- 5.3 The in-situ site survey, recorded in Figures LVA-05.1-05.12 (drawing references MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330 to MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3341), confirms the availability of views from the south, but limited extent of views to the north of the two site areas. These views are further limited by the presence of built form, which is not included in the ZTV, as well as localised vegetation such as hedgerows and hedgerow trees which are not included in the Woodland Dataset. Overall, the main part of the site is well screened from the north, east and west by intervening vegetation, with the wider views available from the south. Due to the dense mature vegetation around the reedbed part of the site, the views towards it are mostly available from elevated locations to the south.
- 5.4 Photographs were taken from publicly accessible viewpoints in February 2020 and the location and direction of view recorded on a plan, see Figures LVA-05.1-05.12 (drawing references MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330 to MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3341).

Baseline Views from Representative Viewpoints

- 5.5 A description of the existing views from representative viewpoints which cover the range of likely views and types of receptor experiencing them is provided in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Baseline Views at Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Distance (m) *	Value of View	Baseline view / nature of receptor
1 View north-west from PRoW 53/17/1	106	800	Medium	This elevated photoviewpoint is representative of recreational receptors on PRoW 53/17/1 looking north-west towards the site. The foreground of the view is occupied by heathy upland vegetation comprising bracken and acid grassland. The middle ground looks into the valley, comprising a mixture of woodland, arable farmland in the valley floor and the route of the A465 dual carriageway. Properties on the B4242 are visible centrally in the middle ground. The existing mine water treatment building is visible in the right of the view, with the reedbed part of the site visible at the far left. The background of the view is occupied by the south-facing valley slope, which is occupied by forestry activity and woodland blocks, with upland pastures visible at the top of the hill. Overall, the long baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context and of medium value. It has a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area and is likely to be visited specifically to experience the view.

Viewpoint Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Distance (m) *	Value of View	Baseline view / nature of receptor	
2	View north-west from PRoW 53/3A/1	66	600	Low	This photoviewpoint represents residential receptors in the northern part of Clyne, as well as recreational receptors on the footpath to the south of these houses. Houses on and adjacent to Lletty Dafydd are visible across the panorama, with riparian woodland associated with the River Neath visible beyond. Arable farmland in the River Neath's floodplain occupies the middle ground, along with riparian vegetation associated with the Neath Canal. The existing mine water treatment building on the main site is present in the centre of the middle ground. The background of the view is occupied by the south-facing valley slope, which is occupied by forestry activity and woodland blocks, with upland pastures visible at the top of the hill to the far left of the view. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context, but relatively low value given the amount of residential development constituting a detractor within it. There is a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
3	View west from St Illtyd's Walk PRoW 27/29/3	88	1700	Medium	This photoviewpoint is representative of recreational users of St Illtyd's Walk looking south-west towards the site. It is a rural view of pastoral farmland with some boggy ground towards the middle ground. There is a line of trees in the middle ground, which forms a loose boundary between fields. To the rear of the background is woodland situated along Waterfall Road in Melincourt. These trees and this woodland block most onward views, including those towards the site. The valley sides and their associated forestry plantations form the background to the view. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context and of medium value. It has a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area and is likely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
4	View north from towpath along Neath Canal	16	<50	Low	This photoviewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Neath Canal, directly adjacent to the main site. It is a view which is enclosed by vegetation either side of the canal, which often restricts onwards views. The canal and its towpath continue from the foreground to the background to the left of the view. The existing building on the main site is visible at close quarter in much of the view, although partially filtered by existing vegetation. Many views to the background are precluded by intervening vegetation, although there are some views of forestry planting on the south-facing valley slope. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value owing to the presence of existing detractors in the form of the existing mine water treatment building. There is a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.

	Viewpoint Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Distance (m) *	Value of View	Baseline view / nature of receptor
5	View north-east from towpath along Neath Canal near car park	17	700	Low	This photoviewpoint is representative of views of recreational users of the Neath Canal, looking north-east towards the site. It is a relatively rural view which incorporates the canal itself and its towpath in the foreground and middle ground. Also in the middle ground, to the left is a property on the B4242, and to the right is riparian vegetation associated with the Neath Canal. Vegetation in the middle ground restricts the majority of onwards views, but the hill on the southern side of the valley can be glimpsed through the trees in the right of the view. The A465 runs directly adjacent to the viewpoint, which is influenced by noise from the dual carriageway. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value. There is a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
6	View south-east from PRoW 21/14.N.Lo/1	20	<50	Low	This photoviewpoint is representative of views for recreational users of the Neath canal and its towpath, as well as the A465. It is located on a path raised above the canal, which runs adjacent to the dual carriageway. The Neath Canal and its towpath occupy the foreground, with the vegetation in the middle ground demarcating the north-western edge of the reedbed site. This vegetation restricts the majority of onwards views, but the hill on the southern side of the valley can be glimpsed above the treetops. The A465 runs directly adjacent to the viewpoint, which is influenced by noise from the dual carriageway. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value. There is a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
7	View north-east from towpath along Neath Canal on aqueduct where Neath Canal crosses River Neath	21	<50	Medium	This photoviewpoint is representative of recreational users of the Neath Canal. The Neath Canal is visible in the left of the view, stretching from the foreground into the middle ground. The River Neath is visible centrally in the foreground and stretches into the middle ground towards the right of the view. Vegetation associated with the southern boundary of the reedbed part of the site forms most of the middle ground. The background of the view at the far left and right of the panorama is occupied by the valley sides, which are covered with forestry plantation (left) and upland pasture (right). Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context and of medium value. It has a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area and is likely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
8	View south-west from B4242 Neath Road west of Abergarwed	31	700	Low	A view from the B4242 on the western edge of the village of Abergarwed, representative of residents of Abergarwed and highway users of the B4242. The foreground of the view is occupied by the B4242, which also stretches into the central middle ground. The road is lined on the left-hand side by a relatively well-managed hedge, which

Viewpoint Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Distance (m) *	Value of View	Baseline view / nature of receptor	
				obscures views into the middle ground beyond. In the right of the middle ground, there is the south-facing valley slope, which comprises a combination of heath and forestry plantation. Intervening vegetation filters views towards the background of the view, but the north-facing slope of the valley is visible across most of it. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value. There is a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.	
9	View north-east from B4242 Neath Road east of Ynysarwed Cottages	27	200	Low	This panorama represents the views afforded to residents of Ynysarwed Cottages, as well as highway users of the B4242. The road occupies most of the view, stretching from the left-hand side of the view in the foreground towards the centre of the view in the middle ground. The right-hand side of the view is occupied in the foreground and middle ground by vegetation which lies parallel to the Neath Canal. The existing mine water treatment building is visible in the centre of the middle ground. The south-facing valley side occupies the left-hand side of the foreground and middle ground. The background of the view is obscured by intervening landform and vegetation. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value. There is a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
10	View north from junction of Clyne Terrace and PRoW B53/2A/1	84	700	Medium	Representing the views of recreational users of PRoW B53/2A/1 and residents of Clyne Terrace, who are looking north towards the site. The foreground and middle ground are occupied by the north-facing valley slope and upland pasture. The middle ground also contains the village of Clyne in the far left of the view, to the right of this is the reedbed part of the site. Riparian vegetation associated with the River Neath and Neath Canal stretched across the middle ground, and the existing mine water treatment building on the main part of the site is seen in the right of the middle ground. The background of the view is occupied by the south-facing valley slope, which is occupied by forestry activity and woodland blocks, with upland pastures visible at the top of the hill. Overall, the long baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context and of medium value. It has a recognised quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area and is likely to be visited specifically to experience the view.
11	View north from PRoW 53/1/1 east of Clyne	40	300	Low	This view represents those afforded to recreational users of PRoW 53/1/1, as well as residents in Clyne. The foreground of the view contains part of a front garden, bounded by mature vegetation which runs along the B4434. This vegetation obscures most of the views to the middle ground, except at the right-hand side of the panorama, where the existing mine water treatment building can be seen above parked vehicles. The background of the view comprises the south-facing valley slope which is occupied by forestry activity and woodland blocks. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value. There is a recognised

Viewpoint Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Distance (m) *	Value of View	Baseline view / nature of receptor	
				quality with its inclusion in the Special Landscape Area, but the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.	
12	View north-east from A465 layby (eastbound)	18	300	Low	Representing the view afforded to highway users of the A465 dual carriageway, this view looks north towards the main part of the site. The foreground of the view is occupied by a strip of mature trees and shrubs along the dual carriageway, this vegetation filters onwards views, particularly in the summer. In the middle ground, the view is of arable farmland in the River Neath floodplain, with the south-facing valley slope in the background beyond. There are no particularly discernible features in the view. Overall, the baseline view is appraised as typical of the rural context but low value. Whilst the viewpoint location is included in the Special Landscape Area, the adjacent dual carriageway is a notable detractor and the viewpoint is unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view.

Potential visual effects

- 5.6 Changes in views may give rise to adverse or beneficial visual effects through obstruction in views, alteration of the components of the view and through the creation of new views by the removal of landscape elements.
- 5.7 The principal potential visual effects are considered to be:
- Short term, reversible, views of construction activity including vehicles, machinery and temporary works;
 - Long term views of additional mine water treatment infrastructure within the existing footprint of the main part of the site.
- 5.8 Examples of visual category descriptions in this appraisal are provided in Appendix B.

6. Appraisal of Potential Visual Effects

- 6.1 No views or important change in visual impact would occur at the photoviewpoints listed below in Table 6.1. These locations were visited, and the view recorded as part of the baseline appraisal. However, these have not been taken forward to the detailed visual appraisal due to the absence of views of the proposed development in construction or operation. The extent to which the proposed development would give rise to change in the baseline views has been considered in relation to the representative photoviewpoints as set out in Table 6.2. Distances to site in Table 6.2 refer to the site boundary.
- 6.2 An appropriately scaled illustration of the views at representative photoviewpoints (prepared in accordance with LI Advice Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals – see Appendix A, Ref 2) is provided in Figures LVA-05.1-05.12 (drawing references MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330 to MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3341). Although the photoviewpoint photography was conducted in February and the timescale of the appraisal precluded a summer survey with trees in leaf cover, an indication of potentially important differences between seasonal views is included within this visual appraisal where appropriate.
- 6.3 Where a photoviewpoint has multiple receptor types, the most sensitive receptor has taken precedence within the visual appraisal.

Table 6.1 Justification for Omission of Photoviewpoints from the Detailed Visual Appraisal

Photoviewpoint Reference	Justification for Removal from Detailed Visual Appraisal		
	Viewing Distance	Intervening Topography	Intervening Vegetation / Built Form
3: View west from St Illtyd's Walk PRoW 27/29/3	✓		✓
	The application site is not visible due to intervening vegetation, as well as its distance from the viewpoint. Elements of the proposed development in construction or operation will be effectively screened by the roadside hedges and field boundary vegetation. As a result, important effects on visual amenity, in construction or operation, are unlikely and this view is not taken forward for further appraisal.		
5: View north-east from towpath along Neath Canal near car park		✓	✓
	The application site is not visible due to intervening topography and vegetation. Elements of the proposed development in construction or operation will be effectively screened by trees and shrubs in the view. Consequently, important effects on visual amenity, in construction or operation, are unlikely and this view is not taken forward for further appraisal.		
8: View south-west from B4242 Neath Road west of Abergarwed		✓	✓
	As for VP5, the intervening topography and vegetation between the viewpoint and the site screens the site from view. Therefore, important effects on visual amenity arising from construction or operation are unlikely and this view is not taken forward for further appraisal.		
12: View north-east from A465 layby (eastbound)			✓
	The intervening vegetation filters and screens views of the site and its related infrastructure. Consequently, important effects on visual amenity, in construction or operation, are unlikely and this view is not taken forward for further appraisal.		

Table 6.2 Visual Appraisal at Representative Viewpoints

Photoviewpoint 1: View north-west from PRoW 53/17/1

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
281279, 201082	106	Recreational	800	Figure LVA-05.1 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3330)	03.02.2020
Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View					Sensitivity

Construction

Recreational users of PRoW are generally focussed on their surroundings and are there with the intention to enjoy the views afforded to them. Although the existing mine water treatment site and the reedbed site each form part of the view, construction activity is not present in the baseline. Recreational receptors at this location are therefore appraised as being of high susceptibility to changes in their view. When combined with overall medium value, they have a high sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.

HighOperation Year 1

The existing mine water treatment site and reedbed site already influence views from the footpath, although screening as a result of intervening vegetation results in filtered views of the infrastructure on the main site. Recreational users of the footpath are therefore of medium susceptibility to the development during operation. When combined with the overall medium value of the view, recreational receptors have a medium sensitivity in operation.

Medium**Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect****Magnitude of Visual Effect**Construction

During construction, vegetation removal activity would start to open up views of the site, including exacerbating views of the existing buildings and infrastructure on the main site. This vegetation removal would also be visible on the reedbed site. Activity of vehicles and machinery may be seen through the tree screen and long reach cranes or excavators would be temporarily visible above the vegetation. The scale and extent of change in the view would be relatively small, localised to the middle ground. It would be short term and represent a temporary, reversible effect on visual amenity of low magnitude.

LowOperation Year 1

The proposed development would introduce a secondary building of similar dimensions to that which is already on the main site. This would expand the presence of built form in a localised part of the view. The change within the view would be relatively small but would also be long term and irreversible. There would be a low magnitude of change on visual amenity.

Low**Importance of Visual Effect****Importance of Visual Effect**Construction

The high sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a moderate adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of PRoW 53/17/1 during construction.

ModerateOperation Year 1

The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of change on visual amenity would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of PRoW 53/17/1 during operation.

Minor**Photoviewpoint 2: View north-west from PRoW 53/3A/1**

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
281272, 201265	66	Residential / Recreational	600	Figure LVA-05.2 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3331)	03.02.2020

Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View**Sensitivity**Construction

Residents are typically focussed on enjoyment of views from their property and susceptible to changes in those views, and recreational users of PRoW also tend to be focussed on the views from their location. Construction activity is not present in the baseline view, although the existing mine water treatment site is visible. The susceptibility to change of residents and recreational users experiencing this view is high. The view value is low, and when combined with the high susceptibility to change, gives an overall medium sensitivity to construction activity.

MediumOperation Year 1

The existing mine water treatment site already influences views from this location, albeit filtered by intervening vegetation. Residents and recreational users of PRoW 53/3A/1 have an overall medium susceptibility to the proposed development during operation. When combined with the overall low value of the view, this means that receptors in this location are of medium sensitivity to the proposed development when operational.

Medium**Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect****Magnitude of Visual Effect**Construction

Construction activity would open up views towards the existing mine water treatment site through the clearance of intervening vegetation, which is filtering views towards the site in the baseline. This construction activity would be visible centrally within the middle ground of the view, with

vehicles and machinery visible through the vegetation, and cranes and excavators also visible above the vegetation. The changes within the view would occupy a relatively localised extent within the wider panorama, would be short-term and reversible. Overall, the magnitude of change would be low.

Low

Operation Year 1

Within the panorama, the extent of the mine water treatment site would be expanded, with the second building sitting to the left of the existing one. It will be of a similar size and appearance to that which is already on the site, and the change would be visible centrally within the middle ground. The change would be relatively localised but would be both long term and irreversible. The magnitude of change within the panorama would be low.

Low

Importance of Visual Effect

Importance of Visual Effect

Construction

The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of residents of Clyne / recreational users of PRoW 53/3A/1 during construction.

Minor

Operation Year 1

The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect on visual amenity would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of residents of Clyne / recreational users of PRoW 53/3A/1 during operation.

Minor

Photoviewpoint 4: View north from towpath along Neath Canal

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
280824, 201654	16	Recreational	<50	Figure LVA-05.4 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3333)	04.02.2020

Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View

Sensitivity

Construction

Recreational users of the Neath Canal and its towpath tend to be focussed on enjoying the views of their surroundings. The existing mine water treatment site is notable within the view, although construction activity is not featured within the baseline view. The receptors experiencing this view are therefore of high susceptibility to changes in their view, which is of low value. Overall there is a medium sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.

Medium

Operation Year 1

The existing mine water treatment site influences views from this location, although these views are partially filtered by intervening vegetation – particularly in summer months. For recreational users of the Neath Canal, there would be a low susceptibility to changes within the low value view. The sensitivity to change is overall low.

Low

Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect

Magnitude of Visual Effect

Construction

Much of the extent of the panorama would be occupied by construction activity of one form or another. This would be filtered in parts by intervening vegetation, although some of the other vegetation would likely be removed to facilitate construction. The changes within the view would stretch across its extent and be of a large scale. The change in the view will be short term and reversible, representing a high magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

High

Operation Year 1

The proposed infrastructure would appear prominently within the centre of the view, in the context with the other buildings and infrastructure on the existing site. The new building would be of similar size and appearance to the existing one, but its presence (and the lack of intervening vegetation) would increase the amount of built form and industrial activity within the panorama. The extent of the changes within the view, along with the long-term duration and irreversibility, contribute to a high magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

High

Importance of Visual Effect

Importance of Visual Effect

Construction

The medium sensitivity combined with the high magnitude of effect would result in a moderate adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of the Neath Canal and its towpath during construction.

Moderate

Operation Year 1

Moderate

The low sensitivity combined with the high magnitude of effect on visual amenity would result in a moderate adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of the Neath Canal and its towpath during operation.

Photoviewpoint 6: View south-east from PRoW 21/14.N.Lo/1

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
280345, 201177	20	Recreational / Highway	<50	Figure LVA-05.6 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3335)	04.02.2020
Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View					Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> Recreational users of the PRoW are typically focussed on enjoyment of views from the path and susceptible to changes in those views. However, the highway receptors experiencing the view are less susceptible due to the speed and fleeting nature of their passing. Construction activity does not feature within the view at present, and receptors experiencing the view are of medium susceptibility to changes within it. When combined with the overall low value, they have a medium sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.					Medium
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The view comprises semi-mature vegetation, with the perimeter vegetation of the reedbed site centrally visible. Recreational users of the path, and highway users are therefore of low susceptibility to the development during operation. When combined with overall low value of the view, receptors have a low sensitivity to the proposed development in operation.					Low
Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect					Magnitude of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u> Construction would be largely screened by the perimeter woodland within the site. In winter, activity of vehicles and machinery may be glimpsed through the tree screen and long reach cranes or excavators would be temporarily visible above the vegetation. However, the scale and extent of change in the view would be relatively small and localised in nature given the limited extent of the interventions on the reedbed site. The changes as a result of construction activity would be short term and given the screening from intervening vegetation would be intermittent and represent a temporary, reversible effect on visual amenity of low magnitude.					Low
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The proposed development within the reedbed site would be largely underground and therefore not visible in operation. The view would therefore be indistinguishable from that in the baseline due to the retention of intervening vegetation on the perimeter of the site. There would be a neutral effect on visual amenity.					Neutral
Importance of Visual Effect					Importance of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u> The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of the path, and highway users during construction.					Minor
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The low sensitivity combined with the neutral effect on visual amenity would result in a neutral effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of the path, and highway users during operation.					Neutral

Photoviewpoint 7: View north-east from towpath along Neath Canal on aqueduct where Neath Canal crosses River Neath

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
280331, 201101	21	Recreational	<50	Figure LVA-05.7 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3336)	04.02.2020
Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View					Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u>					

Views from this location are experienced by recreational receptors using the Neath Canal and its towpath; these users are focussed on enjoying the view from this location and are susceptible to changes within it. The baseline view does not include construction activity or any other industrial activity, although it is affected by noise from the adjacent A465 dual carriageway. Receptors experiencing this medium value view are of medium susceptibility to changes. Overall, they have a medium sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.

MediumOperation Year 1**Low**

The semi-mature perimeter vegetation of the reedbed site is visible across much of the middle ground of the view. Therefore, receptors at this location are of very low susceptibility to the development during operation. When combined with overall medium value of the view, receptors have a low sensitivity to the proposed development in operation.

Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect**Magnitude of Visual Effect**Construction

The semi-mature perimeter woodland would filter and screen most views of construction activity from this location. Vehicles and machinery would likely be glimpsed through gaps in the vegetation during the winter months, and taller equipment such as cranes would be visible above the treetops. The changes within the panorama would be relatively small-scale localised interventions, and the construction activity would be both temporary and short-term. The intervening vegetation would allow for intermittent views and overall there would be a low magnitude of change.

LowOperation Year 1

The proposed development within the reedbed site would be largely underground and therefore not visible in operation. The view would therefore be indistinguishable from that in the baseline due to the retention of intervening vegetation on the perimeter of the site. There would be a neutral effect on visual amenity.

Neutral**Importance of Visual Effect****Importance of Visual Effect**Construction

The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational receptors using the Neath Canal and its towpath during construction.

MinorOperation Year 1

The low sensitivity combined with the neutral effect on visual amenity would result in a neutral effect on the visual amenity of recreational receptors using the Neath Canal and its towpath during operation.

Neutral**Photoviewpoint 9: View north-east from B4242 Neath Road east of Ynysarwed Cottages**

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
280680, 201551	27	Residential / Highway	200	Figure LVA-05.9 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3338)	04.02.2020
Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View					Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> Residents are typically focussed on enjoyment of views from their property and susceptible to changes in those views. Although the existing mine water treatment site forms part of the centre of the middle ground of the view, construction activity is not present in the baseline. Residents at this location are therefore appraised as being of high susceptibility to changes in their view. When combined with overall low value, they have a high sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.					High
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The existing mine water treatment site already influences views Ynysarwed Cottages, although the woodland planting between the viewpoint and the existing site screens the infrastructure associated with the existing development on the site, with views of the building remaining. Residents are therefore of medium susceptibility to the development during operation. When combined with overall low value of the view, residents have a medium sensitivity to the proposed development in operation.					
Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect					Magnitude of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u> A fair proportion of construction activity on the site would be screened by the intervening woodland to the right of the view. However, construction activity will still be visible centrally in the view, including the removal of vegetation to facilitate the proposed development. Additionally, in winter, activity of vehicles and machinery may be also glimpsed through the tree screen and long reach					Low

cranes or excavators would be temporarily visible above the vegetation. The scale and extent of change in the view would be relatively small, occupying a section of the middle ground just to the right of the centre of the panorama. The impact will be localised in nature on B4242 Neath Road and experienced in a limited geographical extent. It would be short-term and represent a temporary, reversible effect on visual amenity of low magnitude.

Low

Operation Year 1

The proposed new building would be of similar size and appearance to the existing building on the site and would extend the existing site's perceived boundary towards the viewer, in turn increasing the amount of built form and industrial activity within the panorama. The extent of the changes within the view would still be fairly small, limited to a portion of the middle ground, and partially screened by intervening vegetation. The impact will be long-term and irreversible, overall there would be a low magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

Importance of Visual Effect	Importance of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u>	
The high sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect would result in a moderate adverse effect on the visual amenity of residents on B4242 Neath Road during construction.	Moderate
<u>Operation Year 1</u>	
The medium sensitivity combined with the low magnitude of effect on visual amenity would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of residents on B4242 Neath Road during operation.	Minor

Photoviewpoint 10: View north from junction of Clyne Terrace and PRoW B53/2A/1

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
280709, 200394	84	Residential / Recreational	700	Figure LVA-05.10 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3339)	04.02.2020
Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View					Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u>					
The people experiencing the view – namely residents of Clyne Terrace and recreational users of PRoW B53/2A/1 – are typically focussed on enjoyment of views and therefore are susceptible to changes in the panorama. The existing mine water treatment site and reedbed site can be seen within the panorama, but do not feature any construction activity within them, nor does the rest of the rural view. Receptors at this location are therefore considered to have high susceptibility to changes in their view as a result of construction. When combined with the medium view value, they have a high sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.					High
<u>Operation Year 1</u>					
The view from this location is influenced by the existing mine water treatment site and reedbed site, which form partially screened elements within its middle ground. Receptors at this location experience a medium value view and are of medium susceptibility to the proposed development. When combined, this gives a medium sensitivity to change during operation.					Medium
Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect					Magnitude of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u>					
During construction, vegetation removal activity would start to open up views of the site within the middle ground of the view, including increasing views of the existing buildings and infrastructure on the main site. This vegetation removal would also be visible on the reedbed site. Construction vehicles and machinery may be seen through the tree screen and long reach cranes or excavators would be temporarily visible above the tops of the trees. Due to the distance of the viewpoint from the proposed site, the scale and extent of change in the view would be very small and localised to the middle ground. It would be short term and represent a temporary, reversible effect on visual amenity of very low magnitude.					Very Low
<u>Operation Year 1</u>					
The proposed development would introduce a secondary building of similar dimensions to that which is already on the main site, which is positioned to the left of the existing building. This would expand the presence of built form in a very localised part of the view and would be partially filtered by intervening vegetation. Changes to the reedbed part of the site would not be visible as they would be underground. The change within the view would be very small but would also be long term and irreversible. There would be a very low magnitude of change on visual amenity.					Very Low
Importance of Visual Effect					Importance of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u>					Minor

The high sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a minor adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of PRoW B53/2A/1 during construction.

Negligible

Operation Year 1

The medium sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of change on visual amenity would result in a negligible adverse effect on the visual amenity of recreational users of PRoW B53/2A/1 during operation.

Photoviewpoint 11: View north from PRoW 53/1/1 east of Clyne

Grid Reference	Elevation (m AOD)	Receptor Type	Approx. Distance from site* (m)	Photoviewpoint Plan	Date of Visit
280721, 200946	40	Residential / Recreational	300	Figure LVA-05.11 (drawing reference MTWS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3340)	04.02.2020
Susceptibility of Receptor to Specific Change/Value of View					Sensitivity
<u>Construction</u> Residents and recreational users of PRoW 53/1/1 tend to be focussed on surrounding views and are generally susceptible to changes within the panorama. Although the mine water treatment site is visible within the centre of the view, the wider panorama does not incorporate construction activity. Receptors at this location are therefore considered to be of high susceptibility changes within the view, which is of low value. When the value and susceptibility is combined, they have a medium sensitivity to the construction phase of the proposed development.					Medium
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The existing mine water treatment site already influences views from this location, although perimeter screening and other intervening vegetation partially screens it. Residents and recreational users are therefore appraised as being of medium susceptibility to the development during operation. When combined with overall low value of the view, receptors have a medium sensitivity to the proposed development in operation.					Medium
Size/Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration & Reversibility of Effect					Magnitude of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u> Construction activity will be seen within a very small section of the centre of the view and be filtered by intervening vegetation. The existing site forms a relatively distant element, viewed through a gap in boundary vegetation related to the residential property at the viewpoint. Views will occupy a very small section of a broad panorama and be from a localised geographical extent. The scale and extent of change in the view will be short term and reversible and represent a very low magnitude effect on visual amenity.					Very Low
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The new building would be of similar size and appearance to that which is existing, sitting to the left of the existing building on the site. Both the existing and proposed buildings would be filtered by intervening vegetation. A very small section of the view would be affected by the development in operation, although the effects will be both long term and irreversible. There would be a very low magnitude of change in visual amenity.					Very Low
Importance of Visual Effect					Importance of Visual Effect
<u>Construction</u> The medium sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the visual amenity of residents and recreational users of PRoW 53/1/1 during construction.					Negligible
<u>Operation Year 1</u> The medium sensitivity combined with the very low magnitude of effect would result in a negligible adverse effect on the visual amenity of residents and recreational users of PRoW 53/1/1 during operation.					Negligible

7. Mitigation

- 7.1 Embedded mitigation, in the form of perimeter tree and shrub planting, is present on the majority of the site boundary to screen the existing mine water treatment and reedbed sites and will be retained insofar as is practical, although some limited losses may be required to facilitate the proposed development.

- 7.2 The light green colour of the cladding on the existing building has resulted in it being visually obtrusive, even within long views looking across the Neath Valley. Therefore, a more natural colour for the cladding of the new building is proposed (comprising a pale blue for the walls and a warm grey for the roof). The existing building is also to be re-clad in the same colours. This will make the two buildings more visually recessive within the landscape, ensuring that they blend better into their surroundings.
- 7.3 No important effects have been reported for landscape receptors, with two important effects recorded at construction and one important effect recorded during operation for representative viewpoints. Given this and the limited scope for mitigation between effect and receptor (at VP4 and VP9) due to natural constraints such as the Neath Canal and existing vegetation, no additional mitigation over and above that set out in sections 7.1 and 7.2 is proposed.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The proposed development is located within the confines of an existing mine water treatment site and associated reedbed site, both of which are bounded by a tree/shrub perimeter screen which will be largely retained. The existing mine water treatment site has a localised influence on baseline character and views, with the existing site building being the main feature. The reedbed has a negligible influence on baseline character and views as it is largely representative of its surroundings.
- 8.2 Effects on landscape character within the site will be minor in construction, reflecting the fact that some vegetation would be lost, but also that construction will occur in an industrial context. In operation any change in the character of the site will be of negligible importance, reflecting the similarity of the proposed development to the existing building and the minimal scale and extent of change.
- 8.3 Direct effects on landscape character within LCA 19: Neath Valley will be minor in construction and negligible during operation. Effects on LCA 18: Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Lyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg and LCA 24: Hirfynydd will be negligible in construction in operation. Factors determining these conclusions primarily include location of the development in the context of an existing facility, no loss of landscape elements of importance, the small footprint of the development, and the limited influence of the existing site and proposed development on the wider area.
- 8.4 Twelve representative viewpoint locations were recorded within a 2km study area determined by professional judgment based on the nature of the development and likely effects. The site is relatively well-screened and particularly in more distant views, those beyond 1km, the effect of intervening trees, and gappy hedgerows, serves to limit visibility and augment screening from the on-site tree/shrub belts. Consequently, of the 12 viewpoint locations chosen to represent the typical range of views experienced by receptor groups such as residents, footpath users and highway users, 8 are considered likely to experience a discernible change in visual amenity. Important effects are experienced during construction at VP4 and VP9, as a result of construction activity occurring at close quarter (VP4) and affecting high sensitivity receptors (VP9). An important effect is also experienced during operation at VP4 due to the change in a large proportion of the view from vegetation to built form. All other visual effects are considered to be non-important.
- 8.5 In conclusion, there are no important landscape effects of the proposed development that would result in unacceptable changes in landscape character. Important visual effects are recorded at two locations during construction, and at only one location during operation.

Appendix A Document copies

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12. Forestry Commission. 2018. National Forest Inventory Woodland GB 2018. [ONLINE] Available at: http://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/d3d7bfba1cba4a3b83a948f33c5777c0_0. [Accessed 24 March 2020].

Appendix B Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology

Terminology used in this LVA is set out in the table below, based on definitions provided in the GLVIA3 glossary.

Table B-1: Landscape Appraisal Terminology

Term	Definition
Landscape	an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. ¹
Townscape	means the landscape within the built-up area, including the buildings and the relationships between them. ²
Seascape	means landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment. ³
Landscape effects	are effects on landscape as a resource in its own right. ⁴
Visual effects	are effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people. ⁵
Impact	the action being taken. ⁶
Effect	the change resulting from that action. ⁷
Representative viewpoints	represent the experience of different types of visual receptor. ⁸
Specific viewpoints	key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape. ⁹
Illustrative viewpoints	chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues. ¹⁰
Susceptibility	“the ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences”. In this LVIA a low susceptibility equates to an ability to accommodate the proposed development. A high susceptibility equates to an inability/reduced ability to accommodate the proposed development.

¹ GLVIA3 p14

² GLVIA3 p17

³ GLVIA3 p17

⁴ GLVIA3 p21

⁵ GLVIA3 p21

⁶ GLVIA3 p9

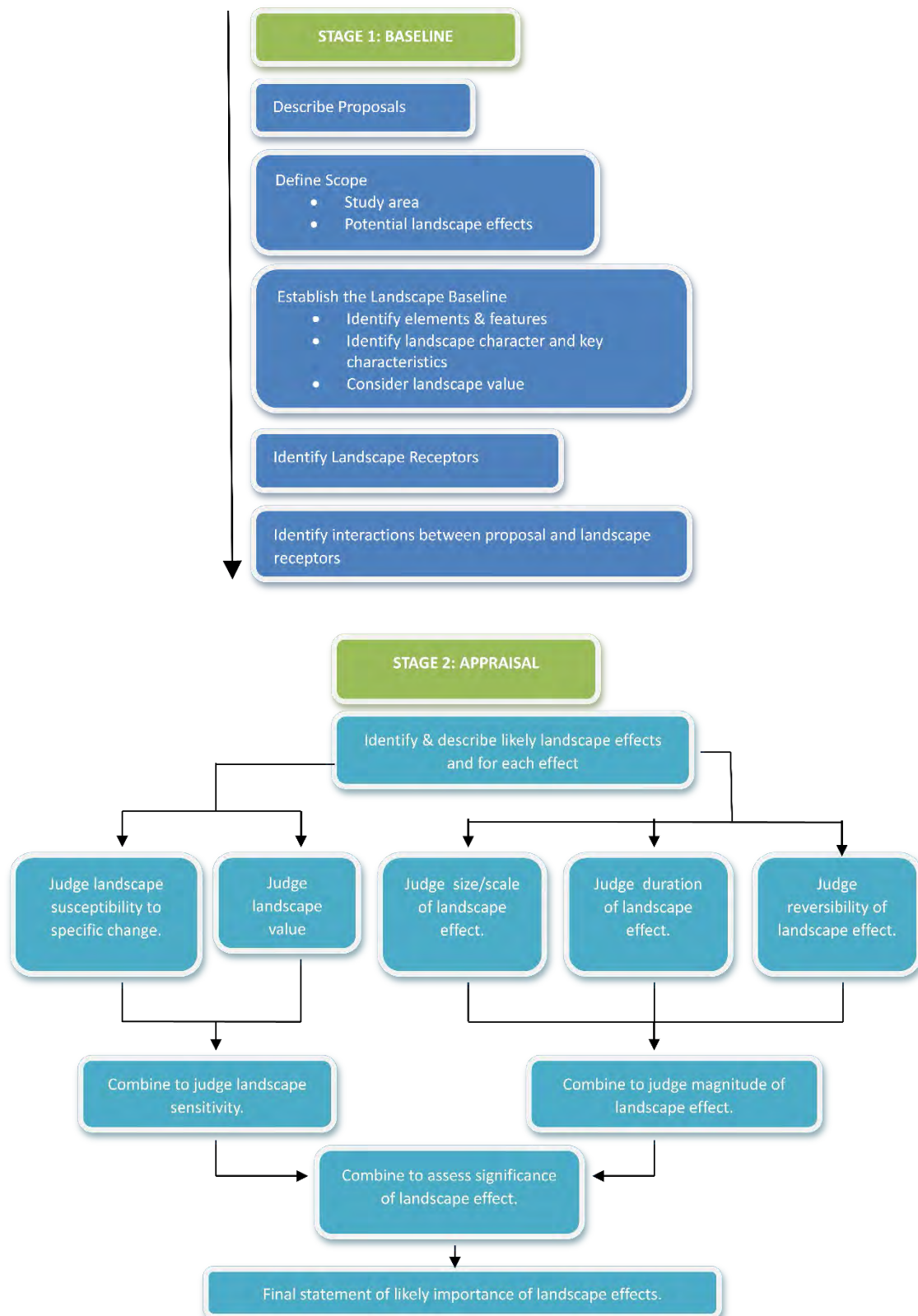
⁷ GLVIA3 p9

⁸ GLVIA3 p109

⁹ GLVIA3 p109

¹⁰ GLVIA3 p109

Landscape Appraisal methodology



In predicting the effects of the proposed development on the landscape within the Study Area, GLVIA3 states that the LVA should identify the components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme (landscape receptors) and identify the interactions between the landscape receptors and different components of the scheme at its different stages. The nature of the receptor is a combination of susceptibility to the specific development and value (a baseline characteristic independent of the proposed development).

Susceptibility to Change

The susceptibility to change is a measure of the ability of a landscape to “accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies” (para 5.40, GLVIA3).

Landscape Value

Establishing the landscape value of the Site and Study Area is necessary to determine the landscape sensitivity at both a Site and Study Area scale. GLVIA para 5.19 states that landscape value can include “areas of landscape as a whole or, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetics or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of a landscape”.

Where landscapes have no formal landscape designations such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Conservation Area they may still be valued locally. Box 5.1 in GLVIA3 considers factors which determine landscape value:

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

Landscape receptors are described within GLVIA3 (para 5.34) as ‘components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme’. These can include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects. The interaction between the proposed development and landscape receptors has potential to result in landscape effects (both adverse and beneficial). The sensitivity of the landscape receptor is a combination of their susceptibility to change of the receptor to the specific type of development being assessed combined with the value of the landscape.

GLVIA3 indicates that combining susceptibility and value relies on professional judgement. However, it is generally accepted that a combination of high susceptible and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a very low susceptibility and very low value is likely to resulting in the lowest level of sensitivity. It must be noted in practice there may not be a clear distinction between criteria levels. Landscape and visual sensitivity are defined as high to very low, by combining professional judgements on value and susceptibility to change.

Table B-2: Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
Value	Landscapes with a designated landscape (National Park, AONB, NSA, WHS) or one in very good condition, exceptional scenic quality and high recreational opportunities or a high degree of rarity	Landscapes containing few if any notable elements/features, of poor condition or containing several detracting features and limited aesthetic qualities. Landscapes which are not formally designated.
Susceptibility	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which offer very limited opportunities to accommodate change of the type proposed without fundamentally altering key characteristics.	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which are tolerant of a large degree of the type of change proposed without fundamentally altering the key characteristics.

Nature/Magnitude of Landscape Effects

The nature of a landscape effect is determined by considering four factors, namely: size/scale; geographical extent; duration; and reversibility.

Table B-3: Nature of Landscape Effects

Magnitude Criteria

High	Large alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique characteristics at a local level. May be long term impacts, permanent or reversible
Medium	Partial alteration to the landscape receptor. or may impact a wide area or characteristics at a local level. May be medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Low	Slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a restricted area and few key characteristics. May be short to medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Very Low	Very slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a limited area or no key characteristics. May be very short to short term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Neutral	No change to the landscape receptor.

The duration of an effect categories used in this LVA are given in Table B-4: Duration of Landscape Effects.

Table B-4: Duration of Landscape Effects

Duration Criteria

Very short term	Less than 12 months
Short term	1-5 years
Medium term	5-10 years
Long term	10+ years

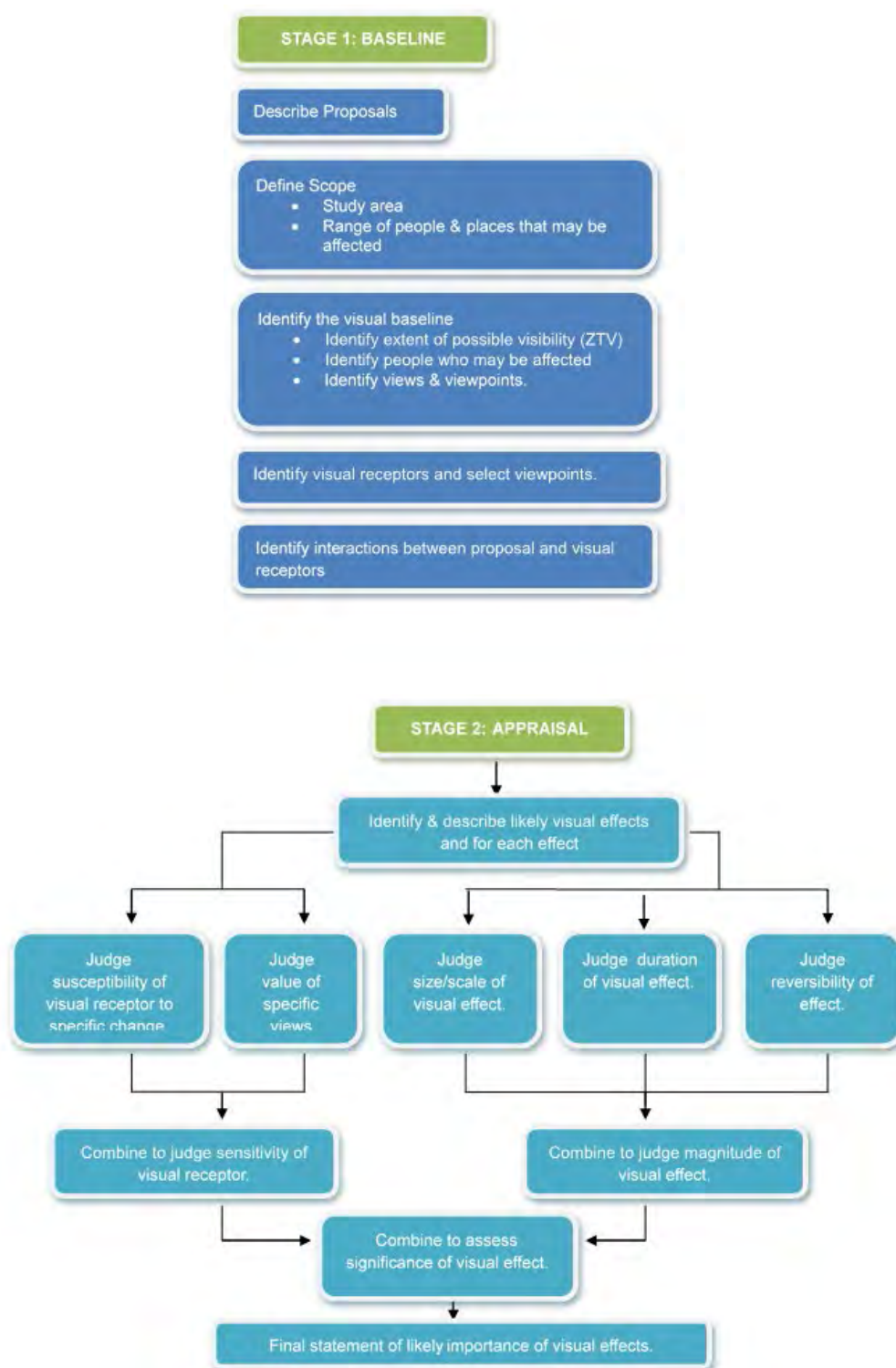
The reversibility of an effect relates to the prospects and practicality of an effect being able to be reversed.

Nature of Landscape Effect Categories

Table B-5: Indicative Importance of Landscape Effects Categories

Significance of Effect	Landscape
Major beneficial	Alterations that result in a considerable improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be restored or reintroduced as part of the development or uncharacteristic detractors would be removed.
Moderate beneficial	Alterations that result in a partial improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely restored or reintroduced and detractors fully or partially removed.
Minor beneficial	Alterations that result in a slight improvement of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially restored and/or detractors partially removed.
Negligible beneficial	Alterations that result in a very slight improvement to the existing landscape resource, not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.
Neutral	No alteration to any of the components that contribute to the existing landscape resource.
Negligible adverse	Alterations that result in a very slight deterioration to the existing landscape resource through loss or addition of landscape elements, typically not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.
Minor adverse	Alterations that result in a slight deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially lost, or uncharacteristic elements partially added.
Moderate adverse	Alterations that result in a noticeable deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely lost or uncharacteristic elements would become prominent.
Major adverse	Alterations that result in a considerable deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be wholly lost or uncharacteristic elements would become dominant.

Visual Appraisal Methodology



'An Appraisal of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity' (GLVIA3, para 6.1). In predicting the effects of the proposed development on the viewpoints being assessed GLVIA3 states it is helpful to consider (but not restricted to) the following issues: nature of the view (full, partial or glimpsed); proportion of the proposed development visible; distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development and whether it would be the focus of the view or only a small element; whether the view is stationary, transient or sequential; and the nature of the changes to the view.

Sensitivity of Viewers/Nature of Receptor

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in the view and visual amenity is related to the activity they are engaged in and the extent to which their attention is focussed on the views and visual amenity at that location. As such those receptors most susceptible to change are likely to include people engaged in outdoor activities where an appreciation of the landscape is the focus or residents in areas where the landscape setting contributes to the setting of the properties. Conversely, those considered least susceptible to change include (but not restricted to) people engaged in outdoor sports/recreation where there is no focus on the surrounding landscape/views and people at their place of work whose focus is on the work activity.

In combining susceptibility to change and value it is generally accepted that a combination of high susceptible and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a very low susceptibility and very low value is likely to result in the lowest level of sensitivity. A summary of the likely characteristics of the different levels of sensitivity is described below in Table B-6. It must be noted that these are indicative and in practice do not have a clear distinction between criteria levels.

Table B-6: Value of View Continuum

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
Value	Views protected by designation, or nationally recognised, or recorded on maps/guidebooks or with cultural associations,	Views which are not documented or protected with minimal or no cultural associations.
Susceptibility	Viewers whose attention or interest is focussed on their surroundings	People whose attention or interest is not focussed on their surroundings and where the view is incidental to their enjoyment.

Magnitude of Impacts /Nature of Effect

Table B-7: Visual Magnitude of Impact Criteria

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
High	The development will cause a pronounced change to the composition of the view or may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Medium	The development will cause a noticeable change to the composition of the view or may be viewed in the middle ground or indirectly. May be medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Low	The development will cause an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view or may be viewed in the background or obliquely. May be short to medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Very Low	The development will cause a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view or may be viewed in the background and very obliquely. May be very short to short term impacts, permanent or reversible
None	No change to the view

The duration of an effect and its reversibility are linked but separate consideration of the criteria for defining these are as below.

Table B-8: Duration of Visual Effects

Duration Criteria	
Very short term	Less than 12 months
Short term	1-5 years
Medium term	5-10 years
Long term	10+ years

The reversibility of an effect relates to the prospects and practicality of an effect being able to be reversed.

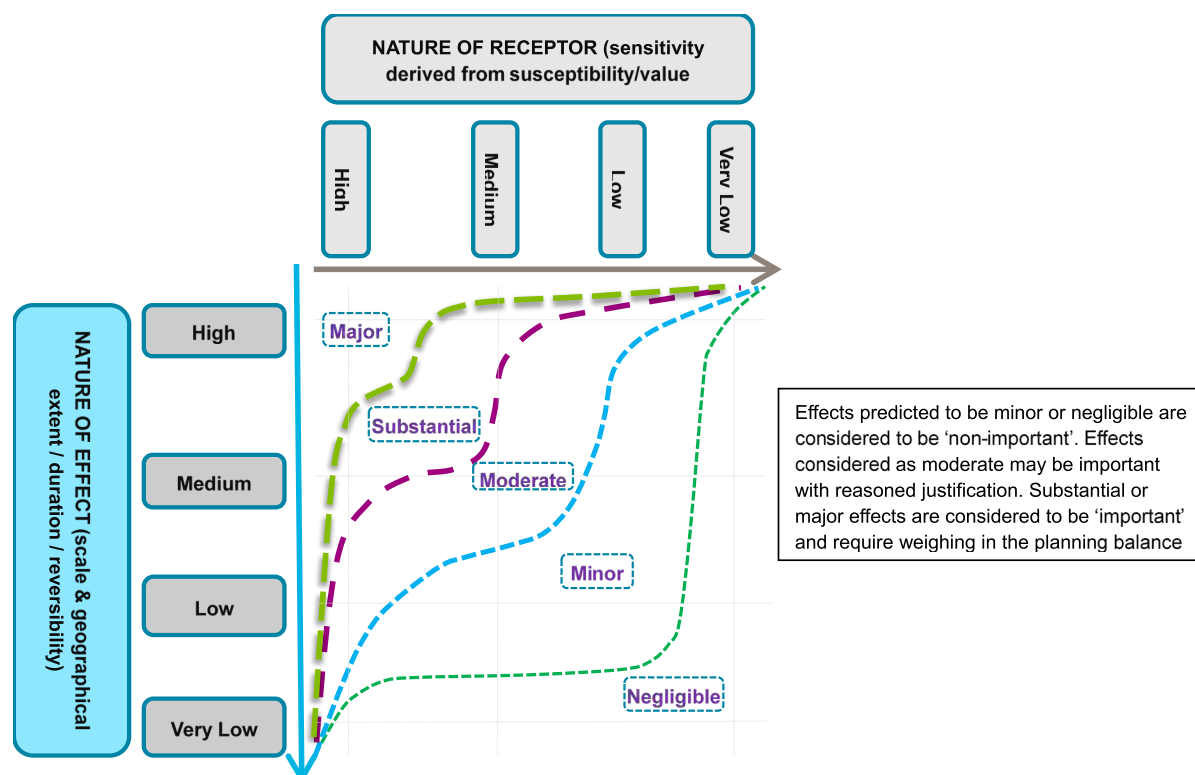
Nature of Visual Effect Categories

The overall Importance of visual effects is a combination of the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of the visual effects. GLVIA3 clearly states that there is no definitive rule regarding what defines an important effect, but in making the judgement the following points should be considered (para 6.44): effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes on views and visual amenity are more likely to be important; effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be important; and large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be important than small changes or changes involving features already present within the view.

Table B-9: Indicative Importance of Landscape Effects Categories

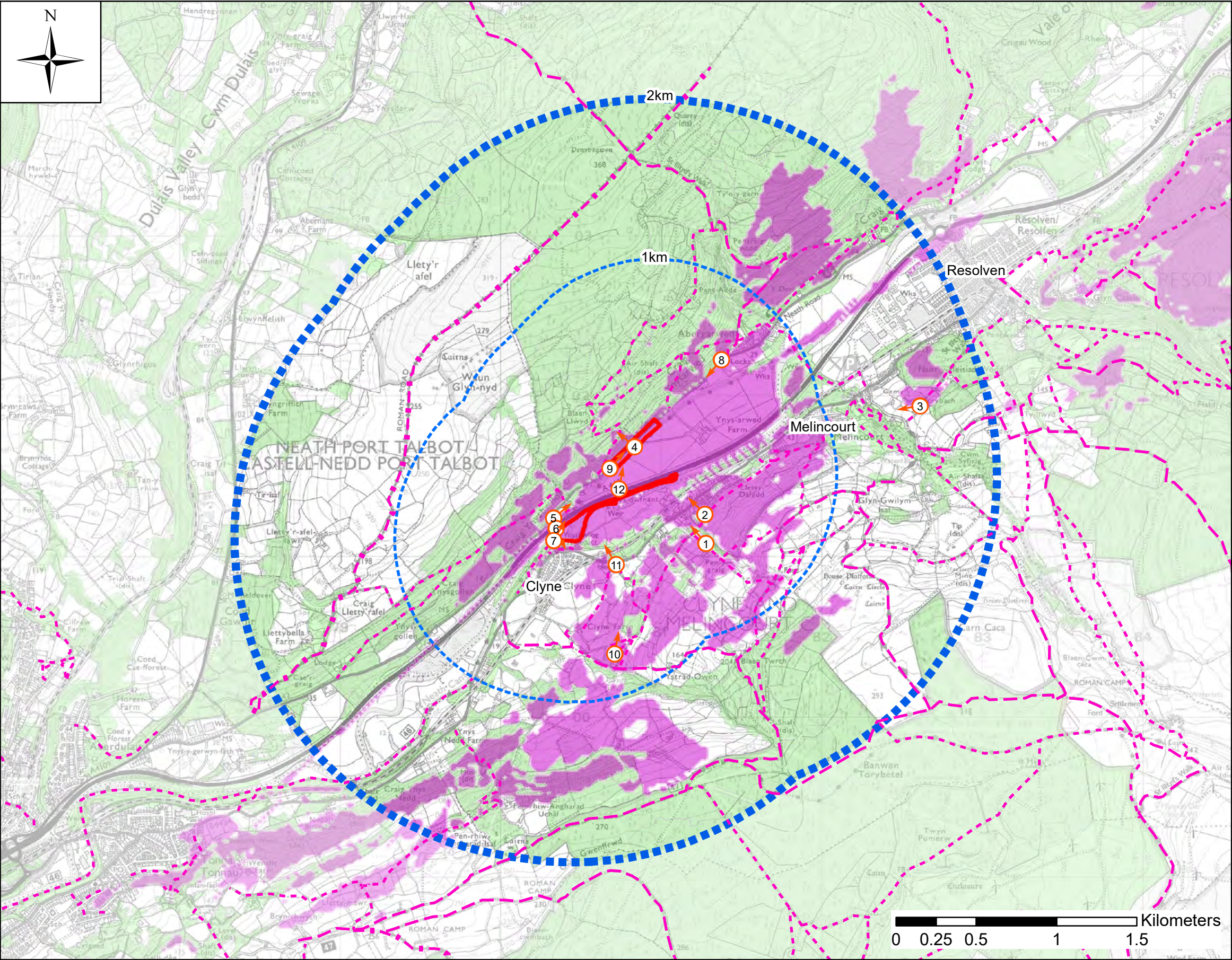
Significance of Visual Effect	Indicative Example
Major beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced improvement in the existing view.
Moderate beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
Minor beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a limited improvement in the existing view.
Negligible beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
Neutral	No change to the existing view.
Negligible adverse	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view.
Minor adverse	Alterations that typically result in a limited deterioration in the existing view.
Moderate adverse	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.
Major adverse	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced deterioration in the existing view.

Combining Nature of Effect/Receptor to Define Indicative Importance Effect Categories



The diagram is indicative of a continuum of effects which are assessed by professional judgement and justification and the combination of conclusions may vary.

Appendix C Figures



LEGEND

- Red line boundary
- Study area
- Proposed viewpoint locations
- Woodland
- Public Rights of Way
 - Bridleway
 - Byway Open to All
 - Footpath
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
 - Higher visibility
 - Lower visibility

Zone of Theoretical Visibility based on a 50m grid and a 1.6m eye height of viewer. Woodland is modelled at 10m height. Buildings within the wider landscape are not modelled.

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Project:	YNYSARWED MWTS

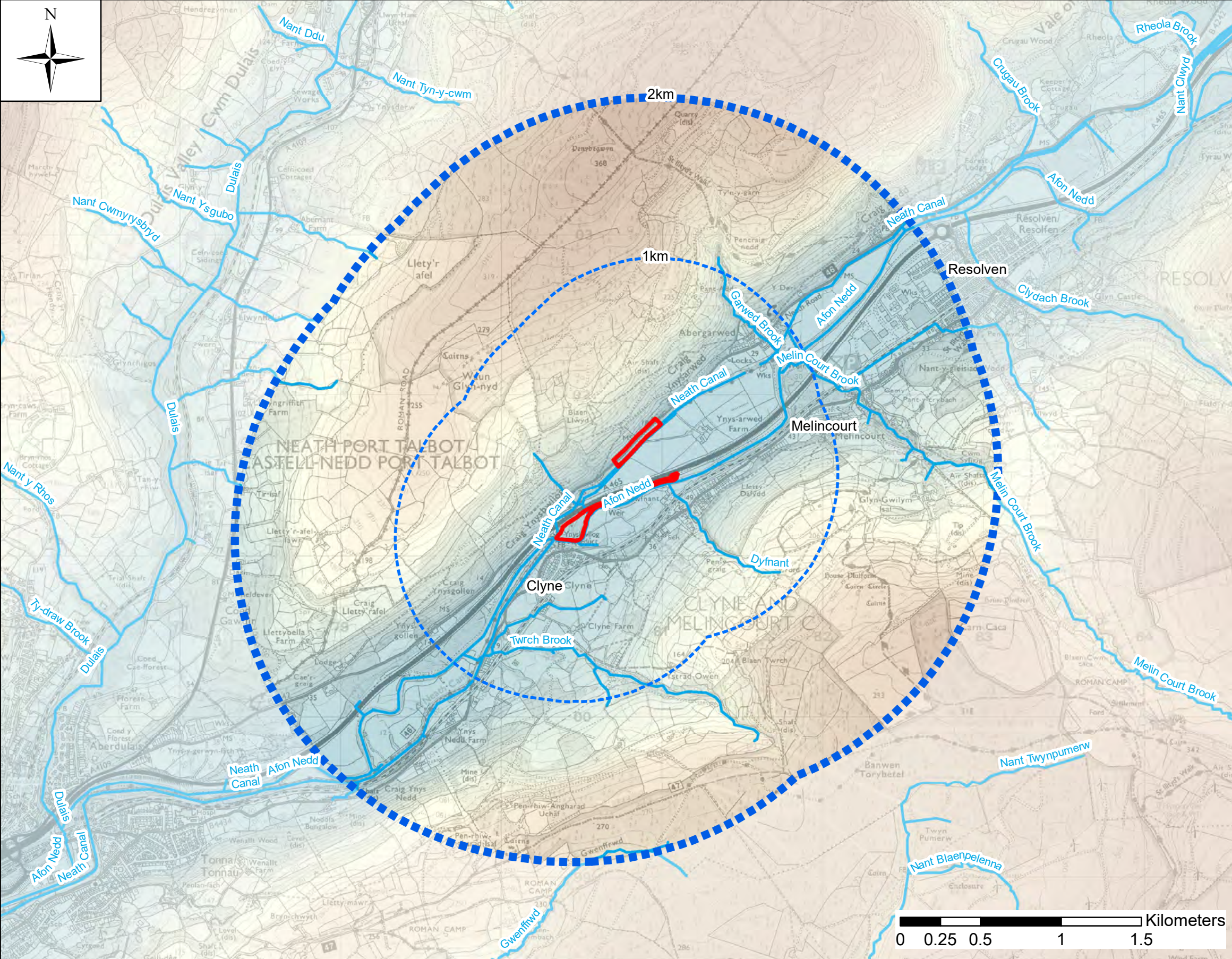
Title:	FIGURE LVA-01 - ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV) AND VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS
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Drawing Number:	MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3305		A3



LEGEND

- Red line boundary
- Study area
- Watercourses

Topography

- Higher ground - up to 375m
- Lower ground - down to 6m

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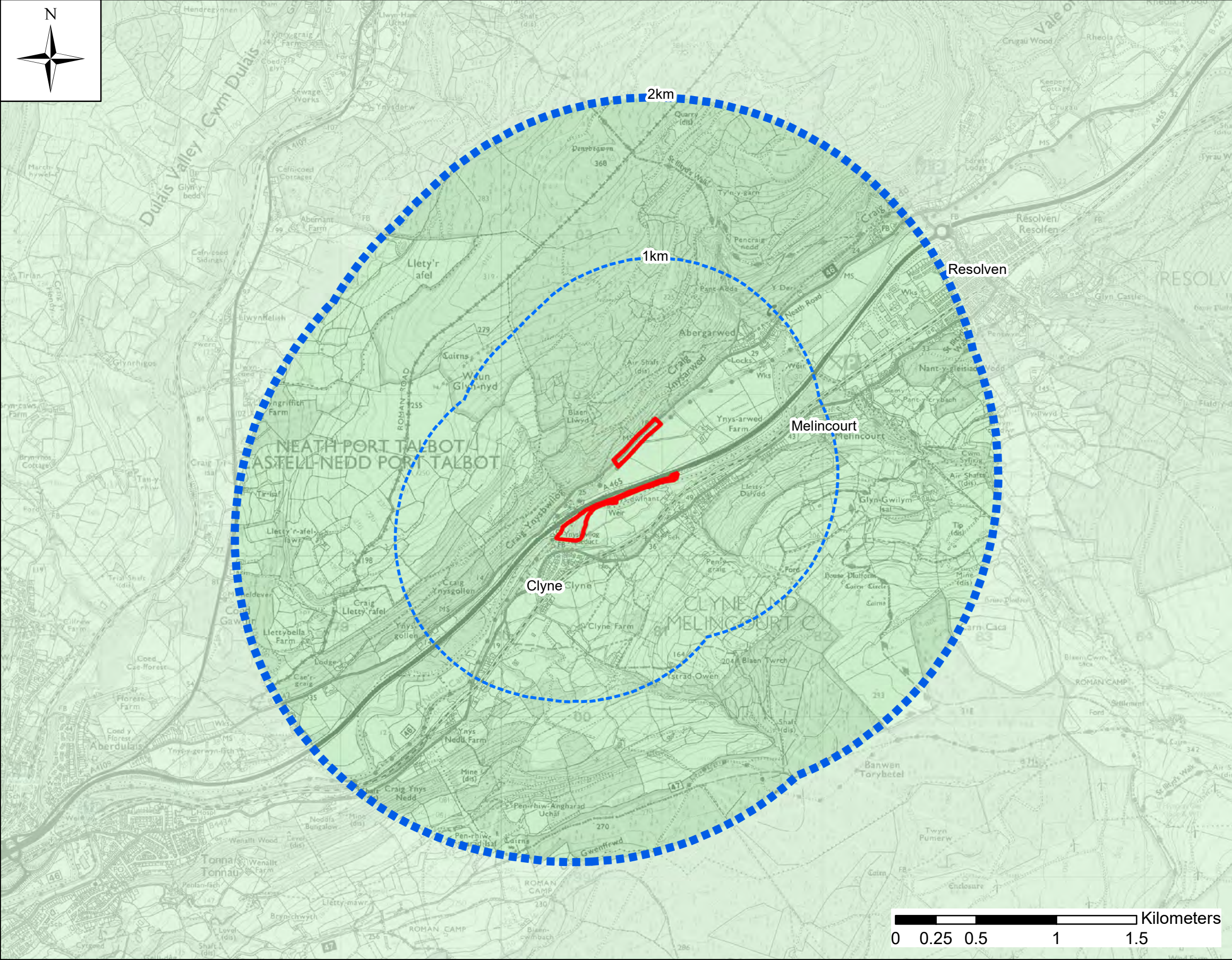
Title:	FIGURE LVA-02 - TOPOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY
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Date:	29/06/2020	Scale at A3:	1:25,000
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LEGEND

-  Red line boundary
-  Study area
-  South Wales Valleys National Landscape Character Area

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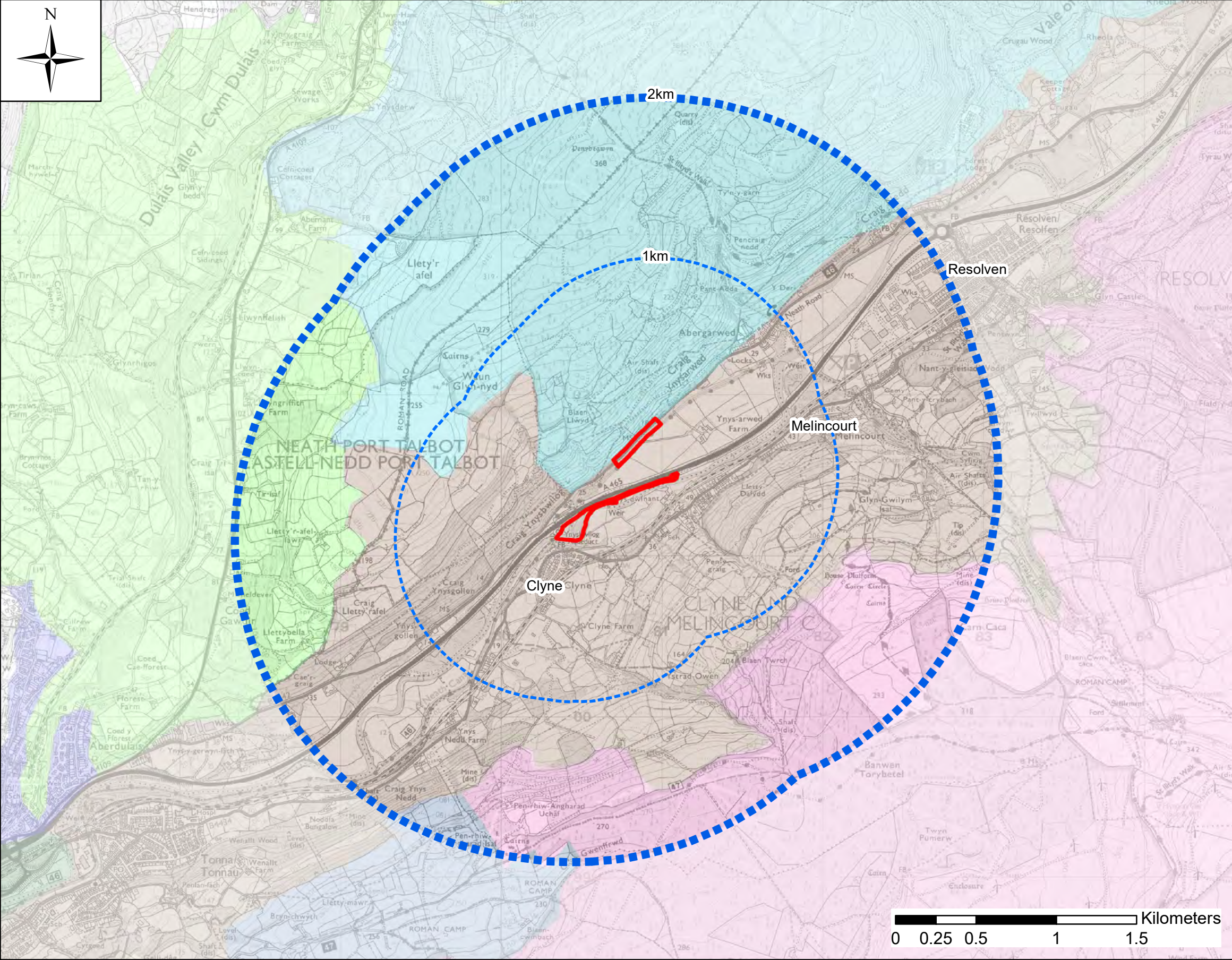
Title:	FIGURE LVA-03A - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS)
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Design:	LB	Drawn:	LB
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Date:	29/06/2020	Scale at A3:	1:25,000
Drawing Number: MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3315			A3



LEGEND

- Red line boundary
- Study area
- Neath Port Talbot Landscape Character Areas**
 - Dulais Valley
 - Feol Fynyddau
 - Gnoll Park
 - Hirfynydd
 - Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscwrwg
 - Neath
 - Neath Estuary
 - Neath Valley

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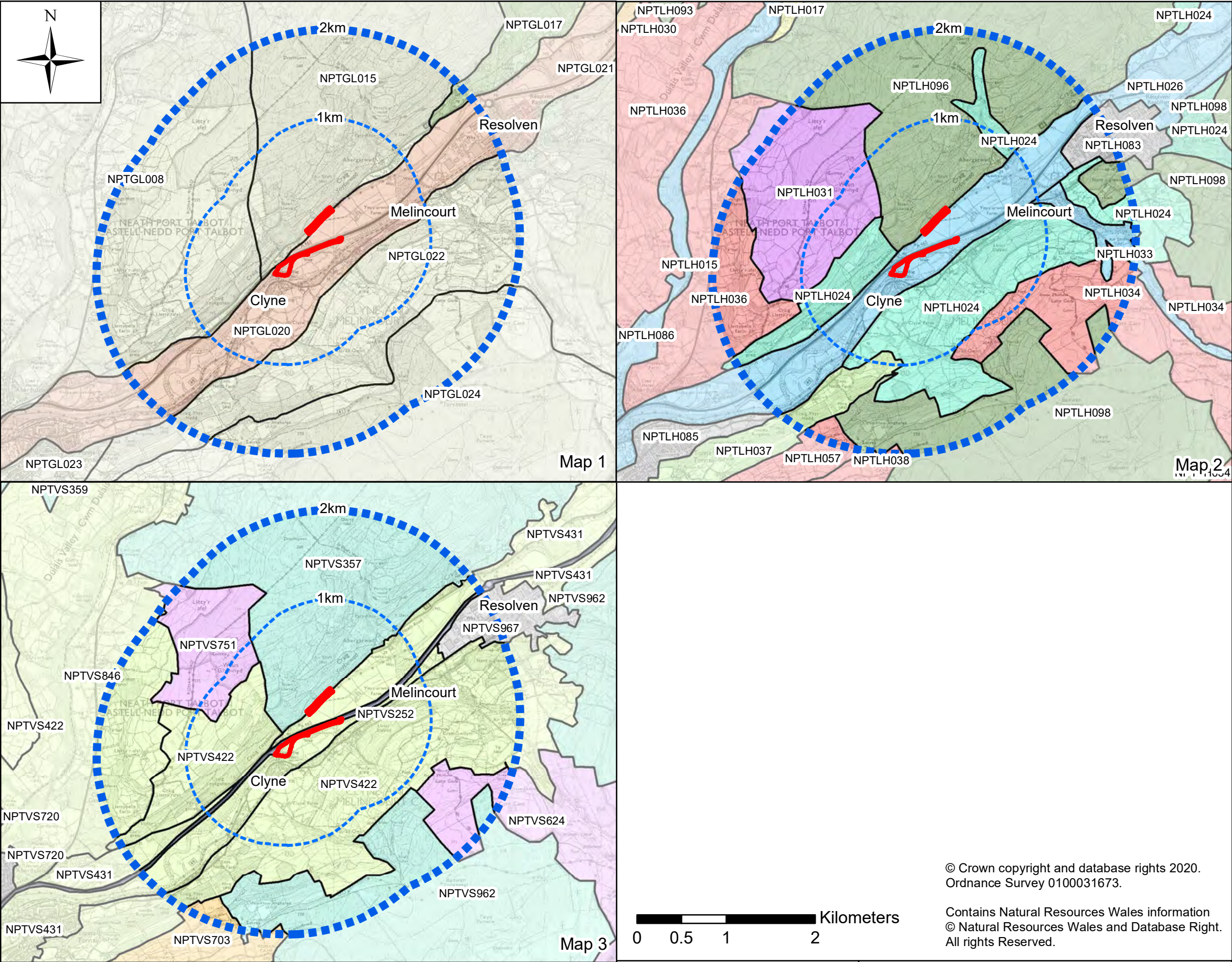
Client:	THE COAL AUTHORITY
Project:	YNYSARWED MWTS

Title:	FIGURE LVA-03B - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (NEATH PORT TALBOT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS)
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Design:	LB	Drawn:	LB
Chk'd:	RW	App'd:	NW
Date:	29/06/2020	Scale at A3:	1:25,000
Drawing Number:	MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3316	A3	



1. LANDMAP - Geological Landscapes

Red line boundary

Study area

LANDMAP - Geological Landscapes

- Tectonically controlled valley (Valley following folds, fault controlled gorges, or scarps)
- Upland plateau
- Upland valley slope

2. LANDMAP - Landscape Habitats

Red line boundary

Study area

LANDMAP - Landscape Habitats

- Acid Grassland
- Broadleaved Woodland
- Coniferous Woodland
- Dwarf Shrub Heath
- Marsh/Marshy Grassland
- Mosaic
- Neutral Grassland
- Residential/Green Space
- River Corridors

3. LANDMAP - Visual and Sensory

Red line boundary

Study area

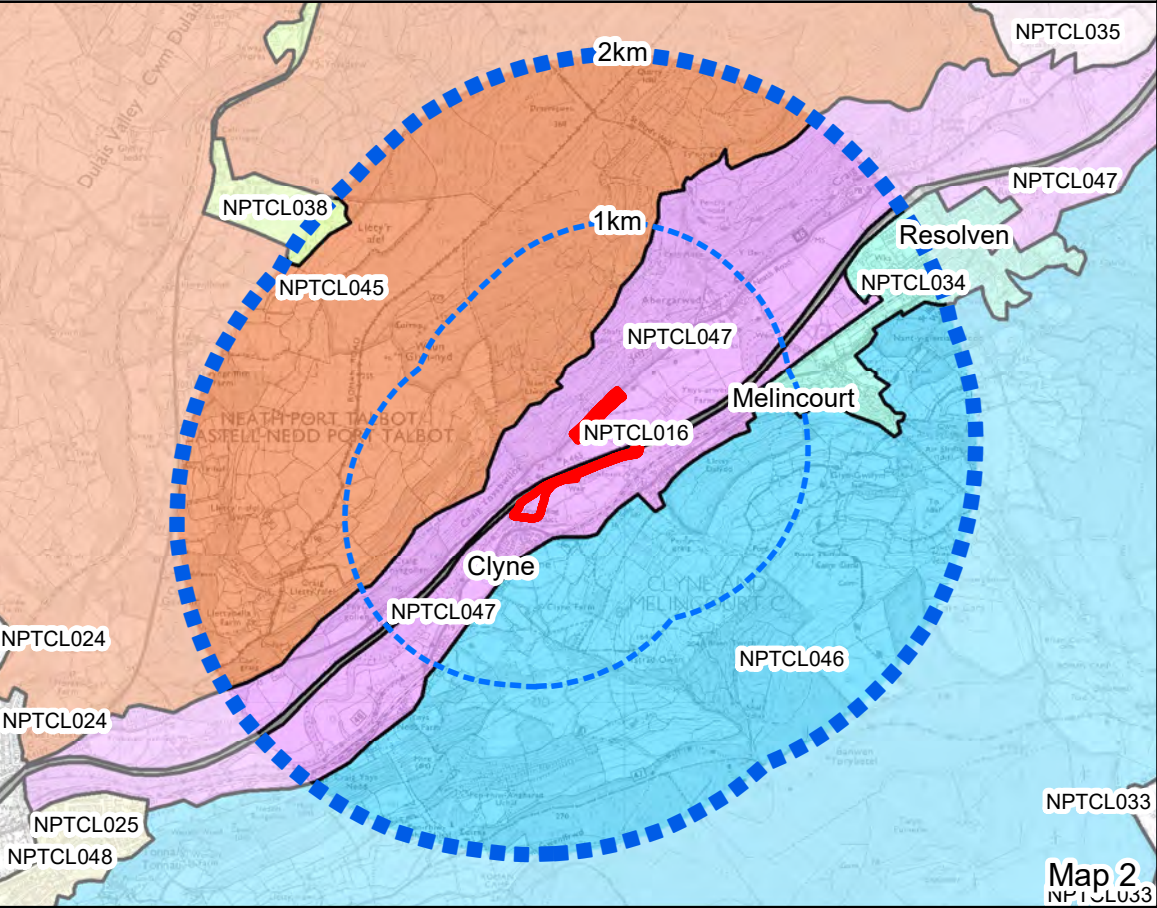
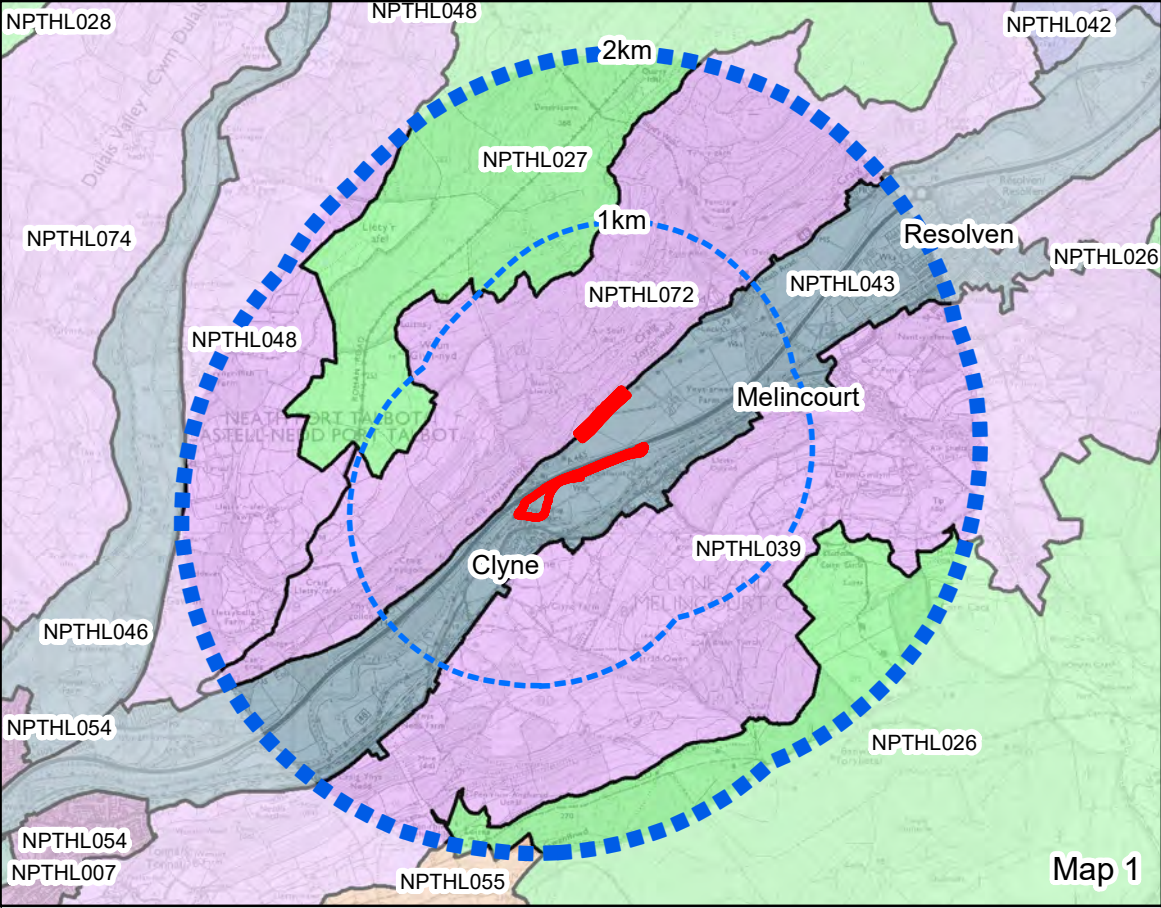
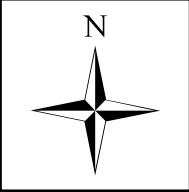
LANDMAP - Visual and Sensory

- Mosaic Upland & Plateaux
- Open Upland Valleys
- Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys
- Road Corridor
- Upland Moorland
- Urban
- Village
- Wooded Upland & Plateaux

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Client:	THE COAL AUTHORITY	Title: FIGURE LVA-03C - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (LANDMAP) Geological, Habitats and Visual / Sensory	AECOM Royal Court, Basil Close, CHESTERFIELD S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209229 www.aecom.com	Design:	LB	Drawn:	LB
Project:	YNYSARWED MWTS			Chk'd:	RW	App'd:	NW
				Date:	29/06/2020	Scale at A3:	1:45,000
				Drawing Number: MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3317		A3	



1. LANDMAP - Historic Landscapes

- Red line boundary
- Study area

LANDMAP - Historic Landscapes

- Communications
- Designed
- Irregular Fieldsapes
- Marginal Land
- Other Settlement
- Regular Fieldsapes
- Water & Wetland

2. LANDMAP - Cultural Landscapes

- Red line boundary
- Study area

LANDMAP - Cultural Landscapes

- A465
- Creunant
- Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain
- Resolven and Melincourt
- Rheola and Aberpergwm
- Tonna
- Vale of Neath
- West Central High Ridge: Mynydd Marchywe

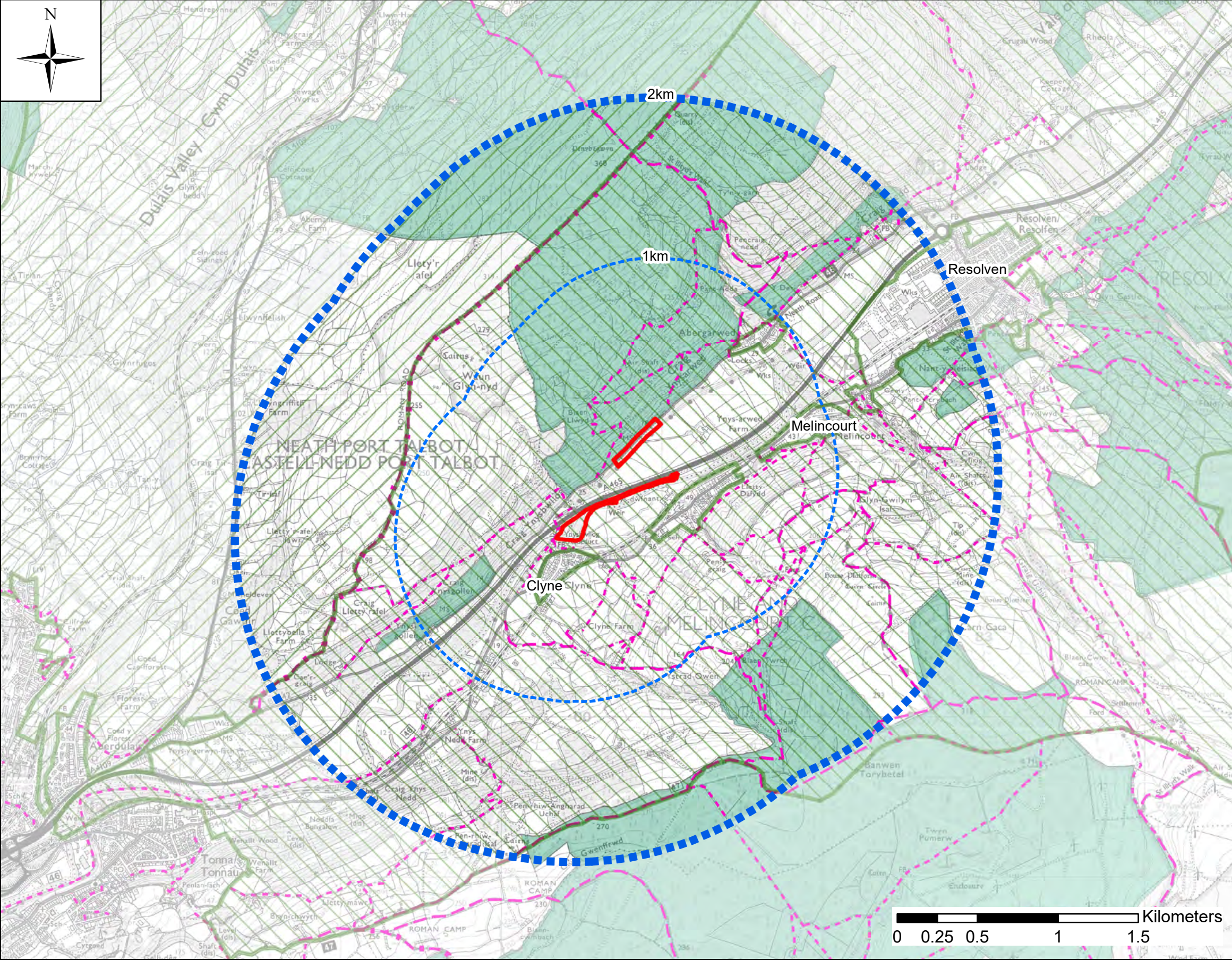
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Client:	THE COAL AUTHORITY
Project:	YNYSARWED MWTS

Title:	FIGURE LVA-03D - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (LANDMAP) Historic and Cultural
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Date:	29/06/2020	Scale at A3:	1:45,000
Drawing Number:	MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3318		A3



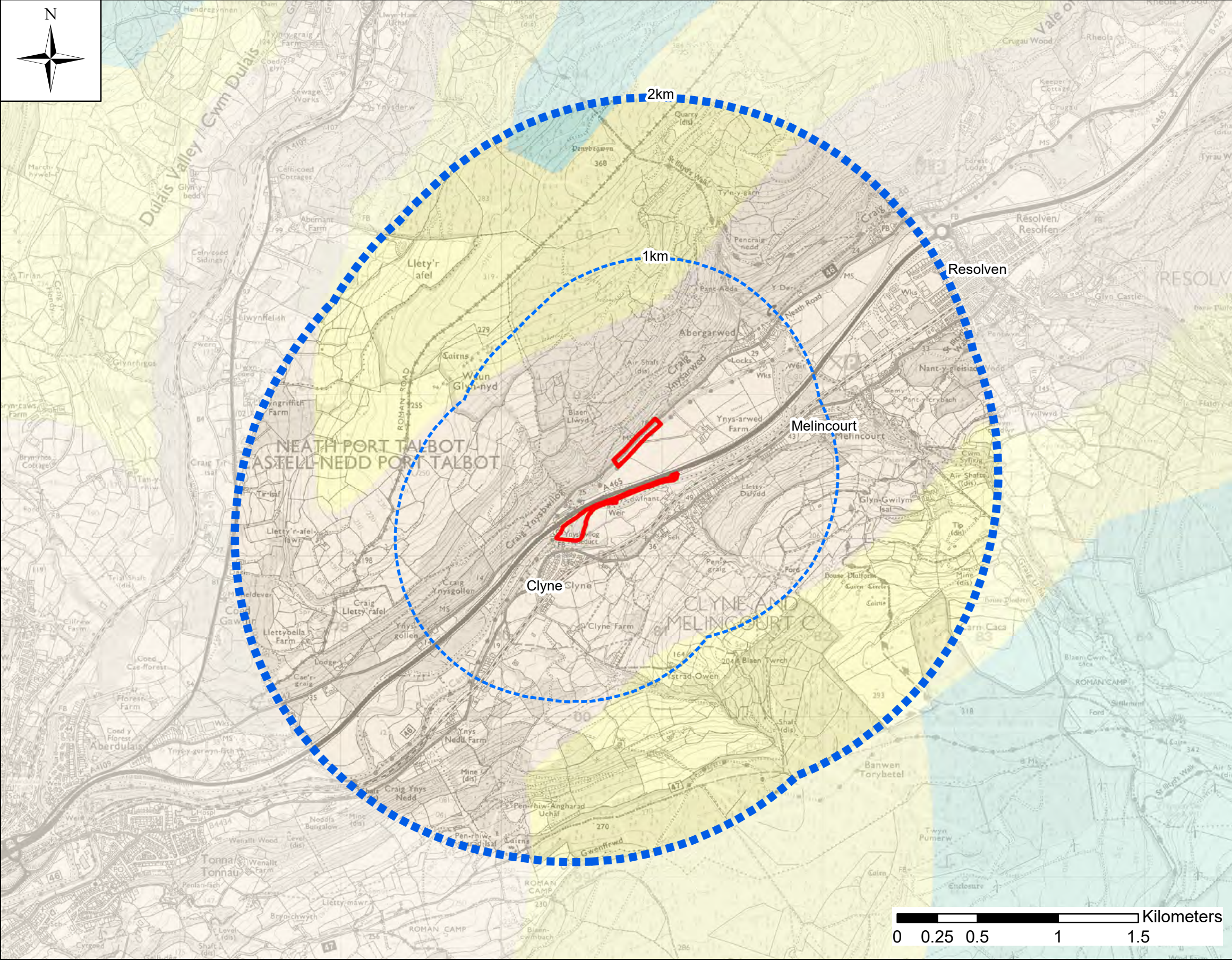
LEGEND

- Red line boundary
- Study area
- Special Landscape Areas
 - SLA2: Dulais Valley
 - SLA3: Vale of Neath
- Public Rights of Way
 - Bridleway
 - Byway Open to All Traffic
 - Footpath
- Open Access Land - Dedicated Forests

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Client: THE COAL AUTHORITY	Title: FIGURE LVA-04A - LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS	AECOM Royal Court, Basil Close, CHESTERFIELD S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB	Drawn: LB
			Chk'd: RW	App'd: NW
Date: 29/06/2020			Scale at A3: 1:25,000	
Drawing Number: MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3325			A3	
Project: YNYSARWED MWTS				



LEGEND

- Red line boundary
- Study area
- Tranquillity zone**
 - Zone B (least tranquil)
 - Zone C (semi-tranquil)
 - Undisturbed (most tranquil)

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Client:	THE COAL AUTHORITY
Project:	YNYSARWED MWTS

Title:	FIGURE LVA-04B - TRANQUILLITY MAPPING
--------	---------------------------------------

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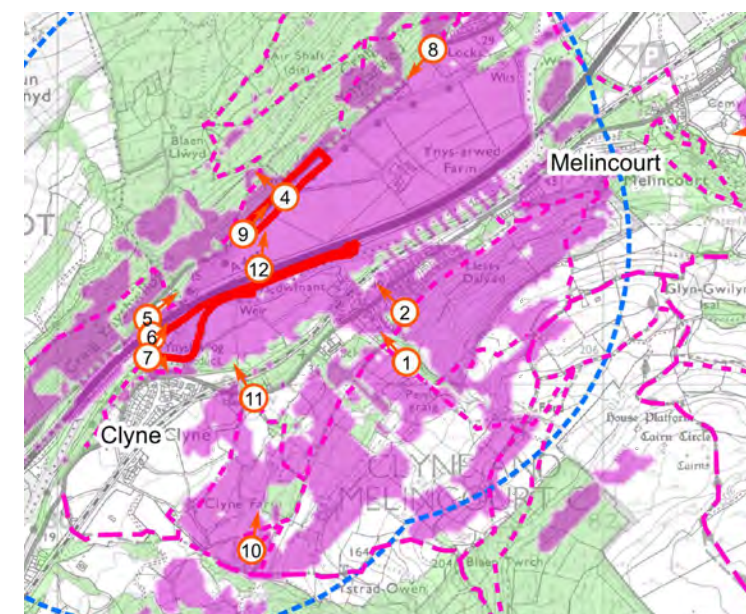
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Date:	29/06/2020	Scale at A3:	1:25,000
Drawing Number:	MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3326		A3



Extent of 50mm single frame image

Viewpoint number: 2
Location title: View north-west from PRow 53/3A/1
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 03/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 281272, 201265
Elevation: 66m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.

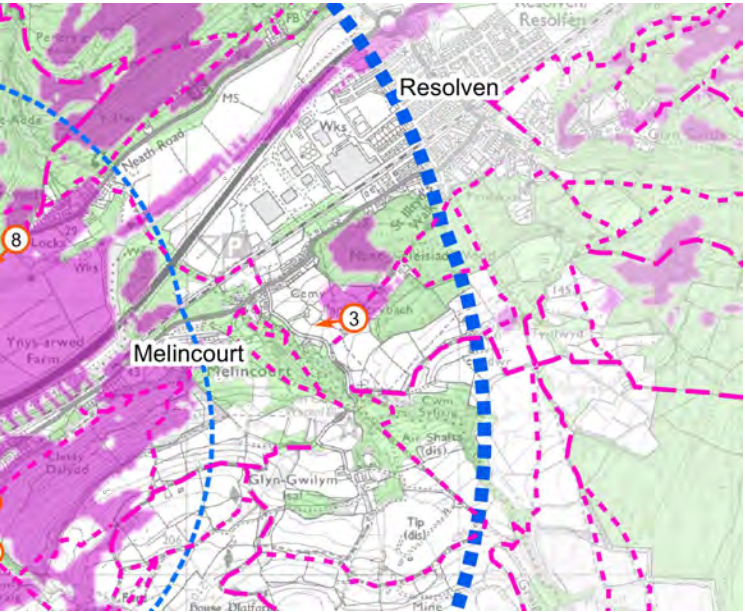


Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED MWTS	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 2 VIEW NORTH-WEST FROM PROW 53/3A/1	AECOM Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB		CAD: LB		cm	
			Chk'd: RW		App'd: NW			
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								A3

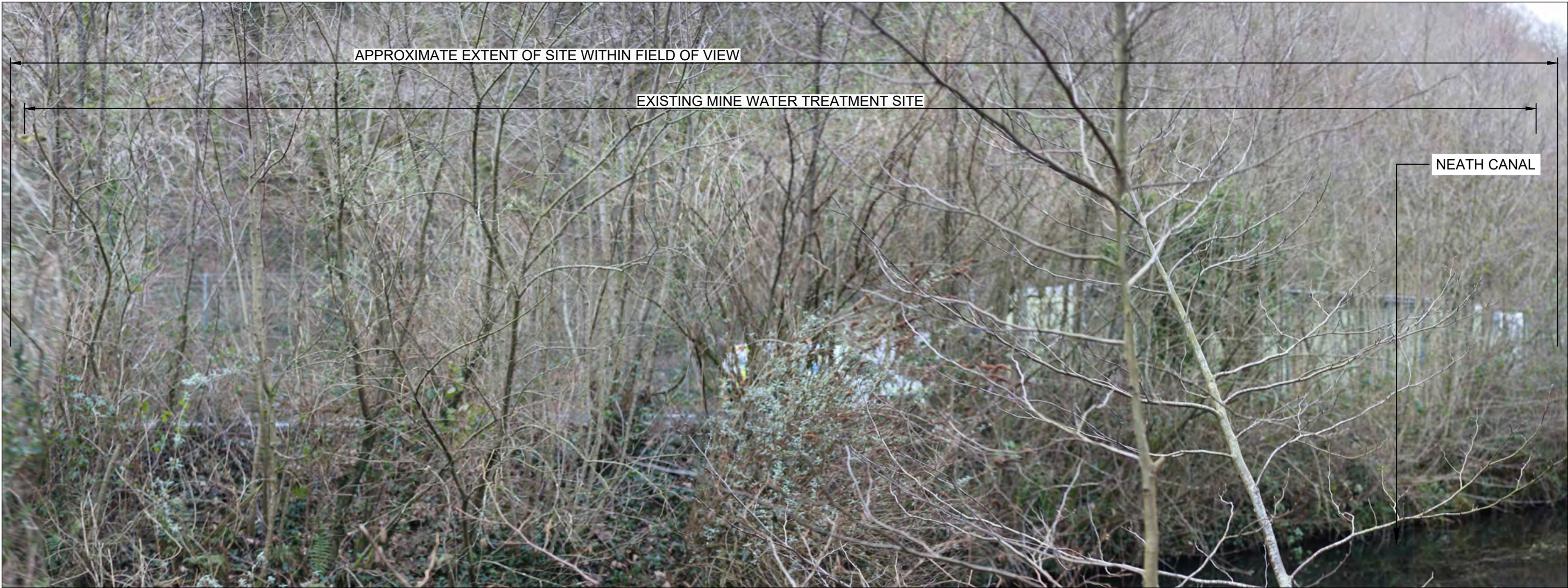


Extent of 50mm single frame image

Viewpoint number: 3
Location title: View west from St Illtyd's Walk PRoW 27/29/3
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 03/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 282613, 201939
Elevation: 92m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.

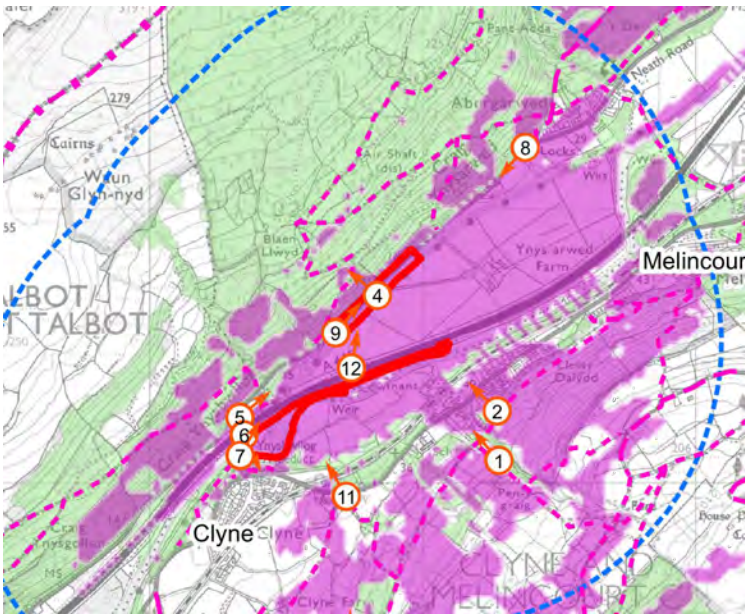


Project:	THE COAL AUTHORITY	Title:	PHOTOVIEWPOINT 3 VIEW WEST FROM ST ILLTYD'S WALK PROW 27/29/3	AECOM Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design:	LB	CAD:	LB	3
					Chk'd:	RW	App'd:	NW	
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									A3

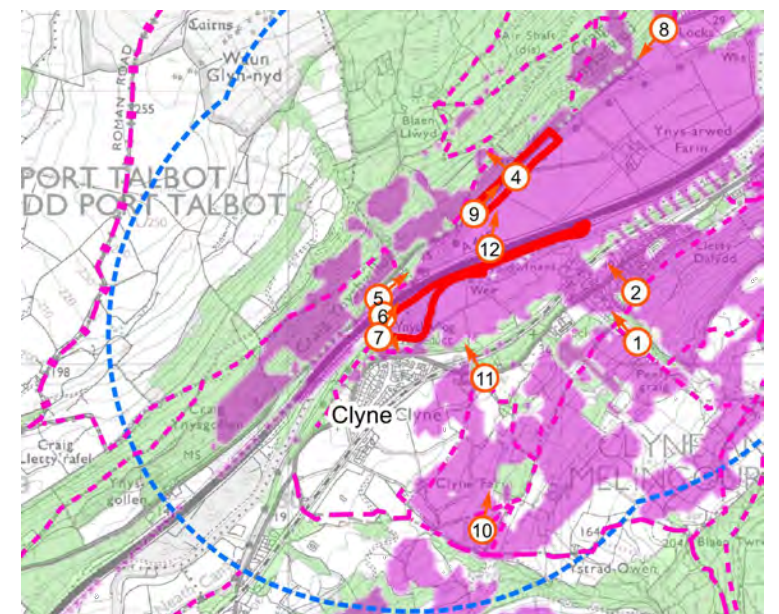


Extent of 50mm single frame image

Viewpoint number: 4
Location title: View north from towpath along Neath Canal
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280824, 201654
Elevation: 16m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.



Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 4 VIEW NORTH FROM TOWPATH ALONG NEATH CANAL	 Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB		CAD: LB		cm	
			Chk'd: RW		App'd: NW			
			Date: 30/06/2020		Scale: N/A		MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3333	Rev:



Viewpoint number: 5
Location title: View north-east from towpath along Neath Canal near car park
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280328, 201242
Elevation: 17m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.

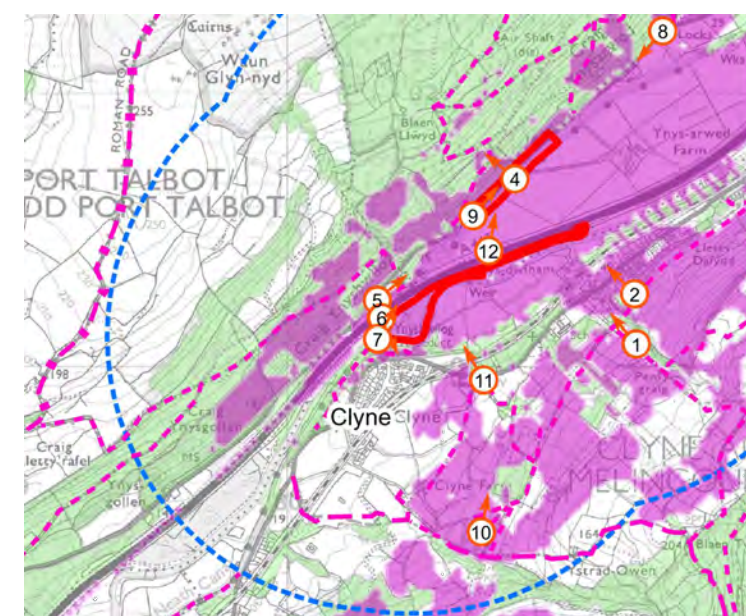
Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED MWTS	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 5 VIEW NORTH-EAST FROM TOWPATH ALONG NEATH CANAL NEAR CAR PARK	 Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB		CAD: LB		cm	
			Chk'd: RW		App'd: NW			
			Date: 30/06/2020		Scale: N/A			
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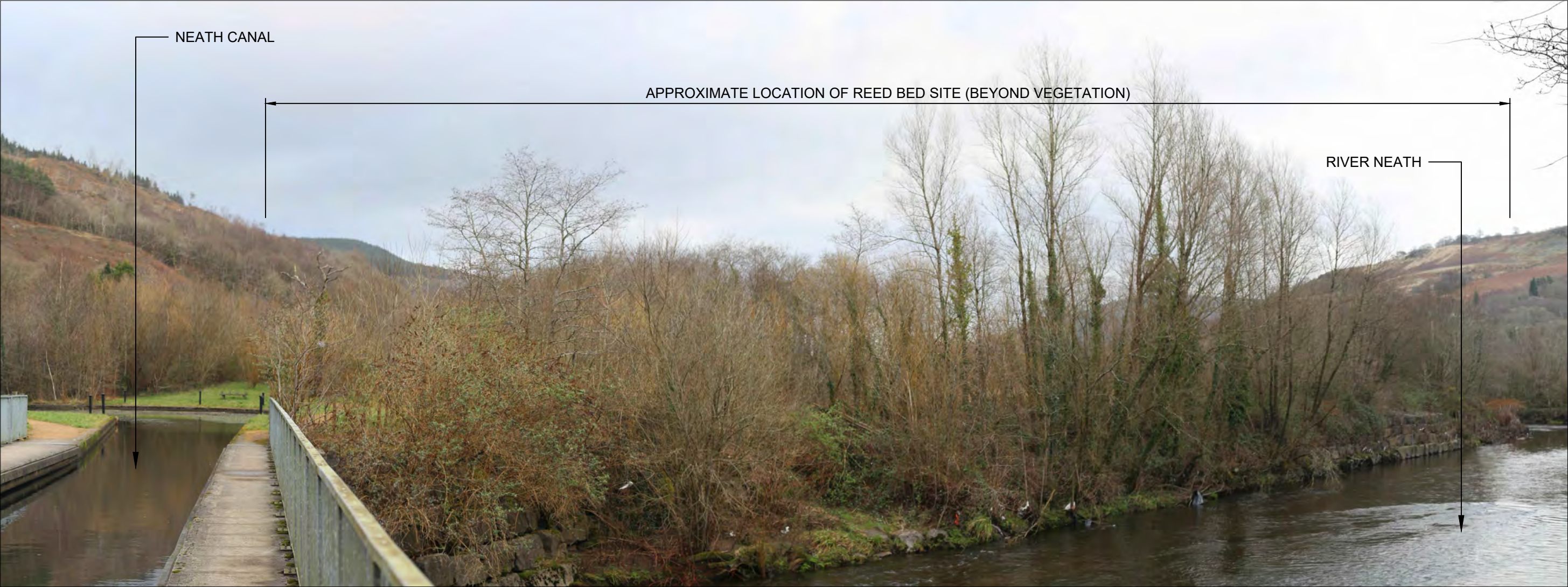
NEATH CANAL

Extent of 50mm single frame image

Viewpoint number: 6
Location title: View south-east from PRow 21/14.N.Lo/1
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280345, 201177
Elevation: 20m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.

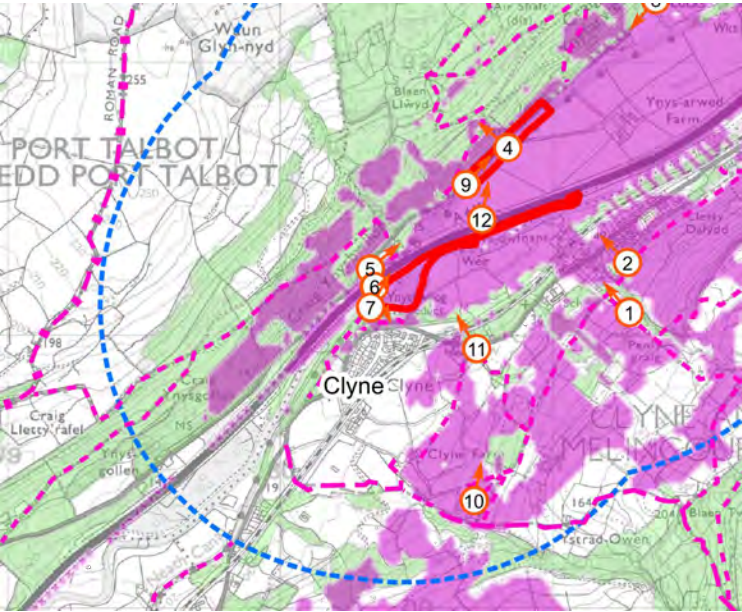


Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED MWTS	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 6 VIEW SOUTH-EAST FROM PROW 21/14.N.LO/1	 Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB		CAD: LB		
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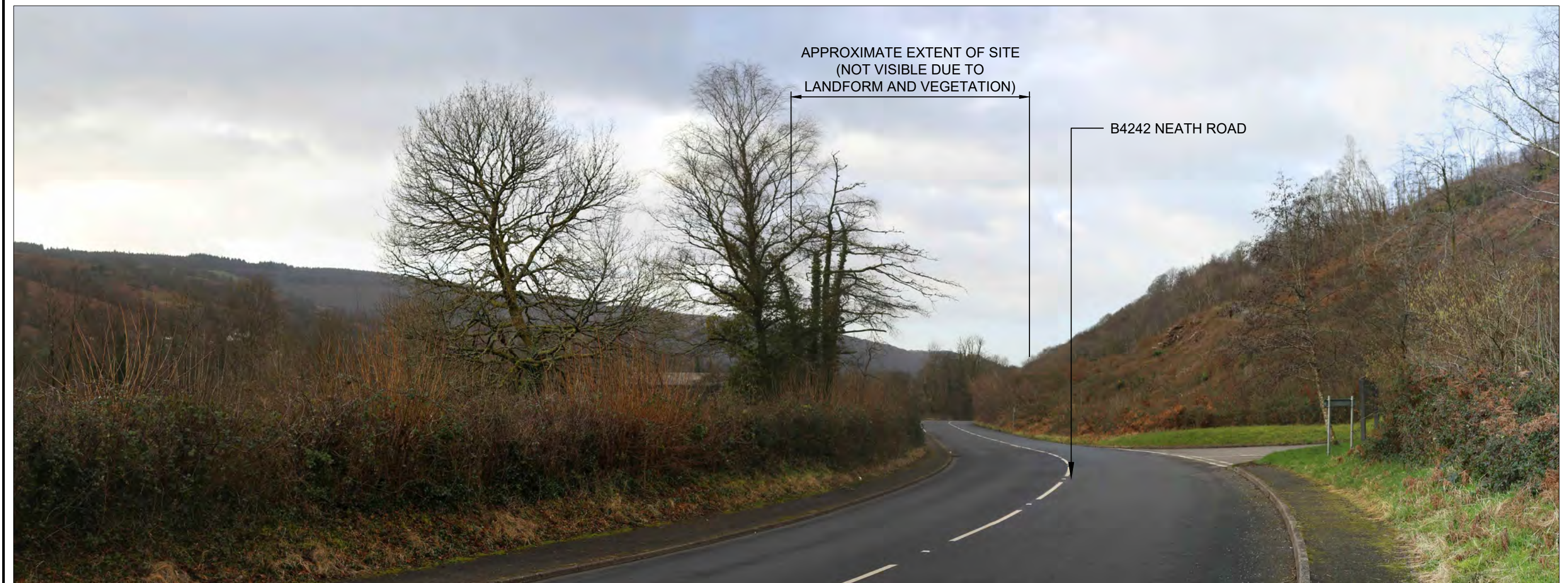


Extent of 50mm single frame image

Viewpoint number: 7
Location title: View north-east from towpath along Neath Canal on aquaduct where Neath Canal crosses River Neath
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280331, 201101
Elevation: 21m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.

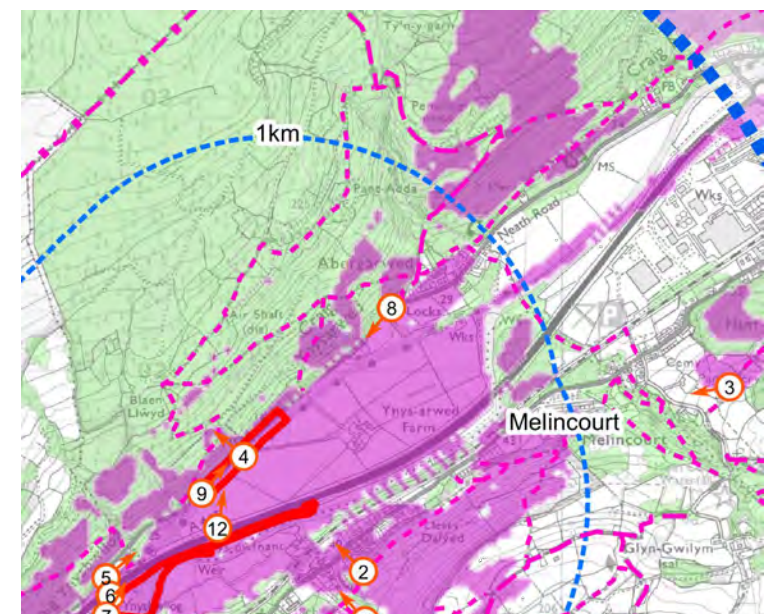


Project:	THE COAL AUTHORITY	Title:	PHOTOVIEWPOINT 7 VIEW NORTH-EAST FROM TOWPATH ALONG NEATH CANAL ON AQUADUCT WHERE NEATH CANAL CROSSES RIVER NEATH	AECOM Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB				CAD: LB				cm						
	YNYSARWED MWTS				Chk'd: RW				App'd: NW										
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																			A3



Extent of 50mm single frame image

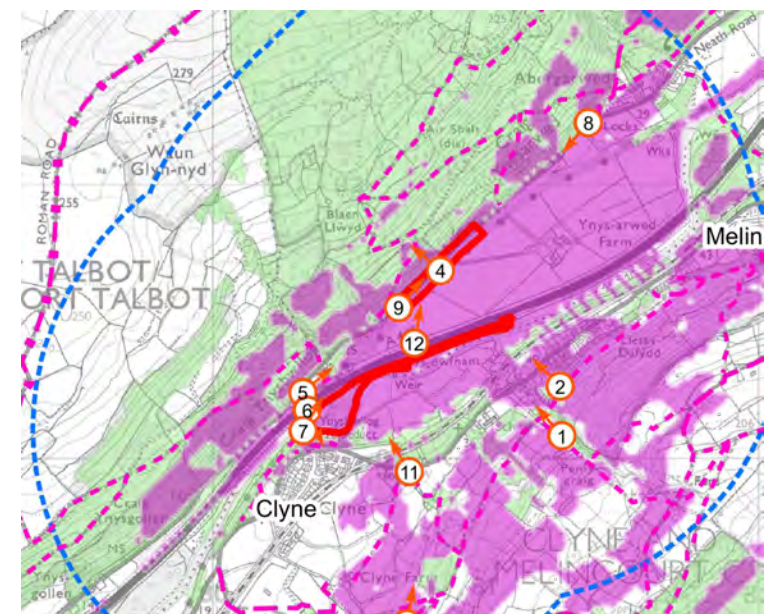
Viewpoint number: 8
Location title: View south-west from B4242 Neath Road west of Abergarwed
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 281375, 202230
Elevation: 31m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.



Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED MWTS	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 8 VIEW SOUTH-WEST FROM B4242 NEATH ROAD WEST OF ABERGARWED	AECOM Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB		CAD: LB		cm	
			Chk'd: RW		App'd: NW			
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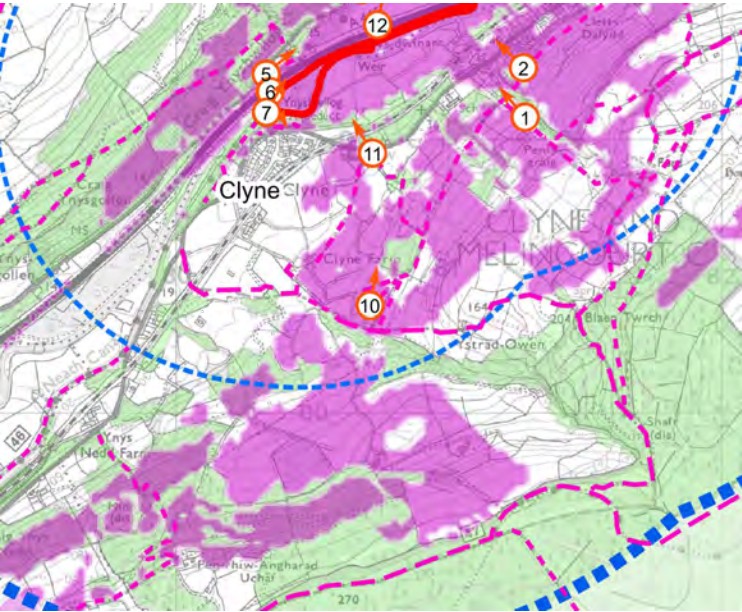
Viewpoint number: 9
Location title: View north-east from B4242 Neath Road east of Ynysarwed Cottages
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280680, 201551
Elevation: 27m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.



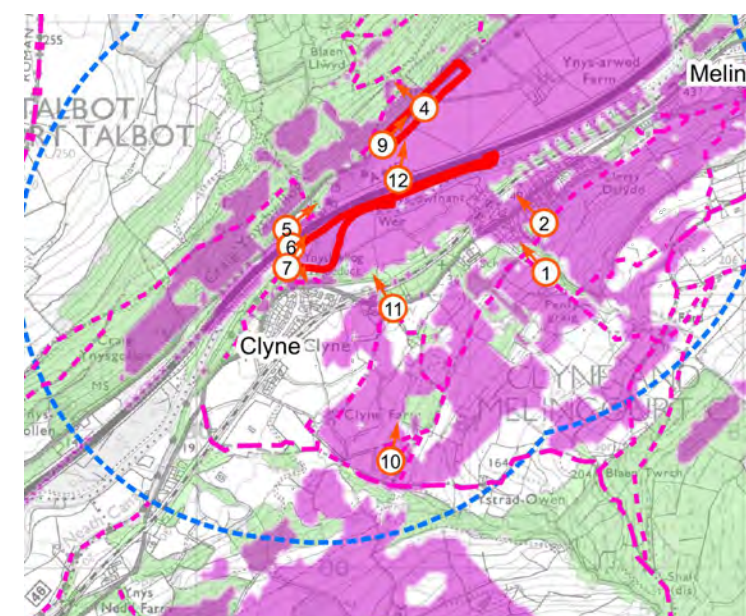
Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED MWTS	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 9 VIEW NORTH-EAST FROM B4242 NEATH ROAD EAST OF YNYSARWED COTTAGES	 Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB		CAD: LB		cm	
			Chk'd: RW		App'd: NW			
			Date: 30/06/2020		Scale: N/A			
			MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3338					
								A3



Viewpoint number: 10
Location title: View north from junction of Clyne Terrace and PRow B53/2A/1
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280709, 200394
Elevation: 84m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.



Project:	THE COAL AUTHORITY	Title:	PHOTOVIEWPOINT 10 VIEW NORTH FROM JUNCTION OF CLYNE TERRACE AND PROW B53/2A/1	AECOM Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB	CAD: LB	cm												
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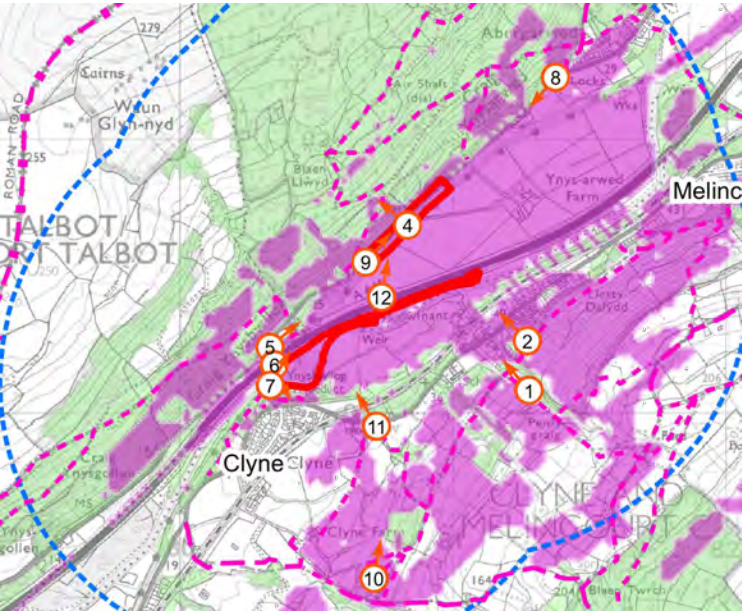
Viewpoint number: 11
Location title: View north from PRoW 53/1/1 east of Clyne
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280721, 200946
Elevation: 40m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.

Project: THE COAL AUTHORITY YNYSARWED MWTS	Title: PHOTOVIEWPOINT 11 VIEW NORTH FROM PROW 53/1/1 EAST OF CLYNE	Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com AECOM	Design: LB		CAD: LB		cm	
			Chk'd: RW		App'd: NW			
			Date: 30/06/2020		Scale: N/A			
			MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3340					Rev:
								A3



Extent of 50mm single frame image

Viewpoint number: 12
Location title: View north-east from A465 layby (eastbound)
Camera model: Canon EOS 6D
Focal length: 35mm
Field of View: 50mm vertical (27) x 28mm horizontal (65.5)
Camera height: 1.6m
Photo taken: 04/02/2020
Co-ordinates: 280737, 201423
Elevation: 18m AOD
View at a comfortable arm's length between 30cm and 50cm.



Project:	THE COAL AUTHORITY	Title:	PHOTOVIEWPOINT 12 VIEW NORTH-EAST FROM A465 LAYBY (EASTBOUND)	AECOM Royal Court Basil Close CHESTERFIELD, S41 7SL Tel: +44 (0) 1246 209 221 Fax: +44 (0) 1246 209 229 www.aecom.com	Design: LB	CAD: LB	cm
					Chk'd: RW	App'd: NW	
					Date: 30/06/2020	Scale: N/A	Rev:
					MWTS-AEC-YN-XX-DR-L-3341		
						A3	

