

APPENDIX 5.3: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The sensitivity of the landscape character areas which may receive significant landscape effects are assessed below. Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed development. Assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the proposed development, with additional comments regarding the site where relevant. In the main this has been taken from the Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment (December 2004) (quotes shown in *italics*) as well as from local sources and site assessment. The table below is based on guidance provided within LI TGN 02/21 - specifically table 1 within that document.

Host Landscape: LCA 50 - Port Talbot Docks and Margam Works

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscapes				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No national or local landscape designations	Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	The site area is assessed as of high ecological interest as described in Chapter 8: Biodiversity. LANDMAP Landscape Habitats datasets are described as: - NPTLH063 (coincident with the LCA) has an overall evaluation of moderate, due to <i>'generally degraded industrial habitats, but with persistent habitats and species of interest'</i>. - NPTLH073 (to the south) has an overall evaluation of high, due to <i>'area of Priority Habitats, much of it SSSI quality, supporting numerous rare, scarce and Priority Species'</i>. It is noted that none of LCA50 lies within the area of SSSI designation. LANDMAP Geological Landscape datasets are described as: - NPTGL032– Margam (eastern half of LCA 50 and almost the entire site) has an overall evaluation of low.	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			NPTGL033 – Margam-Baglan (western half of LCA 50) has an overall evaluation of moderate.	
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	The first steel works was constructed in 1907 and continues to be a dominant presence and the Tata Steel UK Limited (Tata Steel) Steelworks remains a dominant feature of Port Talbot society and economy. LANDMAP Historic Landscape data sets are described as: - NPTHL063 – Port Talbot Industrial overall evaluation of high, to <i>'reflect the significance of the late 19th-20th century industrialisation ...genuinely rare survivors of the heavy industries which once dominated Wales.'</i> LANDMAP Cultural Landscape data sets are described as: - NPTCLS091 – Margam Works historic elements predominantly evaluated as moderate.	Regional
Landscape condition / quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The landscape consists predominantly of brown field land within the existing industrialised areas of the works. The LANDMAP condition and trend data sets reported are predominantly fair and constant.	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	No associations with notable people, events and the arts described in published landscape character or LANDMAP studies.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with	The LCA is wholly coincident with LANDMAP Visual and Sensory dataset NPTVS837 – Margam Works, which states that there is a strong sense of place/local distinctiveness created by the <i>'dominant heavy industry which is overpowering and noisy.'</i>	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
	important relationship to a settlement.	an important relationship to a settlement.		
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	The area is generally inaccessible to the public, albeit the PRoW and WCP to Longlands Lane are partially within the LCA for a very short section.	Community
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory dataset (NPTVS837 – Margam Works) states that scenic quality is low, with the industrial works being a major detractor and there are no attractive views in or out of the aspect area.	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The landscape is dominated by the industrial activity, noise and light associated with steel works. LANDMAP datasets are described as: - Visual and Sensory (NPTVS837 – Margam Works) describes the area is <i>'noisy'</i> and <i>'threatening'</i> with <i>'slight'</i> night time light pollution. - Cultural Landscape Services (NPTCLS091 – Margam Works) describes tranquillity as <i>'Zone B, significant disturbance'</i>	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	There is limited blue/green infrastructure functionality due to the industrial nature of the site and the existing ditch system being overgrown with rank vegetation.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Overall Judgement of Value				Community
Susceptibility				
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the development may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	Large scale industrial landscape - <i>'Margam Works comprise of large-scale heavy industry'</i> .	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Although not immediately apparent due to the varying height of the industrial infrastructure, this is a flat, low-lying landscape.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The large scale industrial built form provides a degree of enclosure within the site, however it is located within a broader topographically flat location which makes it open to external views.	Medium
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Mosaic landscape of brownfield land and remaining steelworks and associated infrastructure.	Low
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Buildings and structures associated with the steelworks are consistent in their industrial pattern.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	An existing industrial area.	Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	The site lies on the flat coastal plain and has substantial visibility in and out, albeit the steep scarp slope reduces the extent of views to the east.	High/medium
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	The site is part of a wider industrial landscape that is a strong local feature and creates a characteristic skyline.	Medium
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low

Host Landscape: LCA 1 - Margam Marsh

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
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Value attached to Landscapes

Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No national or local landscape designations	Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	The site area is assessed as of high ecological interest in poor condition as described in Chapter 8: Biodiversity. LANDMAP Landscape Habitats datasets are split into two broad sections described as: - NPTLH073 focussed on Margam Moors and the west of the LCA has an overall evaluation of high, due to <i>'area of Priority Habitats, much of it SSSI quality, supporting numerous rare, scarce and Priority Species.'</i> - NPTLH068 includes the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir to the east of the LCA has an overall evaluation of high, due to the area mainly comprising Margam Moors SSSI, which is outside the site. It is noted that none of LCA1 lies within the areas of SSSI designation. The site is coincident with LANDMAP Geological Landscape dataset NPTGL032– Margam which has an overall evaluation of low.	National
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	Margam Moors is characterised by a post-medieval field pattern of low-lying enclosed wetland pasture set on a reclaimed salt marsh. LANDMAP Historic Landscape datasets are described as: NPTHL001 – Margam Moors West (coincident with LCA 1 and the the southern half of the site) has an overall evaluation of high, based on <i>'the well-preserved survival of a fieldscape of low-lying reclaimed pasture, which although post-medieval in its present form, probably originated in the medieval period as a result of land reclamation carried out by</i>	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>the Cistercian monks of Margam Abbey...it has remained largely untouched by 19th-20th century industrial development.'</i> - NPTHL056 'Margam Moors East' has an overall evaluation of moderate, based on <i>'the fact that 19th-20th century development, represented by the construction of the South Wales Main Line, the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir and the British Oxygen Works, have significantly impacted on the coherence of the reclaimed fieldscape in this area, although some of the field boundaries have remained intact to a certain degree.'</i> - NPTHL058 'Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir' has an overall evaluation of low, to reflect <i>'the impact of modern development, specifically the construction of the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, which has obliterated evidence of the irregular reclaimed fieldscape... and has significantly reduced the value of the archaeological resource in this area.'</i> LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services datasets are described as: - NPTCLS025 – Margam Moor (coincident with the site) has historic elements predominantly evaluated as high or outstanding. No art/artistic expressions are noted. - NPTCLS024 – Margam Moor (eastern region of the LCA) has historic elements evaluated as moderate. - NPTCLS087 – Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir has historic elements evaluated as low. No art/artistic expressions are noted.	
Landscape condition / quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The area of the Margam Moors (Visual and Sensory NPTVS277) within the site is in poor condition, consisting of rank grassland and overgrown ditches and a declining trend due to insufficient management, albeit the Margam Moors SSSI is intact and in fair condition.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			Other LANDMAP datasets survey answers to condition and trend are predominantly described as fair and constant.	
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	No associations with notable people, events and the arts described in published landscape character or LANDMAP studies.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS277 – Margam Moor (coincident with the LCA) has a moderate sense of place/local distinctiveness created by the <i>'drainage ditches [which] define area as a levels landscape, [which] is surrounded by more dominant elements which divert focus from the area'</i>. - NPTVS799 – Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir has a moderate sense of place/local distinctiveness created by the area being a <i>'local landmark with recreational activity which provides interest'</i>.	Community
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	The PRoW and WCP to Longlands Lane are partially within the LCA for a very short section as is National Cycle Route 4 to the west of the M4. There is also a sailing club at the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS277 – Margam Moor) scenic quality is low, with <i>'discordant patterns and disruptive landscape elements with poor views to adjacent detractors'</i>. Attractive views out of the aspect area to scarp slopes and hills in the east together with detractive views both in and out of the area of industry and pylons. - NPTVS799 – Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir scenic quality is moderate, <i>'simple, important aesthetic factor'</i>. Attractive views out of the aspect area to scarp slopes together with detractive views out to the motorway and steelworks.	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The area within the site is dominated by the neighbouring industrial activity, noise and light associated with steel works. The area of the SSSI is buffered somewhat by the area to the north of Longlands Lane and is somewhat more peaceful but cannot be considered wild or remote. LANDMAP visual and sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS277 – Margam Moor is <i>'noisy, threatening and has an unpleasant smell'</i>. Night time light pollution is described as 'slight'. - NPTVS799 – Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir is <i>'noisy and exposed'</i>. Night time light pollution is described as 'slight'. Cultural Landscape Services (NPTCLS025 – Margam Moor, NPTCLS024 – Margam Moor and NPTCLS087 – Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir) are classified as areas of significant disturbance.	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a	There is limited blue/green infrastructure functionality within the area of the site due to the overgrown nature of the field and ditch system, albeit there is some potential for greater linkage with the SSSI to the south.	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
	national landscape designation.	national landscape designation.	The wider LCA contains areas of blue/green infrastructure, notably the reservoir and area of Margam Moors SSSI which is considered of importance nationally.	
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional/Community

Susceptibility

Scale	Large scale landscapes where the development may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	Scale of landscape varies with areas of scrub and woodland creating some medium scale landscapes to the west of the M4 whilst there is a larger scale to the reservoir and grazed marshes with big skies.	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	The topography is low lying and generally flat between 4.5 - 5 m AOD with the reservoir raised above the surrounding area at 10 m AOD.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The raised nature of the reservoir creates a sense of enclosure when in proximity to it. There are areas of both openness and enclosure dependent on the nature of vegetation cover but with more openness within the grazed marshes and when on the reservoir.	Low
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	A mosaic of farmland, woodland, industry and the reservoir which also has a recreational function. <i>The landscape is described as, "... heavily veined with drainage ditches. These are in turn topped with post and wire fences and are more dominant towards the west. Willows are prominent through the area especially lining ditches, but also encroaching into fields forming scrubby clumps. To the west, large blocks of wetland species create a more complex and interesting mosaic. To the east the coherence of</i>	Medium/ Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>the area is diluted by areas of industry and amenity landscapes.”</i> (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment)	
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	The pattern of landscape is generally simple albeit with retained historic fields juxtaposed with historic and modern industry.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Contains areas of industry but also retains some areas of historic field patterns, albeit the influence of industry is strongly felt throughout the landscape. <i>“The skyline to the south is dominated by numerous electric pylons and to the west by the steelworks. There is a significant amount of fly tipping throughout currently which adds to the uncared for feel of the area engendered by apparently minimal management.”</i> (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment)	Low
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	There are views into and out of the landscape, particularly from the area of the reservoir and the grazed marshes.	Medium
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	A low-lying landscape with some strong vertical elements of energy transmission but which is <i>‘dominated...to the west by the steelworks’</i>	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low

Landscape: LCA 3 - Margam Country Park

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscapes				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No national landscape designation. Registered Parks and Gardens: Margam Country Park (Grade I) Locally designated as SLA4 Margam <i>'The scenic quality of the area is enhanced by the historic buildings of the Park and the backdrop of scarp creating a sheltered setting which link visually and provide the integrity of the whole. The sense of place for the park is initially prompted with boundary walls and entrance gates. The historic core and deer park make this area unique within the County.'</i>	Regional
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	LANDMAP Landscape Habitats datasets are described as: - NPTLH067 a <i>'medieval deer park with extant lowland wood pasture, together with landscape park features, on neutral soils.'</i> The area has an overall evaluation of high, due to hosting a <i>'significant area of Priority Habitat supporting numerous rare, scarce and Priority Species; contains Margam Country Park.'</i> - NPTLH107 overall evaluation of moderate, as a <i>'large area of secondary, semi-upland, mainly conifer plantation, in part on ancient semi-natural woodland; no known Priority Habitats or Species, but contains a lake and watercourse.'</i> The site is coincident with three LANDMAP Geological Landscape datasets: - NPTGL29 'Graig Goch' has an overall evaluation of high. - NPTGL030 'Kenfig' has an overall evaluation of moderate. - NPTGL028 'Mynydd Margam' has an overall evaluation of moderate.	Regional
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	LANDMAP data sets are described as: Historic Landscape NPTHL016 – Margam Park, overall evaluation of outstanding, to <i>'reflect its exceptional importance as a rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of a remarkable continuity of</i>	National

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			occupation from the Iron Age to the present day, with outstanding features/sites of national importance, including the hillfort of Mynydd y Castell, the collection of early Christian monuments (held in the Margam Museum), the remains of Margam Abbey, the extensive post-medieval landscape park and gardens (Grade I Listed) and the substantial early 19th century mansion of Margam Castle’. LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services data sets are described as: - NPTCLS038 Margam Country Park - ‘There is a strong sense of place created by the historic country park, with high scenic quality, and with landscape and historic elements predominantly evaluated as high or outstanding.’ - NPTCLS090 Margam Scarp - ‘There is a strong sense of place created by the prominent scarp edge, with moderate scenic quality, and with landscape elements evaluated as ranging from low to outstanding; and historic elements predominantly evaluated as high or outstanding.’	
Landscape condition / quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The landscape condition of the parkland is generally good, with new tree planting replacing over mature specimens, whilst on the scarp encroaching gorse and bracken is a detraction. LANDMAP datasets are described as: - Historic Landscape (NPTHL016 – Margam Park). Condition – good. Trend – constant. - Visual and Sensory (NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp). Condition – fair. Trend – declining.	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	‘The area’s character is contained within the cultural elements, which date from pre-history through every period up to the 21st century. The whole is a combination of high-grade historic visitor attraction and a variety of multi-period pleasure grounds, and the core area within the Deer Park boundary wall a designated Grade 1 Park in the Register of Landscape, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Its significance as a cultural phenomenon extends beyond the present ‘cultural’ essence’ as a visitor attraction.’ (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment)	National

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	The LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS403 Margam Country Park has ‘a <i>strong sense of place/local distinctiveness created by the area being ‘a country estate parkland with historic buildings’...The sense of place for the park is initially prompted with boundary walls and entrance gates. The historic core and deer park make this area unique within the county. The park is a significant visitor attraction which helps to confirm this classification.</i>’ - NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp has a strong sense of place/local distinctiveness and ‘a <i>strong landmark from the motorway</i>’. The aspect area has an overall evaluation of high ‘<i>the scarp edge is possibly the most prominent and frequently viewed area in the county borough. Its dramatic topography is enhanced by forest cover and the mosaic of scrub which gives it a scenic quality</i>’.	Regional
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	The country park is a significant tourist/visitor attraction open to the public through much of the year. National Cycle Route 4, St Illtyd Walk, Coed Mogannwg Walk and the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk 4 are also located in this LCA as is an area of open access land that follows the scarp edge. The park is described as ‘<i>a combination of high-grade historic visitor attraction and a variety of multi-period pleasure grounds, and the core area within the Deer Park boundary wall a designated Grade 1 Park in the Register of Landscape, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales</i>’ (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment)	Regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: NPTVS403 Margam Country Park - high scenic quality, with ‘<i>distinct landscape features and important aesthetic factors</i>’ and attractive views both in and out (of historic buildings within and scarp slopes out); and detractive views out onto industrial units.	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp - moderate scenic quality, with <i>‘important aesthetic factors and landscape feature.’</i> There are attractive views into the aspect area and detractive views out of the aspect area across the coastal plain and industry and urban areas.	
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS403 Margam Country Park is <i>‘attractive, sheltered and austere’</i> with moderate night time light pollution. - NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp is <i>‘noisy and exposed’</i> and night time light pollution as <i>‘moderate’</i>. LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services datasets are described as: - NPTCLS038 Margam Country Park tranquillity classified as <i>‘significant disturbance’</i>. - NPTCLS090 Margam Scarp tranquillity classified as <i>‘significant disturbance’</i>.	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	Contains ancient woodland and numerous watercourses and open water.	Regional
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional
Susceptibility				
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the development may be in proportion	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more	Generally medium scale within the park, increasing in scale to the upper deer park. The proposed development would be perceived from only more	Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
	with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	sensitive to large scale structures.	elevated, wide open panoramic views including the existing steel works and would not affect the more intimate park landscapes.	
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Margam Scarp creates variation to the landform above the lower lying park and gardens. The proposed development would be viewed from the more open flowing landscapes of the plateau above the more rugged scarp landscape.	Medium/Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered within the park, becoming open and exposed on the scarp. The proposed development would be perceived from only more elevated, wide open panoramic views including the existing steel works and would not affect the more sheltered parkland landscapes.	Low
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Designed parkland to the lower lying areas creates a more complex and intimate landcover, whereas the scarp is simpler with more regular moorland and scrub cover. The proposed development would be perceived from the simpler scarp landscape and would not affect the more intimate parkland landscapes.	Low
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Designed parkland to the lower lying areas creates a more intimate landcover, whereas the scarp is simpler with more sweeping lines. The proposed development would be perceived from the simpler scarp landscape and would not affect the more intimate parkland landscapes.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Views from lower elevations are contained by mature parkland vegetation and will remain largely unaffected by the proposed development. <i>'Margam Castle dominates the landscape and Margam Abbey on the hillside is also a prominent feature.'</i> (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment) Views of the castle and abbey will be contained in wider panoramic views of the existing steel works from the elevated scarp.	Low
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<i>'There are attractive views into the aspect area and detractive views out of the aspect area across the coastal plain and industry and urban areas.'</i> The proposed development is located within the existing area of industry and will not substantially alter any such 'detracting' views.	Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	The scarp rising above the park and gardens is a characteristic feature of this landscape and will remain unaffected by the proposed development on the coastal plain below.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/Low

Landscape: LCA 6 - Mynydd Bromil, Mynydd Emroch & Mynydd Dinas

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
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Value attached to Landscapes

Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No national designation. Locally designated as SLA4 Margam, <i>'It is an evolved landscape containing multi-period cultural expressions untrammelled by industrial exploitation - extensive archaeological evidence of land husbandry, now given over to forestry interspersed with some small farms and thus is a comparatively rare example of a surviving relict landscape.'</i> (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment)	Regional
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	The LCA is split into three separate regions. The southern region (which is closest to the site) comprises four different Landscape Habitats dataset areas and the central and northern regions two additional datasets evaluated as follows: - NPTLH107 the southernmost area of moderate value, due to being a <i>'large area of secondary, semi-upland, mainly conifer plantation, in part on ancient semi-natural woodland.'</i> - NPTLH107 encloses the northern area of NPTLH066 of moderate value, as it <i>'contains numerous remnant areas of rhos pasture vegetation, semi-natural woodlands (including ancient woodlands) and hedgerows, many of which are Priority Habitats.'</i> - NPTLH064 to the centre and north of the southern section of moderate value, as it is an <i>'extensive area of semi-natural ffridd habitats.'</i> It encloses NPTLH065 which has an overall evaluation of low. The central region of the LCA is coincident with two Landscape Habitats datasets described as: - NPTLH058 has an overall evaluation of moderate, as an <i>'area of semi upland hill slope mosaic (ffridd), supporting a moderate diversity of habitats.'</i>	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			- NPTLH058 has an overall evaluation of low, hosting <i>'improved grassland, but no known Priority Habitats or Species.'</i> The northern region of the LCA is coincident with two Landscape Habitats datasets described as: - NPTLH055 has an overall evaluation of moderate, as it hosts <i>'semi-upland habitats of some value.'</i> - NPTLH105 has an overall evaluation of low, hosting a <i>'small area of secondary conifer plantation on semi-upland plateau; minimal diversity.'</i> LANDMAP Geological Landscape datasets are described as: - NPTGL028 'Mynydd Margam' (the southern region closest to the site) has an overall evaluation of moderate. - NPTGL027 'Mynydd Emroch' (the north of the southern region and all the central and northern regions) has an overall evaluation of moderate. - NPTGL026 to the north has an overall evaluation of moderate.	
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	Margam Mountain is registered as a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales. It is contained within the Margam SLA but is completely outwith the ZTV for the Proposed Development. LANDMAP Historic Landscape datasets are described as follows: - NPTHL069 – Mynydd Brombil, to the south (closest to the site) has an overall evaluation of outstanding, to <i>'reflect the fact that this is a well-preserved landscape of enclosed upland, untouched by modern forestry plantation, and the multi-period nature of the archaeological record, with evidence of Bronze Age ritual/funerary activity, Iron Age settlement, medieval upland pastoral settlement (including the remarkably extensive complex of rabbit warrens) and later post-medieval enclosure'</i>. - NPTHL070 – Mynyddau Emroch a Bychan, central area has an overall evaluation of high, to reflect <i>'the dominant pattern of</i>	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>enclosed upland moor [that] has survived essentially intact and [that] the archaeological record is relatively diverse in scope, exemplified by the remains of an Iron Age hillfort, medieval pastoral settlement and post-medieval industrial extractive activity’.</i> NPTHL032 – Mynydd y Gaer has an overall evaluation of outstanding, ‘<i>representing an exceptionally rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of activity ranging from the Bronze Age up to the present day</i>’.	
Landscape condition / quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	There is little evidence of management input emphasised by the ‘<i>extensive areas of bracken and the state of field boundaries.</i>’ LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS811 and NPTVS187. Condition – fair. Trend – declining. - NPTVS897 – Mynydd Bromil & Scarp Tops. Condition – poor. Trend – declining. Landscape Habitats/Historic datasets are described as Trend – constant Geological Landscape datasets are described as Condition – good. Trend – constant	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	No associations with notable people, events and the arts described in published landscape character or LANDMAP studies.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character	The LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as follows: NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp (western edges of the southern and central regions of the LCA) has a strong sense of place/local distinctiveness and the aspect area is ‘<i>a strong landmark from the motorway</i>’.	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
	important relationship to a settlement.	and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	- NPTVS897 – Mynydd Bromil & Scarp Tops (central and eastern areas of the southern and central regions of the LCA) has a moderate sense of place/local distinctiveness created by <i>‘exposure and views out’</i>. - NPTVS187 – Mynydd Dinas (northern region of the LCA) has a moderate sense of place/local distinctiveness <i>‘extensive deciduous woodland cover to the north and large areas of bracken and exposed rock, provide simple contrast to the settlements which encroach into it. The significant change in elevation, distinguishes between plateau and coastal strip.’</i>	
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	The WCP and areas of open access land generally follow the scarp edge. The forest areas to the upland plateaus are predominantly open access.	Regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	There is a sense of exposure with vast panoramic views across Swansea Bay. LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp. The scenic quality is detailed as moderate, with <i>‘important aesthetic factors and landscape features.’</i> There are attractive views into the area and detractive views out of the aspect area across the coastal plain and industry and urban areas. - NPTVS897 – Mynydd Bromil & Scarp Tops. The scenic quality is detailed as moderate, with <i>‘strong, simple, pleasant patterns with simple landscape features.’</i> There are attractive views out over <i>‘vast</i>	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>views to the southwest and out to Swansea Bay</i>; and detractive views out <i>'across industry to the west'</i>. NPTVS187 – Mynydd Dinas. The scenic quality is detailed as moderate, with <i>'significant landscape features and aesthetic factors.'</i> There are attractive views both in and out of the aspect area and <i>'across the bay from higher vantage points'</i>; with some detractive views out <i>'across industry and settlements along the coastal plain'</i>. <i>"The scarp slope brings drama to the landscape and is an important element in the perception of the county borough particularly relating to its visibility from the M4 and mainline railway."</i> (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment)	
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The settlement, industry and associated transport links are clearly visible and audible. LANDMAP Visual and Sensory datasets are described as: - NPTVS811 – Margam Scarp <i>'noisy and exposed'</i> with <i>'moderate'</i> night time light pollution. - NPTVS897 – Mynydd Bromil & Scarp Tops <i>'exposed'</i> with <i>'moderate'</i> night time light pollution. - NPTVS187 – Mynydd Dinas <i>'slight'</i> night time light pollution	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	The area contains extensive areas of commercial forestry together with some areas classified as ancient semi-natural woodland.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
Susceptibility				
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the development may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	A large scale landscape to the scarp and plateau. The proposed development would be perceived from more elevated, wide open panoramic views including the existing steel works and would not affect these large scale landscapes.	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	The coastal plain “...<i>rises dramatically to over 200m AOD at the scarp slope.</i>” The upland landform is deeply incised in a “...<i>series of very distinct river-valleys draining south-westwards towards the coast.</i>” (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment) And “<i>The topography and landcover, generates an exposed upland feel, contrasting with the settled coastal plains below.</i>” (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment) The proposed development would be viewed as part of the existing works within a neighbouring more open coastal landscape and would not detract from the more rugged scarp landscape.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	A high degree of openness and exposure. The proposed development would be perceived from exposed landscapes with wide open panoramic views including the existing steel works.	Low
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	“<i>The steep slopes are primarily covered with bracken and scrub, with areas of coniferous plantation and occasional deciduous woodland on lower ground. There are also areas of rock exposure on steep, high ground enhancing its upland character.</i>” (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment) The landcover of the scarp and plateau will remain unaffected by the proposed development.	Low
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	The irregular pattern to the steeper/rocky faces and incised river valleys gives way to smoother sweeping lines to the plateau area. Views of the proposed	Medium/Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to proposed development	Higher Sensitivity to proposed development	Explanation	Judgement
			development will be well separated from the LCA 6 landscapes which will remain unchanged.	
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Built form is predominantly of traditional farmsteads to the scarp tops, albeit there is some energy generation present in the form of the Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. The contrasting nature of the undeveloped upland landscape of LCA 6 with the settled and industrial coastal plain will not be affected by the proposed development.	Low
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	The steep tops and rounded plateau provide ' <i>wide views and sense of exposure from higher elevations.</i> ' And, " <i>The sense of exposure continues above the scarp edge, where the convex slopes of upland sheep grazed landscape, contained by broken down walls and fences, provides wide views across Swansea Bay.</i> " (Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment) The proposed development is located within the existing area of industry and will not substantially alter the wider panoramic views.	Medium/Low
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	The steep slopes and rounded plateau provide ' <i>a solid backcloth and prominent landform adjacent to the coastal plain.</i> ' The rising scarp is a characteristic feature of this landscape and will remain unaffected by the proposed development on the coastal plain below.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/Low