Landscape and Visual Appraisal



Tyler Grange

Land at Tyn-Y-Caeau
March 2025

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17163_R01	January 2025	A	Owain Keeley BSc (Hons) MSc CMLI FRGS	Michael Doran BA (Hons)	Anneliese Walker BA (Hons) PGDip CMLI
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Section 1: Introduction and Site Context

Background

1.1. Tyler Grange Group Limited (TG) have been appointed by Western Bio-Energy Limited to undertake a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) associated with a full planning application for a data centre, including associated access, car parking and landscaping at Land at Tyn-y-Caeau, Margam, west of Margam Bio-Energy Plant (hereby referred to as the 'Site').

Site Context

1.2. The Site comprises an area of approximately 1.72 hectares and is situated south of Margam, Port Talbot between the A48/A4241 roundabout and M4/A48 junction. Its location and surrounding context is illustrated on **Plan 1: Site Location and Context**.

1.3. The Site which lies as the southern edge of Port Talbot lies within the administrative boundary of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough (NPTCB). Port Talbot is known for its steelworks and industrial history and has an extensive port that contributes to the Welsh and UK economy. The steelworks in Port Talbot is operated by Tata Steel and is one the UK's largest major companies.

1.4. There are no Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within or adjacent to the Site, however the Wales Coastal Path (which utilises PRoW, pedestrian footpaths and lanes) runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site.

1.5. The topography of the area varies, with the Site falling within the predominantly gently sloping area west of the M4 motorway which continues at a low-lying grade westwards to the Bristol Channel. To the eastern side of the M4, land rises sharply to the undulating area of Margam Mountain which is covered by a mixture of woodland and farmland, with Margam Country Park (the estate grounds of Margam Castle) sitting within a broadly west sloping valley to the M4/A48 junction. A number of designations fall within the area east of the M4 which are discussed within Section 2 of this report but include a Special Landscape Area and within it, Margam Park Grade I Registered Historic Park and Garden, Margam Conservation Area, numerous Listed Buildings including Grade I Listed Margam Castle, as well as scheduled monuments.

1.6. Extensive areas of industry are located on the lower ground west of the M4, including Tata Steel works, Western Bio-Energy, BOC Gas Plant and Margam Green Energy Plant. To the south, beyond Longlands Lane is Margam Cemetery and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir. To the north of A48/A4241 junction lies the Margam suburb of Port Talbot.

1.7. As such, the M4 motorway creates a separation in character as it passes through the area, with a more industrial and residential character situated to the west of which the Site is included. Thus the Site is closely associated with the extensively settled context along the coast towards Port Talbot rather than the more undeveloped, undulating, topography inland to the east.

Relevant Planning History

Planning Application: P2020/0601 (Refused October 2020)

1.8. There was a planning application on the Site for the *"Change of use from dwelling house and annex building into a mixed used development consisting of guest house accommodation consisting of 16 guest rooms, with associated bar, cafe and spa facilities, and truck stop with 21 HGV parking spaces. The proposal includes the demolition of an existing single storey rear extension, and the erection of a single-storey rear extension, together with widened site access, additional internal access roads, parking areas and associated works. (Bat survey and mitigation submitted 18/09/2020)"*. The planning application was subsequently refused, however not on landscape or visual grounds.

Planning Application: P2021/1255 (Consented January 2023)

1.9. Consent was granted for "*the development of a metal processing facility totalling 28,500sq.m of floorspace comprising a powder processing plant (17,377sq.m), warehouse and store (5,428 sq.m) office building (1,442 sq.m), amenity building (776 sq.m), laboratory (200 sq.m), services building (470 sq.m), substation (107 sq.m), phase 2 (2,700 sq.m), CCTV, storage tanks and plant, parking, servicing and roads and associated works. (Additional and Revised information including details of diversion of water main, Boundary treatment and Acoustic Fencing details, external lighting scheme, revised Noise Impact Assessment, Revised Health Impact Assessment, Revised Health Impact Assessment and Air Quality Clarification Information).*

1.10. The Powder Processing Plant and Warehouse and Store will be 16.5m in height. The consented application encompasses the land north of the Site boundary to the A48/A4241 junction, the land west of the Site to the access road with Margam Green Energy Plant and Western-Bio Energy Plant, and the land south of the Site to Longlands Lane. It essentially surrounds the Site on all sides except for the east which is formed by the A48. This application occupies the Strategic Employment Site 'EC1/2' which is allocated for 6 hectares of B1, B2 and B8 use classes through the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011 – 2026. This boundary of the consented application is illustrated on **Plan 1**.

The Proposed Development

1.11. The Proposed Development is to comprise *"Redevelopment of the site for a data centre (Use Class B8) and supporting infrastructure, parking and associated works, including partial retention of the existing building for ancillary uses, and power connection to the existing Western Wood Biomass Plant."*

1.12. The Site Layout for the proposals are included at **Appendix 1** and elevations included at **Appendix 2**.

Methodology

1.13. The methodology and guidelines used in the preparation of this report have been developed from the following:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA), Third Edition, LI and IEMA, 2013; and

- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, LI September 2019[1].

1.14. This is a standalone report and does not constitute a landscape character in the context of an Environmental Statement (ES) required by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

1.15. Table 3.1 of GLVIA3 outlines what is required in the appraisal process, as a project outside of EIA. This includes the following:

- Establishing the existing nature of the landscape and visual environment in the study area;
- Providing a description of the proposed development, identifying the main features of the proposals and the changes that will occur; and
- Systematically identifying and describing the effects that are likely to occur, including whether they are adverse, neutral or beneficial.

1.16. The approach taken in the preparation of this report is considered to be appropriate and proportional in the context of the professional guidance published by the Landscape institute.

1.17. Professional judgement plays an important role in the landscape and visual analysis process where the analysis of landscape character and visual amenity is both subjective and objective process. However, the analysis process seeks to provide a narrative to explain the judgement reached.

Study Area

1.18. To establish the baseline and potential limit of effects, a desktop study focussed on the local planning policy context, identifying any National or local landscape (or landscape associated) designations (such as National Landscapes, National Parks, Special Landscape Areas etc.) and providing a general geographical understanding of the Site and its broader context such as its relationship to local landform, transport routes, distribution and nature of built form and settlement) was undertaken to narrow down the area of study.

1.19. Subsequently field work was undertaken in October 2024 to capture photography, conduct a site-specific landscape character analysis, conduct an analysis of views/visibility and to verify the findings of the desktop study.

1.20. Further to the desktop and field analysis and together with an appreciation of the concept for the Proposed Development of the Site, a 1.5km study area from the Site boundary is considered appropriate. The extent of this is illustrated on **Plan 2: Landscape Designations and Other Relevant Considerations**.

[1] Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, LI September (2019). Available online: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation-1.pdf

Section 2: Planning Context

2.1. This section sets out the relevant national and local landscape policy and evidence base as pertains to the Site and Proposed Development.

National Planning Policy

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, February 2024) ('PPW')

2.2. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, MTANs and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.

2.3. Chapter 6 of PPW covers 'Distinctive and Natural Places'. The Distinctive and Natural theme covers environmental and cultural components of placemaking and is of relevance to this report.

Technical Advice Notes

2.4. Each Technical Advice Note (TAN) provides detailed planning advice on a different subject. They should be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities when they are preparing development plans. They should be read along with the PPW which sets out the land use planning policies.

2.5. The TANs that may influence the landscape and visual elements of a local plan are considered below.

TAN5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)[2]

2.6. This TAN provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation.

2.7. At paragraph 2.4, TAN5 states that when considering policies and proposals in local development plans and deciding planning applications, Local Planning Authorities should:

"Pay particular attention to the principles of sustainable development... Contribute to the protection and improvement of the environment, so as to improve the quality of life and protect local and global ecosystems, seeking to avoid irreversible harmful effects on the natural environment... Protect wildlife and natural features in the wider environment..."

2.8. Building on this, at paragraph 3.3.2, it is stated that local development plans should include policies that:

[2] TAN5: Nature Conservation and Planning. Welsh Government (2009) Available Online: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan5-nature-conservation.pdf

- Protect ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other trees of nature conservation value;
- Encourage the conservation of features of the landscape of major importance for wild flora and fauna; and
- Provide for the conservation, enhancement sustainable management and, where appropriate, the restoration of locally distinctive natural habitats.

TAN12: Design (2016)[3]

2.9. The purpose of TAN12 is to provide advice to all involved in the design of development in the facilitation of 'promoting sustainability through good design' and 'planning for sustainable buildings.' Those sections containing advice of particular relevance to landscape and visual issues and considerations on the design process are identified below:

Section 4: Delivering Good Design

2.10. The following advice is provided in relation to landscape and visual considerations.

2.11. When considering 'appraising character', TAN12 identifies a number of factors that should be considered, including the following (para 4.8):

- Topography;
- Use of materials;
- Architecture and historic quality;
- Landscape character;
- Field patterns and land use patterns;
- Distinctive views (in and out of the Site);
- Skylines and vistas;
- Boundary treatments; and
- Locally distinctive features.

2.12. Specific mention of landscape appraisal is considered at paragraph 4.11, stating that:

"Appraisal of the landscape should focus on its quality in terms of geology and geomorphology, vegetation and habitats, visual and sensory quality and historic and cultural quality. "LANDMAP" is one method of assessment which has the potential to provide a framework and information base from which good design and management can be developed."

[3] TAN12: Design. Welsh Government (2016). Available online: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan12-design.pdf

2.13. The legibility of an area is also identified when considering appraising character, with appraisals of legibility to concentrate on landmarks, including landmark buildings or landscape features, junctions, views and vistas, barriers and boundaries.

Section 5: Assessing Design Issues

2.14. TAN12 considers that "*The way in which development relates to its urban or rural landscape… context is critical to its success. Because of this, an understanding of landscape quality, including its historic character, is fundamental to the design process.*" (para 5.5.1)

2.15. Adding to this, the text goes on to consider that good design is dependent on working with the natural constraints and historic character of the landscape, stating that:

"It is particularly important that proposals to amend or create new landscape are not considered as an afterthought and that the long-term impact of development on the landscape is fully understood." (para. 5.5.2)

2.16. TAN12 also identifies the importance of taking into consideration the landscape qualities of settlements, including its contribution to views and links to the open countryside and historic character within the design process.

Local Planning Policy

2.17. At a local level, the Site lies within the administrative area of Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC). The adopted development plan comprises the saved policies of the Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council local development plan (Adopted 2011 - 2026) and Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) (Adopted 2023-2038).

2.18. The following section summarises the local planning policies relevant to landscape and visual matters and other published guidance and studies that are of particular relevance.

Port and Talbot County Borough Council Local Development Plan (Adopted January 2011 – 2026)

2.19. Policies within the Local Development Plan considered relevant to landscape and/or visual matters include:

- **Strategic Policy SP5: Development in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area –** This policy sets out the strategy to facilitate growth within Neath Port Talbot which will be applied in the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area. '*In the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area, sustainable growth and development will be promoted to benefit the County Borough as a whole, while protecting and enhancing the area's character and environment. This will be achieved through the area-specific measures*'. The Site lies within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area.

- **Strategic Policy SP14: The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast** – This policy protects the open countryside through the control of inappropriate development outside settlement limits; the undeveloped coast through the control of inappropriate development; the designation and protection of Special Landscape Areas and Green Wedges. The Site sits outside the settlement limit.

- **Strategic Policy SP21/4(a): Landscapes of Historic Interest** - This policy implies that the historic heritage will, where appropriate, be conserved and enhanced through the measures of high quality standards in all development proposals, protecting arterial gateways from intrusive and inappropriate development and safeguarding features of historic and cultural importance as the historic heritage of the area is recognised through a range of designations, mostly protected by national policies. The Site does not lie within a Landscape of Historic Interest but is located in close proximity to Margam Mountain Historic Landscape Area, Margam Registered Historic Park and Garden and Margam Conservation Area, c.80m to the east on the opposite side of the M4 corridor. Heritage matters lie outside the scope of this LVA and are covered by a separate Heritage report.

- **Policy EN2: Special Landscape Areas** – This policy protects areas of high landscape quality within the county borough and designates six areas as Special Landscape Areas. 'Margam' Special Landscape Area (SLA) is located circa 80m east of the Site on the opposite side of the M4 motorway corridor. The policy states that *"Development within the designated Special Landscape Areas' will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impacts on the features and characteristics for which the Special Landscape Area has been designated*". The Site is not located within the SLA and therefore this policy does not directly apply.

- **Policy EN7: Important Natural Features** – This policy relates to the natural fabric that makes up the landscape. It states that *"Development proposals that would adversely affect ecologically or visually important natural features such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows / field boundaries, watercourse or ponds will only be permitted where:*

    - *1. Full account has been taken of the relevant features in the design of the development, with measures put in place to ensure that they are retained and protected wherever possible; or*

    - *2. The biodiversity value and role of the relevant feature has been taken into account and where removal is unavoidable, mitigation measures are agreed."*

- **Policy BE1: Design** – This policy sets out a number of criteria relating to the design of new development, of which overall should *"demonstrate a high quality design which fully takes into account the natural, historic and built environmental context and contributes to the creation of attractive, sustainable places"*.

- **Policy TO4/1: Wales Coast Path –** This policy protects the Wales Coast Path against any proposals that would prevent or have any adverse impact upon its routing. The Wales Coast Path passes adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site.

Emerging Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2023 – 2038

2.20. NPTBC are currently preparing a replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) which is currently at 'pre-deposit (preferred strategy)' stage and is currently out for consultation (as of 12th December 2024 – 6th February 2025.

2.21. The Site is a Candidate Site (RLDP/PT/0043) for employment uses within the emerging (RLDP) (as illustrated in **TG Insert 1** below). The Plan is still in its early stage, with a anticipated adoption timescale of April 2027.



TG Insert 1: The Site is Candidate Site RLDP/PT/0043 on the Candidate Site Register (CSR) for the emerging RLDP

Designations

2.22. The Site does not lie within any national or local landscape designations, nor are any located within the 1.5km Study Area as illustrated on **Plan 2**.

2.23. A local landscape designation, Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA) is located c.80m east of the Site on the opposite side of the M4 motorway corridor. Policy EN2 discussed above relates to new development within the designation itself and there is no requirement to consider setting as is the case with National Landscape or National Parks.

Other Considerations

2.24. 'Margam Mountain' is a non-statutory registered Historic Landscape, located 80m east of the Site on the opposite side of the M4 motorway and is described by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) as *"a distinctive block of South Wales uplands on the south west fringe of the Glamorgan Blaenau, where they meet the Bro and overlook and visually dominate the narrow coastal plain near the modern port and industrial town of Port Talbot"*.

2.25. To the east of the Site, within the Margam SLA are a number of other designations, mostly pertaining to heritage assets.

2.26. Margam Castle is a Grade I listed building, which sits within the grounds of Margam Park, of which is a Grade I listed Registered Historic Park and Garden (RHPG). Within this RHPG are a number of other listed buildings, comprising of five other Grade I assets, four Grade II* assets and 25 Grade II assets, many of which are contained within Margam Conservation Area (CA). Four Scheduled Monuments (SMs) are also contained within the RHPG. Margam Park is also a Country Park open to the public.

2.27. The LVA will consider the potential change experienced by visual receptors from publicly accessible locations within the Margam Park area. The LVA will not however make judgements on change experienced by heritage assets, their significance or their setting as these are Heritage and Archaeological considerations and are considered within a separate report.

2.28. A number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) pass through the Study Area, including the Wales Coast Path National Trail of which passes the eastern boundary of the Site.

Section 3: Landscape and Visual Baseline

3.1. This section sets out the relevant national and local landscape policy and evidence base as pertains to the Site and Proposed Development

Purpose of the Landscape and Visual Baseline

3.2. The landscape and visual baseline describes the Site-specific landscape character and sets this in the context of the published landscape character assessments and the visual context. This forms the baseline against which the potential development implications are considered.

Landscape Character

3.3. The characterisation process is a non-value judgement process; therefore, classifying landscapes into distinct areas does not suggest that one character is more sensitive than another or valued by people more or less.

3.4. The landscape character appraisal process reviews the wider landscape character at a national level and explores more detailed character features at a district/local level, setting this in the context of the Site-specific lands use that informs local distinctiveness and sense of place.

3.5. This appraisal considers the local, Site-specific character features and context identified by TG through fieldwork and informed by a review of published assessments. From this baseline information, we can identify the relevant characteristics, important Site features to retain and also identifying detracting features that need to be addressed within the proposals.

National Landscape Character Areas

3.6. At a national level, the Site lies within National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) 38: Swansea Bay / Bae Abertawe. The description and characteristics are included at **Appendix 3** to the rear of this report.

3.7. GVLIA3 (paragraphs 5.13-5.15) indicates that character studies at the national or regional level are best used to 'set the scene' and understand the context. It also indicates that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these should be used to form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape character – with (appropriately justified) adaptation, refinement and interpretation where required. As such, change arising from a proposed development on NLCA 38 are not considered as part of this LVA.

LANDMAP

3.8. LANDMAP is a resource that was originally developed by the Countryside Commission for Wales (CCW; now Natural Resource Wales (NRW)). LANDMAP records and makes publicly available to those with an interest of the land and provides a wide range of information about the Welsh landscape.

3.9. PPW 12 paragraph 6.3.19 highlights LANDMAP stating:

"LANDMAP is an important information resource, methodology, and monitoring baseline for the landscapes of Wales, which can help inform planning for the sustainable management of natural resources in an area. LANDMAP describes and evaluates the physical, ecological, visual, cultural and historic aspects of the landscapes of Wales, and provides the basis of a consistent, quality assured national approach to landscape assessment. LANDMAP assessments can help to inform green infrastructure assessments, SPG on landscape, development management decisions, landscape character assessment, special landscape areas (SLAs), local distinctiveness, design, and landscape sensitivity studies."

3.10. As such, there are five 'aspect areas' of the landscape which make up LANDMAP which include Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Services.

3.11. To gain greater clarity as to which qualities and features are of importance to the Site, the Site specific LANDMAP evaluation for each 'Aspect Area' is contained at **Appendix 4** and has been summarised in the Table below. The analysis also takes account of the justification of the LANDMAP 'Overall Evaluation Scores' which are:

- Outstanding – of International or National importance;
- High – of Regional or County importance;
- Moderate – of Local importance; and
- Low – of little or no importance.

Geological Landscape Aspect Area

3.12. As illustrated on **Plan 4**, the Site falls within the boundary of the 'Kenfig' aspect area which is evaluated as 'Moderate' indicating local importance. The justification for this evaluation states *"Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining"*.

Landscape Habitats Aspect Area

3.13. The Site falls within an unnamed Landscape Habitats aspect area which is evaluated as High as illustrated on **Plan 4** indicated regional or county importance. The justification for this evaluation *"area of Priority Habitats, much of it SSSI quality, supporting numerous rare, scarce and Priority Species"*.

Visual and Sensory Aspect Area

3.14. In terms of the Visual and Sensory aspect area 'Margam Moor' of which the Site is located within, the overall evaluation is low and thus of little to no importance. The justification for the overall evaluation states:

"This area has a relatively low scenic quality with its flat topography minimising its visual impact – it tents to act as a foil to the more dominant and intrusive landscapes beyond, which disrupt the harmony within the area. The condition of the agricultural part of the area is generally poor, either through lack of management or impingement of development such as

the steelworks and electricity pylons. However, this landscape (pastoral coastal plain) is rate within the borough and maintains some integrity to the west of the railway."

3.15. This description and the features discussed accurately reflect the context illustrated on **Plan 1**.

Historic Landscape Aspect Area

3.16. The Site lies within the 'Margam Moors East' aspect area and the overall evaluation for this area is 'Moderate' indicating local importance. The justification for this evaluation states:

"This area has been assigned an overall value of moderate on account of 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 to a certain degree".

3.17. Similar to the justification provided by the visual and sensory aspect area, the area is dominated by industrial influences which have changed much of the historic landscape within the vicinity.

3.18. Located adjacent to the east of this aspect area are areas evaluated as 'Outstanding' indicating of international or national importance. These areas are include 'Margam Park', 'Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor' and 'Margam Rural' which represent rich, multi-period landscapes with evidence of Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval activity, travel routes and built form, Christian monuments and the 19th Century mansion of Margam Castle set within a designed park and garden.

Cultural Aspect Area

3.19. The Site lies within the 'Margam Moor' aspect area and does not have an overall evaluation however within the assessment, 'Sense of place/local distinctiveness' and 'Character' is stated as 'Moderate' indicating local importance whilst 'Scenic quality' is cited as 'Low' indicating little to no importance. There are no justifications for these evaluations. The assessment form also confirms there are no art or artistic expressions, folklore or legends, events or traditions associated with the area.

LANDMAP Summary

3.20. The 'aspect areas identified by LANDMAP of relevance to the Site are summarised within **TG Table 1** below. Each aspect area is described, assess and assigned one of four overall grades of value: low, moderate, high or outstanding. The Cultural Landscape Services aspect areas however are not ascribed an overall evaluation.

TG Table 1: LANDMAP Aspect Areas covering the Site

Aspect	Unique Area ID	Aspect Area Name	Classification	LANDMAP Evaluation

Geological Landscape	NPTGL030	Kenfig	Level 1: Lowland hills and valleys Level 2: Dissected lowland plateau Level 3: Lowland plateau	Moderate
Landscape Habitats	NPTLH073	N/A	Level 1: Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats Level 2: Grassland & Marsh Level 3: Marsh/Marshy Grassland	High
Visual and Sensory	NPTVS277	Margam Moor	Level 1: Lowland Level 2: Flat Lowland/Levels Level 3: Flat Open Lowland Farmland	Low
Historic Landscape	NPTHL056	Margam Moors East	Level 1: Rural environment Level 2: Agricultural Level 3: Regular Fieldscapes Level 4: Water Meadows	Moderate
Cultural Landscape Services	NPTCLS024	Margam Moor	Level 1: Lowland Level 2: Flat Lowland/Levels Level 3: Flat Open Lowland Farmland	N/A

3.21. With the above overall valuations in mind and in consideration of NRW's definitions associated with interpretation of LANDMAP evaluations, the aspect area evaluations (and therefore overall landscape character of this area) are between regional/county (in the case of Landscape Habitats) and of little to no importance (Visual and Sensory). The Geological Landscape and Historic Landscape are of local importance. The LANDMAP Aspect Areas and their evaluations are illustrated on **Plan 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas and Evaluations**.

County Character

3.22. At county level, LPA area is covered by the Neath Port Talbot LANDMAP Landscape Assessment (2004)[4], which identifies 53 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the County Borough and have been derived from the LANDMAP aspect areas present. This was led by the 'visual and sensory' aspect which is informed and refined by the other LANDMAP layers. The Site falls within LCA 1: Margam Marsh as illustrated on **Plan 5: Published Landscape Character**.

3.23. The 'Key Characteristics' for the 'Margam Marsh' LCA are described by the study as being:

[4] Neath Port Talbot LANDMAP Landscape Assessment (2004) produced by White Consultants. Available online: https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/ponjgtte/spg_landmap_landscape_assessment_2004.pdf?v=20241209172433

- Flat wetland pasture, veined with drainage ditches and with significant wetland vegetation.
- Strong visual influence of heavy industry.
- Largest area of inland still water within the County Borough.
- Significant areas of marsh, eutrophic water and wetland habitats, with SSSI designation.
- Historically and culturally linked to Margam Abbey.
- Eglwys Nunydd reservoir is a significant leisure facility for sailing.

3.24. As the LCA has been derived from a combination of the LANDMAP aspect areas which make up components of the landscape, the LCA: Margam Marsh will be used as the landscape receptor for landscape character within this appraisal. The LCA and key characteristics accurately describes the area including and surrounding the Site.

Site Specific Landscape Character and Features

3.25. TG conducted fieldwork on 3rd October 2024 to analyse the landscape character and visual context of the Site and undertake photography.

3.26. As set out within the Site Context section of this report, the Site is located on the western side of the A48 close to the A48/A4241 roundabout. Covering approximately 4 acres (1.62 hectares), the Site includes a detached two-story house with a basement level and a modern two-story detached annex situated in a surfaced yard in the southwestern corner of the property. Although the property has been vacant for several years, it remains well-maintained, with a watertight structure, intact roof, and secure window and door openings. The main house features a double-height bay window on the eastern gable and a high saddle roof. To the west of the main building, a more recently constructed two-story annex.

3.27. The Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) report prepared by Tyler Grange (January 2025) identified that the Site comprises semi-improved neutral grassland, areas of dense scrub, three buildings and hardstanding (negligible ecological importance), native broadleaved trees (local importance), areas of broadleaved woodland and native hedgerows (priority habitat of local ecological importance). The Site features invasive, non-native plant species, including Japanese knotweed.

3.28. The Arboricultural report (RTAC, January 2025) identifies there are a total of 61 trees located on Site, including one Category A tree (of high quality with a life expectancy of 40+ years), XX Category B trees (of moderate quality with a life expectancy of 25+ years), 36 Category C trees (of low quality with a life expectancy of 10+ years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm). 52 of the 61 trees are classed as being semi-mature, 6 mature, 1 over mature and 2 dead.

3.29. Access to the property is provided by a long, narrow, surfaced driveway extending from a gated entrance off the A48. The driveway is flanked by open, semi-improved neutral grassland on gently undulating terrain. The driveway is lined by scattered mature broadleaved trees. The boundaries of the Site are well-defined by continuous rows of mature deciduous and evergreen trees, which create a sense of enclosure. Areas of scrub are located centrally and at the southern edge of the Site.

3.30. The landscape features of the Site are:

- Tyn-Y-Caeau dwelling with annex (disused)
- Driveway comprising hardstanding;
- Avenue of broadleaved trees lining the driveway;
- Native boundary hedgerows;
- Scrub;
- Japanese knotweed;
- Mature trees along all boundaries; and
- Semi-improved grassland.

Summary of Landscape Receptors

3.31. Effects upon the following landscape receptors will be considered as a result of the Proposed Development:

- The character of the Site; and
- LCA 1: Margam Marsh.

Visual Context

3.32. In order to establish the degree of any change that may arise from the future development of the Site and the extent to which such changes will affect identifies local receptors (people), it is important to understand the existing situation in terms of visual amenity alongside the availability and context of views associated with the local area. Chapter 6 of GVLIA3 sets out how the visual baseline is established. The baseline should establish the area in which the proposed development may be visible, those people who may experience views of the development, the viewpoints representative of affected views and the nature of the views at the viewpoints.

3.33. The visibility of the Site considers representative views towards it from the surrounding area. This is based on the findings of topographical mapping (**Plan 3: Topography**) and Geographic Information System (GIS) first sieve analysis mapping (**Plan 6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Photoviewpoint Locations**) and has been refined and verified through field assessment.

3.34. The software generated image illustrates the extent to which development of up to a maximum 18m ridge height on the Site would be potentially visible within the 1.5km radius study area to a 1.6m high receptor. The calculation based on Lidar DSM 1m data and as such, built form and vegetation present within the landscape are taken into account. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) generated for the Proposed Development on the Site clearly identifies the influence of the topography and built form in limiting views, with most of the zone lying within patches of higher lying ground within the Study Area.

3.35. The first sieve exercise has been verified in the field to refine the accuracy of the extent of visibility. Following the completion of a visit to the Site, a number of representative viewpoints have been included that illustrate the approximate extent of areas from which the Site is visible. The viewpoint locations and scope were presented to NPT Council during pre-application meetings with The Urbanists, of which no objections were raised. The viewpoints are illustrated by the **Appendix 5: Photoviewpoints** contained to the rear of this report. In accordance with GLVIA3, the visual analysis is based on views from external spaces within the public domain excluding barely discernible views and not from inside buildings or private space.

3.36. Photographs were taken from selected viewpoints with a cropped frame (1.6x) digital SLR camera with an approximate focal length of 32mm. These were taken at average human eye level (approximately 1.6m above ground). A total of ten representative viewpoints have been chosen from locations surrounding the Site within the study area.

3.37. The photographs have been presented in the 'Type 1' format as per the 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19'. The photographs have been annotated to show the approximate extent of the Site and features in each view, in line with the TGN 06/19.

3.38. Table 1 of the TGN identifies Type 1 visualisations as being appropriate for planning applications for non-EIA development where there are concerns about landscape and visual effects and effective mitigation is required. Type 1 visualisations are defined at Table 2 of the TGN as being prepared: *"to represent context and outline or extent of development and of key features"* Given the nature and scale of the proposals, annotated photographs are considered appropriate to support this LVA.

Users Public Rights of Way

3.39. There are a number of PRoW within the 1.5km study area, however few routes afford clear views towards the Site due the mature vegetation which limits the availability of views. The location of PRoW surrounding the Site are illustrated on **Plan 2 and 6.**

3.40. The Wales Coast Path follows a number of PRoW, pedestrian roadside paths and lanes. **Photoviewpoints 1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **6**, **7** and **10** represent varied viewing experiences towards the Site from the Wales Coast Path within the study area. Views from the route towards the Site are limited due to dense roadside vegetation (as illustrated by **Photoviewpoints 1**, **2**, **3**, **4** and **7**) whist to the south, glimpsed, oblique views towards the Site's southern boundary can be obtained from Longland Lane (**Photoviewpoint 6**).

3.41. PRoW are concentrated to the north and east of the study area, occupying the rolling hills and valleys east of Port Talbot. **Photoviewpoint 10** illustrates views from Footpath 9/46.PT/1 which is upon elevated ground to the north-east of the Site. The route also forms part of the Wales Coast Path. Views towards the Site from this route allow for open westward views over much of the industrial area of Port Talbot and out to the Bristol Channel. The Site is visible between Western Bio-Energy and Margam Green Energy Plants just south of A48 / Harbour Way roundabout.

3.42. Elsewhere within the study area, views from PRoW are limited by intervening features.

Users of Margam Country Park

3.43. Margam Country Park is situated to the east of the Site and is publicly accessible all year round (except for Christmas Day). It contains Grade I, II* and II listed buildings, is a Grade I Registered Historic Park and Garden (RHPG), multiple Scheduled Monuments, a Conservation Area, PRoW, Wales Coast Path, St. Illtyd's Walk Open Access Land, and Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA). This therefore means that Margam County Park is likely to be well used by people for recreation.

3.44. According to the CADW description of the RHPG, *"The spot was deliberately chosen for its historic associations and picturesque position at the foot of a wooded historic hill, with the ruins of Margam Abbey and the eighteenth-century orangery visible to the west."* Mature vegetation and woodland within the park limits outward views in the direction of the Site and Bristol Channel, with views available in a south-west direction towards Sker Beach.

3.45. There are few locations within the country park where there are views towards the Site. **Photoviewpoint 8** illustrates views south of Margam Castle where mature vegetation limits views. Some views of industrial development to the west and southwest of the Site available which include BOC Gas Site, Margam Green Energy Park, Western Bio-Energy and Tata Steel. From elsewhere within the park, there are views towards the Site from elevated areas where breaks in woodland cover allow, such as from Mynydd y Castell Camp to the north of Margam Castle. This elevated hillfort has a number of informal mown paths, of which **Photoviewpoint 9** illustrates a view towards the Site. As demonstrated by this photograph, there is a backdrop of existing large industrial type buildings, including Margam Green Energy Plant. Beyond is the Bristol Channel and the Gower Peninsula. The Site is visible from this location albeit limited by mature vegetation and topography.

Road Users

3.46. In terms of main roads, similarly a combination of built form, mature vegetation topography limit views in the within the study area including from the M4 motorway which passes in a cutting c.60m east of the Site.

3.47. The A48 passes adjacent to the Site and connects the M4 with Margam and Port Talbot. Views along this route are represented by **Photoviewpoint 1**, **2**, **3**, **4** and **7**. Roadside vegetation limits views to the direction of travel, whilst there are views towards the Site from **Photoviewpoint 1** and **3**. **Photoviewpoint 2** is taken along the eastern boundary of the Site, although mature vegetation filters and screens views.

3.48. Views from the A4241 are oblique and fleeting, often comprising large scale industrial buildings, as represented by **Photoviewpoint 5**. Built form and mature vegetation limits views to the Site to the south-eastern end of the route where the Site is in the direction of travel.

3.49. From minor roads, views are limited to oblique glimpsed views (as represented by **Photoviewpoint 6**) along Longland Lane located to the south of the Site. Views are filtered towards Site, with large scale industrial development visible beyond. It is worth noting that there is existing consent (ref: P2021/1255) for a metal processing facility to be constructed between this section of Longlands Lane and the Site.

Visual Context: Conclusion

3.50. The fieldwork has determined that the visual envelope of the Site is contained primarily to north-west and to the south-west of the 1.5km study area as illustrated by the ZTV (**Plan 6**). The following visual receptors have been identified to be scoped in for the appraisal of visual change resulting from the Proposed Development:

- Walkers on Footpath 9/46.PT/1;
- Users of the Wales Coast Path;
- Users of Margam Country Park;
- Road users of the A48;
- Road users of the A4241; and
- Road users of Longlands Lane.

Section 4: Proposals and Landscape Strategy

4.1. The proposals comprise a full planning application for *"Redevelopment of the site for a data centre (Use Class B8) and supporting infrastructure, parking and associated works, including partial retention of the existing building for ancillary uses, and power connection to the existing Western Wood Biomass Plant"*. The layout is contained at **Appendix 1**, whilst elevations of the scheme are included at **Appendix 2**.

Proposed Landscape Mitigation, Enhancement and Strategy measures

4.2. To accommodate development, the proposals include the following landscape proposals:

- The Data Centre building will incorporate large areas of living walls and a green roof. The development is in a location where it would not be uncharacteristic given the surrounding industrial and residential context, including the consented application to the south. The proposals however have incorporated high quality design and measures to set an example of what can be achieved;
- Retention and enhancement of boundary vegetation and provision of compensation losses as a result of development;
- Retention of all Category A trees highlighted in the arboricultural assessment within the scheme;
- Enhanced grassland will be planted along the area north of the access road;
- Wet tolerant planting will be planted within the edges of the proposed attenuation basin in the northern part of the scheme;
- New native hedgerow planting along the southern boundary;
- Between the Data Centre, the existing Tyn-y-Caeau building, access road and the A48 boundary will be planted with wildflower grassland; and
- All areas of japanese knotweed found on Site are to be removed through an Invasive Species Removal Strategy which will be acquired through a planning condition.

Section 5: Implications of Development

5.1. Understanding the landscape and visual environment's sensitivity to change when associated with the proposed development is an important consideration when addressing the suitability of development in relation to a receiving landscape.

5.2. GLVIA3 recognises the importance of the judgement of the professional undertaking the analysis to identify the nature of the change. To provide transparency as to the judgements made in this analysis, the following text describes how the existing landscape, views and visual amenity of the area may be affected; predicting the effects, although not their likely significance; and considering how those effects might be mitigated.

Landscape Effects

Published Landscape Character

5.3. As identified within Section 3 of this report, the Site and its immediate surroundings reflect character consistent with that described by LCA 1: Margam Marsh.

5.4. The Proposed Development is located entirely within this LCA, forming a small part of the northern tip of the eastern section. The western section of the LCA sits west of the South Wales mainline which runs north to south, dissecting the area. The published characteristics of this LCA, such as the strong visual impact of nearby industry, the dominance of pylons and steelworks in the skyline, and the influence of major transport corridors (e.g the M4 motorway) are particularly relevant to this area. The LCA's unity is poor as a result, particularly in the area east of the South Wales mainline which has a variety of large-scale, contrasting land-uses which include Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir, Margam Cemetery and Longlands recreation ground. The M4 motorway provides a clear boundary and divide in landscape character to its west (LCA 1: Margam Marsh) and east (LCA 3: Margam Country Park and LCA 4: Coedhirwaun).

5.5. The Proposed Development will introduce a Data Centre into LCA 1: Margam Marsh and will be a maximum of 18m in height and rectangular in shape. The Data Centre incorporates green walls on its facades as well as additional hedgerow and tree planting within the grounds to assist in softening its appearance viewed from the surrounding area. Whilst the Proposed Development will introduce a large building into the LCA, it would not be of a character inconsistent to the Margam Marsh, particularly in the eastern portion which consists of Western Bio-Energy, Margam Green Energy Park and BOC Gas Plant which all feature large buildings in excess of that proposed. In addition, the consented development adjacent to the Site (ref: P2021/1255) would introduce a *"metal processing facility totalling 28,500sq.m of floorspace comprising a powder processing plant (17,377sq.m), warehouse and store (5,428 sq.m) office building (1,442 sq.m), amenity building (776 sq.m), laboratory (200 sq.m), services building (470 sq.m), substation (107 sq.m), phase 2 (2,700 sq.m), CCTV, storage tanks and plant, parking, servicing and roads and associated works"* within the LCA. As such the LCA is to be further influenced by such industrial characteristics, even if the Proposed Development at the application were not to come forward.

5.6. In either scenario (i.e if consented application P2021/1255) was built out or not) there would be a **neutral** effect upon the LCA 1: Margam Marsh as a result of the Proposed Development.

Site-Specific Landscape Character

5.7. In terms of the character and features of the Site, the Proposed Development will introduce a Data Centre within the central and eastern area of the Site which currently comprises semi-improved grassland, dense scrub and two category U trees. The existing building on the Site will be retained and repurposed.

5.8. Tree removal to accommodate the Proposed Development would be limited to a total of seven trees, comprising a mixture of category B, C and U trees. To replace the category B and C removals (total of four), there will be provision of 12 new native trees meeting the 3:1 replacement planting ration in line with PPW12.

5.9. 3no of Category U trees (which are in such a condition that is considered unsuitable for retention due to defects or health issues) would also be removed and replaced 1:1, bringing the total new tree provision on Site to 15. Healthy, young, replacement native tree planting is proposed to ensure that a higher quality tree stock with greater longevity provides long lasting ecological and landscape benefits to the Proposed Development whist also strengthening the Green Infrastructure (GI) links of the Site to the wider GI network.

5.10. Whilst the data centre will introduce increased built form to the Site, the external facades of the built structure will comprise considerable areas of living walls which add visual and ecological interest to the Site and its context. The data centre will also feature areas of green roof.

5.11. Elsewhere within the Site, new native hedgerow planting along the southern boundary is proposed and native wet grassland habitat is provided around the attenuation area situated on the northern side of the access road. Existing hedgerow around the Site peripheries is designed to be retained and enhanced with native species. North of the access road, grassland is designed to be enhanced whilst the southern areas will be planted with native scrub grassland. Between the Data Centre, the existing building, access road and the A48 boundary will be planted with wildflower grassland, adding seasonal interest and habitat for pollinators.

5.12. Japanese knotweed found on Site will be removed through an Invasive Species Removal Strategy which will be acquired through a planning condition. The removal of this species will serve as an additional enhancement to the Site.

5.13. Overall, it is considered that beneficial effects are afforded through the removal of invasive species, introduction of native trees, hedgerows, grassland and wet grassland mixes as well as the living wall and green roofs of the Proposed Development. The Data Centre fits into the local context which is settled and comprising industry. At a local scale there would be an adverse landscape change with the loss of greenfield to built form, with limited tree loss of poor quality.

Visual Effects

5.14. Section 3 identifies the 'visual receptors' (people) likely to experience a change in the view and therefore to be taken forward within this Appraisal. These include people walking along public footpaths who will be engaged in outdoor activities associated with the routes and enjoyment of the landscape and/or views. Users of the footpaths are likely to value these views to some degree and their attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape and visual experience. Road users travelling along the local highway network and workers will have a different focus on their activities.

5.15. Taking the above into account, the visual receptors (people) are analysed in respect of visual change arising from the Proposed Development in turn below.

Users of Public Rights of Way

5.16. There are a number of PRoW within the 1.5km study area, however few routes afford views towards the Site due the mature vegetation which limits intervisibility The location of PRoW surrounding the Site which fall within the ZTV of the Proposed Development are illustrated on **Plan 6.**

Wales Coast Path

5.17. The Wales Coast Path follows several PRoW, pedestrian roadside paths and lanes within the study area. **Photoviewpoints 1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **6**, **7** and **10** represent different perspectives towards the Proposed Development from the Wales Coast Path within the study area.

5.18. The change experienced from **Photoviewpoint 1**, on the opposite side of the A48 and junction with the M4 motorway will comprise filtered views of the southern and eastern sides of the data centre which would be set back off the shared boundary with the A48. Retained vegetation will continue to filter views of the completed data centre which will be finished in a combination of cream cladding and living walls, with the upper portions of the building covering the turrets comprising horizontal louvred fencing that will weather and become visually recessive over time. A series of six flues will also be visible on the eastern façade that will similarly, as with the rest of the building, will be filtered in views by existing mature vegetation along the boundary with the A48. The existing building which is to be retained and converted is unlikely to be visible from this route due to intervening mature vegetation along the eastern and southern boundary of the Site, as well as the data centre obscuring views.

5.19. Similar closer range views will be experienced at **Photoviewpoint 2** located on the Wales Coast Path adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site. Close range, filtered views would be possible through the eastern boundary of which the eastern façade of the data centre will sit beyond, finished in combination of cream cladding and living walls. Vegetation along this boundary is to be retained except for some limited removal associated with the site entrance to the immediate north of this view.

5.20. From the north, views of the Proposed Development will be more limited as the distance increases due to intervening vegetation and built form. **Photoviewpoint 3** illustrates views from immediately north of the A48 / A4241 roundabout of which filtered views of the northern façade of the data centre will be possible. The data centre is designed to be cladded in a

cream render and living walls which will assist in softening the appearance of the building. The existing building Tyn-y-Caeau which is proposed to be retained and converted for use alongside the data centre would be strongly filtered from view via existing and proposed vegetation. Existing views of Margam Green Energy Plant are visible to the west of the Site, whilst Western Bio-Energy and the BOC Gas Plant are also features in close proximity to the south-west of the Site. These complexes comprise built structures of between 30-70m, which are far greater than that of the Proposed Development (a proposed maximum height of 18m). Further north, as illustrated by **Photoviewpoint 4**, the Proposed Development would be screened from view due to mature vegetation.

5.21. From along this route to the south, there will be oblique views of the Data Centre from the eastern end of Longlands Lane (**Photoviewpoint 6**) which is absent of field boundary vegetation. Views north would comprise filtered views of the southern façade of the proposed data centre which is designed to be finished in a combination of cream cladding and living walls, with the upper portions of the building covering the turrets comprising horizontal louvred fencing that will weather and become visually recessive over time. The retained and converted Tyn-y-Caeau will be screened from view due to existing mature which obscure views. It should be noted that there is existing consent (ref: P2021/1255) for a metal processing facility between this section of the Wales Coast Path and the Proposed Development. If the consented development were to be built out, views from this section of the Wales Coast Path north towards the Proposed Development would be entirely obscured by the processing plant which would be 16.5m in height and extend along the length of Longlands Lane. Further southeast from the Wales Coast Path (**Photoviewpoint 7**) views of the Proposed Development will be obscured by existing mature vegetation including coniferous species surrounding Margam Depot in close proximity to the view.

5.22. To the east, views of the Proposed Development would be possible from the Wales Coast Path. These are represented by **Photoviewpoint 10** which also represents users of Footpath 9/46.PT/1. As a result of the Proposed Development, there will be clear views of the completed data centre of which the eastern façade would be the most visible. There would be some filtration offered by retained vegetation on the eastern boundary, however the elevation of the footpath means that receptors look down upon some of the tallest structures in the landscape of Port Talbot, including those in the vicinity of the Site which comprise Margam Green Energy Plant (c.40m in height), Western Bio-Energy Plant (c.30m in height) and BOC Gas Plant (includes structures up to c.70m in height). The Tata Steel works sits beyond these, and the South Wales mainline extends across views due to its linear character and close association with the railway line. As such, the Proposed Development would be seen in this context and of comparatively lower height (c.18m), finished in more recessive material (cream cladding, living walls and horizontal louvred fencing) than that of the existing industrial buildings which are predominantly white and grey.

5.23. Overall, there would be an adverse effect experienced from the Wales Coast Path, limited to the near vicinity (**Photoviewpoins 1-3**) and elevated ground to the east (**Photoviewpoint 10**). These effects would be adverse in the sense that the Proposed Development would represent a change from a mostly greenfield Site to a Data Centre and supporting infrastructure. The appearance of industrial and commercial buildings and associated structures is a common sight from this route throughout the study area and Proposed Development would assimilate with this context resulting in a neutral effect experienced by users of the Wales Coast Path.

Footpath 9/46.PT/1

5.24. As discussed above, the Wales Coast Path makes use of Footpath 9/46.PT/1 which is represented by **Photoviewpoint 10**. From this elevated route, there would be views of the completed Data Centre would result in an adverse effect, with the eastern façade being the most visible. While the retained vegetation along the eastern boundary would provide some screening of the lowest levels of built form, the high elevation of the footpath allows observers to look down on some of the tallest structures in the Port Talbot landscape, including the Margam Green Energy Plant (around 40m tall), Western Bio-Energy Plant (about 30m tall), and BOC Gas Plant (with structures reaching up to approximately 70m). Beyond these, the large expanse of the Tata Steel works, located beyond the South Wales mainline, stretches across the view due to its linear form and its proximity to the railway. As a result, the Proposed Development would be viewed in this context, appearing at a lower height (around 18m) and finished with more recessive materials (cream cladding, living walls, and horizontal louvred fencing), in contrast to the existing industrial buildings, which are predominantly white and grey.

Users of Margam Country Park

5.25. In consideration of views from Margam Country Park, there are few locations as indicated by the ZTV (**Plan 6**) within the park from which there is visibility. **Photoviewpoint 7** illustrates views from the access to the Country Park of which coincides with the Wales Coast Path. As discussed above, views of the Proposed Development will be screened due to mature vegetation, including coniferous species located around Margam Depot that obscure views in the direction of the Site. There would be a neutral change for these receptors.

5.26. Views from further east in the Country Park are limited by a combination of mature vegetation and steeply undulating topography. **Photoviewpoint 8** is located upon elevated ground and within Margam Conservation Area and south side of Margam Castle. Views eastwards towards the Proposed Development are screened by mature vegetation including some coniferous species in the landscaped gardens and western approach to the Castle. Views in this direction also contain large scale industrial buildings and structures associated with the Tata Steel complex which characterise the distant views out to the English Channel. This is therefore considered a neutral change for these receptors.

5.27. **Photoviewpoint 9** illustrates views from Mynydd y Castell Camp within the Country Park. The hill does not have any PRoW, however there are informal walking routes that are available that encircle the summit with views available to the west from the western side of the fort. Views in the direction of the Proposed Development are limited by mature vegetation on the western side of the hill which interrupts views. Views are further interrupted by intervening topography and mature vegetation of Graig Fawr. The limited views that are available west to the coast are channelled by mature vegetation, with low-lying land covered in industrial buildings appearing in the distance. The Tata Steel Complex and the Margam Green Energy Park are visible features in the landscape which contrast with the Hen Eglwys Grade II* Listed Building on the Graig Fawr hillside. The Proposed Development will sit to the east of Margam Green Energy Park and will be screened due to its lower building height (18m maximum) in comparison to the Margam Green Energy Park (c. 40m). This results in a overall neutral effect for people visiting this hillfort.

5.28. Overall, there would be a neutral effect upon users of Margam Country Park.

Road Users

5.29. Motorists travelling along the local road network will have a focus the road ahead and journey to the destination and as a result, these receptors are less likely to notice visual change.

Users of the A48

5.30. The A48 passes broadly north-south through the study area and views from it are represented by **Photoviewpoints 1**, **2**, **3**, **4** and **7**.

5.31. From the immediate vicinity of the Site, road users will be passing the Site boundary with oblique, glimpsed, filtered views westwards (representative **Photoviewpoint 2**). Particularly on the northbound direction of travel, road users will be slowing down and concentrating on the upcoming A48/A4241 roundabout, and their focus would not be west towards the Proposed Development. Similarly, those heading southbound and exiting the roundabout will be accelerating and focusing on the direction of travel. Vegetation along this boundary is to be retained except for some limited removal associated with the existing Site entrance just north of this view. It is therefore considered that there would be an overall neutral change in views for these people.

5.32. From the north, views of the Proposed Development will be further limited as the distance increases due to intervening vegetation and built form. **Photoviewpoint 3** illustrates views from just north of the A48 / A4241 roundabout, where glimpsed, filtered views of the northern façade of the data centre will be possible. The data centre is designed to be clad in a cream render with living walls, which would assist in softening the appearance of the building. The existing building, Tyn-y-Caeau, which is proposed to be retained and converted for use alongside the data centre, will be strongly filtered from view via existing and proposed vegetation. Existing views of Margam Green Energy Plant are visible to the west of the Site, while Western Bio-Energy and the BOC Gas Plant also feature in close proximity to the south-west of the Site. These complexes feature built structures far greater in elevation (between 30-70m) than that of the Proposed Development (maximum height of 18m). The change experienced from **Photoviewpoint 1**, which is located on the southern approach to the Site will comprise filtered views of the southern and eastern sides of the data centre, which is designed to be set back off the shared boundary with the A48. Retained vegetation will filter views of the completed data centre, which is to be finished in a combination of cream cladding and living walls, with the upper portions of the building covering the turrets comprising horizontal louvred fencing that will weather and become more recessive over time. A series of six flues will also be visible on the eastern façade that will similarly, as with the rest of the building, be broken up in views by existing mature vegetation along the boundary with the A48. The existing building, which is to be retained and converted, is unlikely to be visible from this route due to intervening mature vegetation along the eastern and southern boundary of the Site, as well as the Data Centre obscuring views. It is therefore considered that there would be an overall neutral change in views for these people.

5.33. As distance increases from the Site along this route, the availability of views towards the Proposed Development decreases as a result of intervening mature vegetation and topography as illustrated by **Photoviewpoint 4** and **Photoviewpoint 7**. There would similarly be a neutral change experienced for these people.

5.34. Overall, there would be a neutral effect upon users of the A48.

Users of the A4241

5.35. The change experienced from the A4241 arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be overall be neutral due to the oblique and fleeting nature of views experienced by the people using this route as well as the existing industrial context along the length of its western and southern edges which includes views of large-scale industrial buildings, as indicated in part by **Photoviewpoint 5**. The availability of views towards the Site is limited to its south-eastern end where it approaches the A4241 / A48 roundabout. The Proposed Development will also benefit from screening by existing built form as well as mature vegetation along this route, whilst the sensitively designed nature of the building, including the provision of recessive materials and living walls will assist in blending the data centre into its context, particularly at closer proximity to the roundabout.

5.36. In summary, while there will be some visibility of the Proposed Development from the A4241, the combination of oblique views, the industrial context, filtering and screening elements will limit effects along this route.

Users of Longlands Lane

5.37. From this route to the south of the Site, oblique views will be possible from the eastern end of Longlands Lane (**Photoviewpoint 6**), where there is no field boundary vegetation. Looking north, the southern façade of the proposed Data Centre will be partially visible through filtered views. The building includes cream cladding and living walls, with the upper sections, including the turrets, finished in horizontal louvred fencing designed to weather and blend into the surroundings over time. The retained and converted Tyn-y-Caeau will remain screened from view due to the presence of existing mature vegetation. It is worth noting that there is existing consent (ref: P2021/1255) for a metal processing facility to be constructed between this section of Longlands Lane and the Proposed Development. If this consented facility is built, it would completely obstruct views from this part of Longlands Lane towards the Proposed Development, as the processing plant would reach a height of 16.5m and span the length of the lane to Western Bio-Energy. There would be a neutral effect for users of this route.

Section 6: Conclusion

6.1. Table 3.1 of the GLVIA outlines what is required in the appraisal process, as a project outside of an EIA. This includes the following:

- Establishing the existing nature of the landscape and visual environment in the study area; and
- Providing a description of the proposed development, identifying the main features of the proposals and the changes that will occur; and
- Systematically identifying and describing the effects that are likely to occur, including whether they are adverse, neutral or beneficial.

6.2. Professional judgement plays an important role in the landscape and visual analysis process where the analysis of landscape character and visual amenity is both a subjective and objective process. However, the analysis process seeks to provide a narrative to explain the judgement reached. The approach taken in the preparation of this report is considered to be appropriate and proportional in the context of the professional guidance published by the Landscape Institute.

6.3. In terms of the Site-specific character, the Proposed Development will replace existing semi-improved neutral grassland with a data centre, car park and supporting infrastructure. This is however in the context of nearby Margam Green Energy Plant (c.40m in height), Western Bio-Energy Plant (c.30m in height) and BOC Gas Plant (includes structures up to c.70m in height). and the consented development to the south (16.5m). Boundary vegetation comprising hedgerows and trees will be retained and enhanced, except for where removal may be required around the Site entrance. The landscape proposals mitigate tree loss through the provision of replacement planting at a ratio greater than 3:1 as specified by PPW12 whilst also removing Japanese knotweed that is prevalent through the Site. The data centre building will also be of high-quality with its living walls and green roof. Overall, the development will change the Site from a predominantly greenfield to a more developed state, with net beneficial effects on Site-Specific character and landscape features.

6.4. The Site lies within the LCA 1: Margam Marsh which is characterised by a mixture of industrial influences, pylons, steelworks and transport corridors. The proposed data centre, featuring green walls, green roof, additional planting and removal of invasive species will integrate into the context without changing the character of the LCA, especially given the baseline presence of industrial buildings and structures within the LCA, as well as recent consent for a metal processing facility adjacent to the Site (ref: P2021/1255).

6.5. Considering effects upon visual receptors, those who will experience the greatest change in their views will be located along the roads and paths that pass the Site's eastern and northern boundaries and from one PRoW located on the elevated ground of Graig Fawr, that also forms a section of the Wales Coast Path. Fieldwork has determined that the visual envelope is as contained as suggested by the ZTV mapping and public vantage points are limited. Where the Proposed Development will be visible, it will be observed in the context of larger scale industrial and commercial development that lies in its near proximity. The 18m height of the Proposed Development is considerably lower than many of the surrounding buildings

and structures, and will be of high-quality modern design, incorporating living walls, a green roof and landscape and ecology enhancements that will all combine to soften its appearance.

6.6. This Appraisal has determined that the Site (of which is a candidate employment Site for allocation within the RLDP) and receiving area can accommodate the Proposed Development from a landscape and visual perspective with limited adverse effects upon landscape character and visual receptors. Mitigation measures, including landscape and ecological enhancements and sensitive design reduce the developments potential effect within its context.

Appendix 1: Layout



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5 0 5 10 15 20 25
Graphical Scale 1: 500 m

Standard Notes:

1. This drawing has been developed to Future-tech master plan standards.

2. The drawing shall be read in conjunction with the Future-tech site maturity model, feasibility study or the master plan presentation.

3. The drawing indicates approximate building and equipment masses. It does not indicate the precise number or position of buildings, equipment, services or landscaping elements and should only be used as a guide in the conceptual design process.

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Dimensions

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18m
15.3 - 15.5m
12m
10m

Rev	Date	Description				
P04	Jan 2025	Amendment to Red line boundary	ZM	ZM	CS	GC
P03	Jan 2025	Emergency Access removed	ZM	ZM	CS	GC
P02	Sept 2024	For Information	ZM	ZM	CS	GC
P01	Aug 2024	For Information	ZM	ZM	CS	GC

INFORMATION

Client: Western Bio-Energy

Project: Port Talbot

Drawing Title: Site Wide Layout - Height Plan

Suitability	Revision
S0	P04
Scale: As indicated@A1	Design Stage: Master Plan
Checked: CS	Approved: GC
Designed: ZM	Drawn: ZM

Project No.	Org.	Vol.	Level	File	Role	Number
1044	FUT	V1	ZZ	DR	Z	X150

MASTERPLAN

Future-tech
+44(0)845 9000 127
info@future-tech.co.uk

Appendix 2: Elevations

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2 0 2 4 6 8 10
Graphical Scale 1 : 200
m

Standard Notes:

1. This drawing has been developed to Future-tech master plan standards.

2. The drawing shall be read in conjunction with the Future-tech site maturity model, feasibility study or the master plan presentation.

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Dimensions

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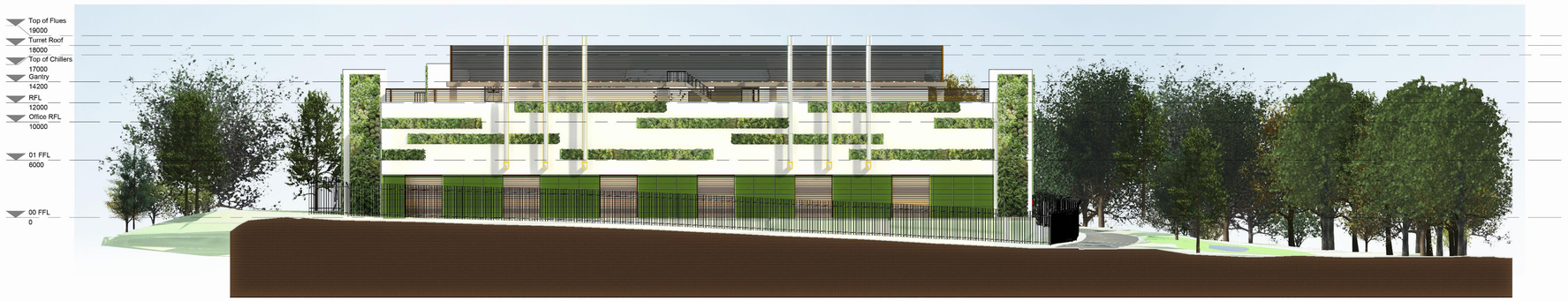
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1 North Elevation
1 : 200



2 East Elevation
1 : 200



3 South Elevation
1 : 200



4 West Elevation
1 : 200

Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	APP
P05	March 2025	Key risers	ZM	ZM	CS GC
P04	Jan 2025	Robotic Lawns	ZM	ZM	CS GC
P03	Jan 2025	Stora Enso and Western Bio-Energy comments	ZM	ZM	CS GC
P02	Sept 2024	For information	JN	JN	CS GC
P01	Aug 2024	For information	JN	JN	CS GC

INFORMATION

Client
Western Bio-Energy

Project
1044 - Port Talbot

Drawing Title
Site Elevations - Option 1

Suitability	Revision
S0	P05
Scale: 1 : 200@A0	Design Stage: Master Plan
Checked: CS	Approved: GC
Designed: ZM	Drawn: ZM

Project No.	Org.	Vol.	Level	File	Role	Number
1044	FUT	ZZ	ZZ	DR	Z	X400

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+44(0)845 9000 127
info@future-tech.co.uk

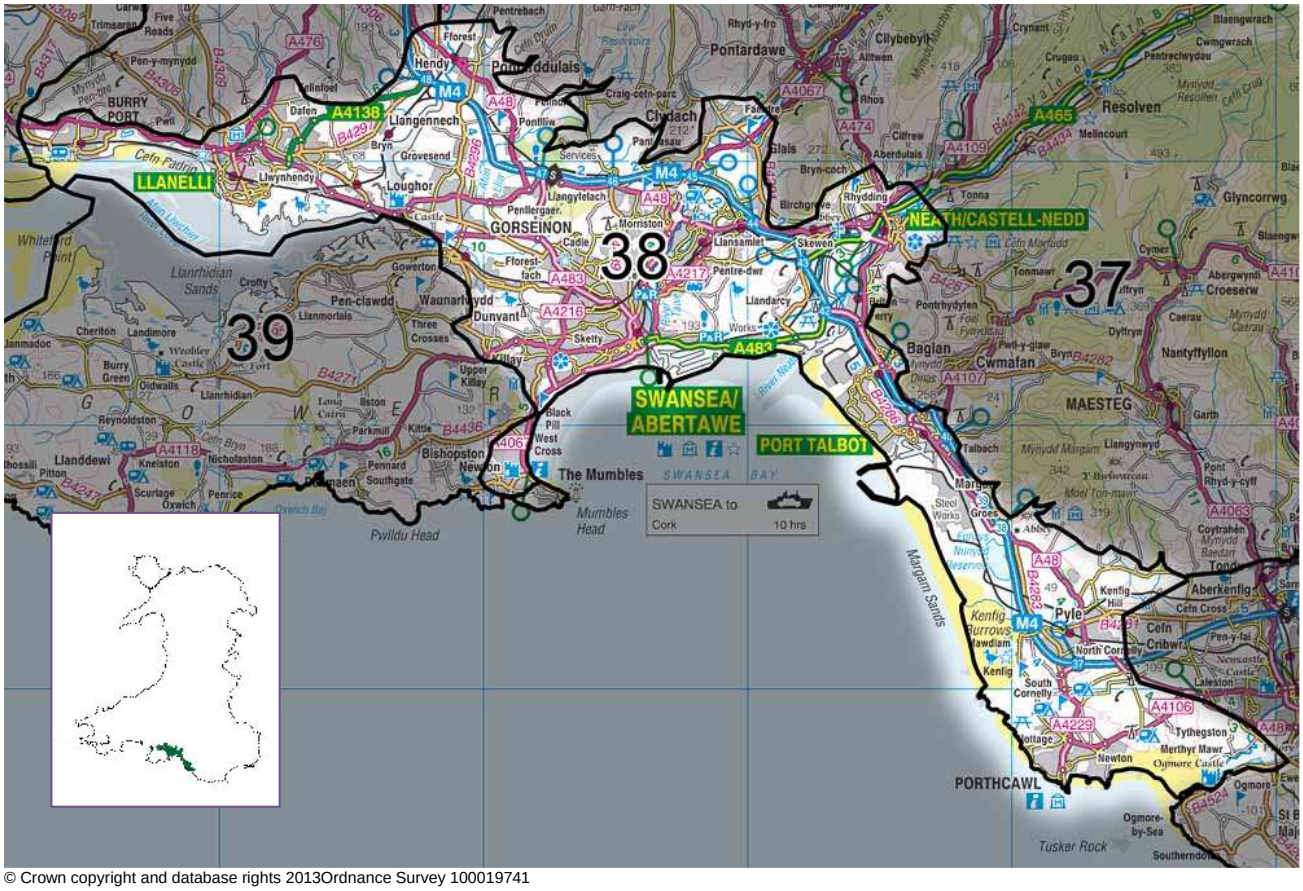
Appendix 3: National Landscape Character Area

National Landscape Character

31/03/2014

NLCA38

SWANSEA BAY



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Bae Abertawe – disgrifiad cryno

Mae gwastadedd arfordirol cul yn cysylltu iseldiroedd Morgannwg ac iseldiroedd Gwendraeth. Yn y canol, oddeutu Port Talbot, mae'r môr a'r ucheldiroedd serth yn culhau'r gwastadedd hwn. Y tu hwnt i'r arfordir tywodlyd eang ceir twyni, gyda lagwnau a rhostir arfordirol pwysig. Mae aberoedd prif afonydd yn tarddu yn yr ardal, yn cynnwys aberoedd Afon Llwchwr, Afon Nedd ac Afon Tawe. Mae adeiladau i'w cael ar rannau helaeth o'r ardal, a cheir dociau mawr wrth ymyl aberoedd Afon Nedd ac Afon Tawe. Dinas Abertawe yw canolbwynt y datblygu, sef y ddinas fwyaf ond un yng Nghymru; a hefyd ceir Llanelli, Nedd Port Talbot a'r Pîl. Cymeriad trefol a maestrefol sydd i'r ardal, gydag ystadau diwydiannol ac ystadau tai mawr. Mae diwydiannau trwm ac aneddiadau wedi gwneud defnydd o'r mannau strategol bwysig hyn, rhwng y pyllau glo a'r môr, ac mae'r porthladdoedd mawr o amgylch Abertawe a Gwaith Dur Port Talbot yn nodweddion o fewn y dirwedd. Yn y fan hon, strwythurau geometrig rhyfedd a simneiau sy'n powlio mwg yw prif nodweddion y gorwel, fel y'u gwelir o'r rheilffyrdd a'r priffyrdd prysur. Dyma dirwedd

drefol, uchelgeisiol, swnllyd a phrysur sydd â chysylltiad da trwy gyfrwng ffyrdd a rheilffyrdd â phrifddinasoedd Caerdydd a Llundain.

Y tu hwnt i'r tywod, sy'n ffurfio hanner cylch ar y bae, ceir twyni. Yn y rhain, ac yn y codiad tir cyfagos, mae archeoleg Cynffig, Merthyr Mawr wedi'i chladdu. Yn nau ben y bae ceir brigiadau calchfaen, ac mae Porthcawl a'r Mwmbwls bellach yn gyrchfannau i bobl sy'n hoff o hamddena. Mae'r maes carafanau enfawr, y ganolfan ddiddanu a Chlwb Golff Porthcawl yn gorwedd yn un pen; ac mae'r hen anheddiad pysgota, sydd bellach yn ferw o dwristiaid, y pier enwog a'r pentir yn gorwedd yn y pen arall. Gwelir bod nifer o bwysigion y byd celfyddydol yn hanu o'r ardal arfordirol hon, ac mae'r traddodiad corau'n fyw iawn yn lleol.

Yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae graddfa'r adfywio yn newid y dirwedd unwaith eto. Mae marinas a fflatiau trefol newydd yn trawsnewid hen ddociau segur Abertawe; ac yn Llanelli mae Parc Arfordir y Mileniwm, gwaith tunplat Trostre a'r warchodfa natur ym Mhenclacwydd (sef gwarchodfa ar gyfer adar yn bennaf) yn arwydd o ba mor amrywiol yw'r newidiadau.

Summary description

A narrow coastal plain links the lowlands of Glamorgan to those of Gwendraeth. In the middle section around Port Talbot its width is constricted by the adjacent sea and steeply uplands. Extensive sandy coast is backed by dunes, with lagoons and important coastal heath. Major river estuaries issue within the area, including those of rivers Loughor, Neath and Tawe. Large parts of the area have been built on, with major docks by the Neath and Tawe estuaries. The focus of development is the city of Swansea, Wales' second largest, but also Llanelli, Neath Port Talbot and Pyle. Character is urban and suburban with large housing and industrial estates. Heavy industries and settlement have made use of these strategically important locations, between coalfield and sea, and major ports around Swansea and the Steel Works at Port Talbot are landmark features. In that section, strange geometric apparatus and steam belching chimneys dominate the skyline as seen from busy arterial roads and railways. It is a busy, noisy, ambitious urban landscape with good road and rail links to capitals Cardiff and London.

The sweeping crescent of sand, is backed by dunes that have buried archaeology at Kenfig, Merthyr Mawr, as have the immediate rising hinterland. At either end of the bay there are limestone outcrops and Porthcawl and Mumbles have become the recreational destinations. Respectively, the very large caravan park, amusement centre and the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club sits at one end and the lively tourist-attracting former fishing settlement, notable pier and headland sits at the other. Many prominent figures in the world of arts hail from this coastal strip, and there is a lively local choral tradition.

In recent years the degree of regeneration is changing the landscape again. New urban blocks of flats and marinas are transforming redundant former docks in Swansea, whilst at Llanelli the Millennium Coastal Park, the Trostre tinplate works and the, largely avian, wildlife reserve at Pencaclwydd illustrate the range of change.

Key Characteristics
Narrow coastal plain – a long lowland area, of limited width in its middle section, between uplands and the sea, and opening out into wider lowland areas at either end.
Estuaries – including those of the Rivers Loughor, Tawe, Neath and Ogmore.
Extensive soft coastline - sand dunes and sweeping sandy beaches and lagoons. Kenfig dunes /lagoon have important species including fen orchid and medicinal leech. Relict, prehistoric and later period landscapes, successively buried by wind blown sand.
Setting of steeply rising hills – in the central section around Port Talbot, and belonging to South Wales Valleys to the north
Coal measures - beneath much of the area, but Triassic mudstones form the northern bank of the Ogmore Estuary.
Limestone outcrops - near and Mumbles Porthcawl.
Major glacial moraine deposits by estuaries e.g. Glais Morraine 1 mile long x 45m high
Urban areas - dominated by the city of Swansea and the coalescing towns of Llanelli, Neath and Port Talbot. Swansea, with its strong architectural heritage and cultural importance forms a regional focus. Housing and business planned in large estates.
Heavy industry – giant apparatus with large buildings and chimneys with steam issuing focussed at Port Talbot, with dominating visual and audible presence.
Major transport corridor – with main road and rail lines linking settlements along the corridor, with associated movement, busyness and noise.
Ports and docks – at major river estuaries. Historically the focus for industry but today regenerating and redesigning as post-industrial housing, education and leisure marinas.
Historically strategic location - recognised early for good coal for industry and sea transport, and latterly by rail.
Agriculture - in areas away from dunes and lagoons that have not been built on. Predominantly pasture for dairy, sheep or horse paddocks in regular, hedged fields.
In the few remaining rural parts – the pattern is settlements along roads, with scattered stone or white/cream render farmsteads.

Visual and Sensory profile

Tightly fitted between the steeply rising uplands to the north and the sweeping bay to the south, this often busy, noisy, at times messy, urban, transport artery also extends over the broad neck of Gower to include the neighbouring, estuary-set town of Llanelli. The presence of the City of Swansea, the dominating plain of giant apparatus at Port Talbot Steel Works, and the large town of Llanelli, reinforce the urban and industrial sense of place. Yet despite this, the respective abutting seascapes at Swansea Bay and the Loughor Estuary both provide remarkable escape and contrast, as do neighbouring character areas covering Gower and the uplands to the north of Swansea. These places offer a sense of openness and relative tranquillity, where wind, tides and active natural processes can still be observed.

With the spread of development over time, the physical separation between some settlements has been weakened, with many peri-urban areas arising. These parts of the area are neither town nor countryside and can challenge visual appreciation, with their oil storage tanks, electricity pylons, derelict industrial facilities, security fencing, litter and air of neglect. This can be reinforced by a background setting of built development and road traffic. Equally this can be countered beyond further by the extent of dune, farmland, woodland and scrub areas and the upland and coastal backdrops.

Within the urban areas the scale of landscape is often experienced primarily through the details of neighbourhood, street and park, all of which vary greatly in character and state of management. This ranges considerably with place, from bleak and run-down, to leafy and manicured, and from vibrant to quiet. The constant here is the setting seen in the many vistas of coast, estuary and upland, often much sought-after, notably focussing around Swansea Bay and backed by the steeply rising hills of the South Wales Valleys.

Swansea retains an important architectural interest with the University campus, Italianate Civic Centre and commercial core which exhibits the classical civic form associated with the post-war rebuilding. Many large modern developments rely on attracting visitors, so great emphasis has been placed on their appearance together with the regeneration of their surroundings. The extensive promenade at Swansea forms a recreational focus, with the eye of many attracted towards the Mumbles headland and its pier, from which a wide panorama can be gained, looking back across the entire bay.



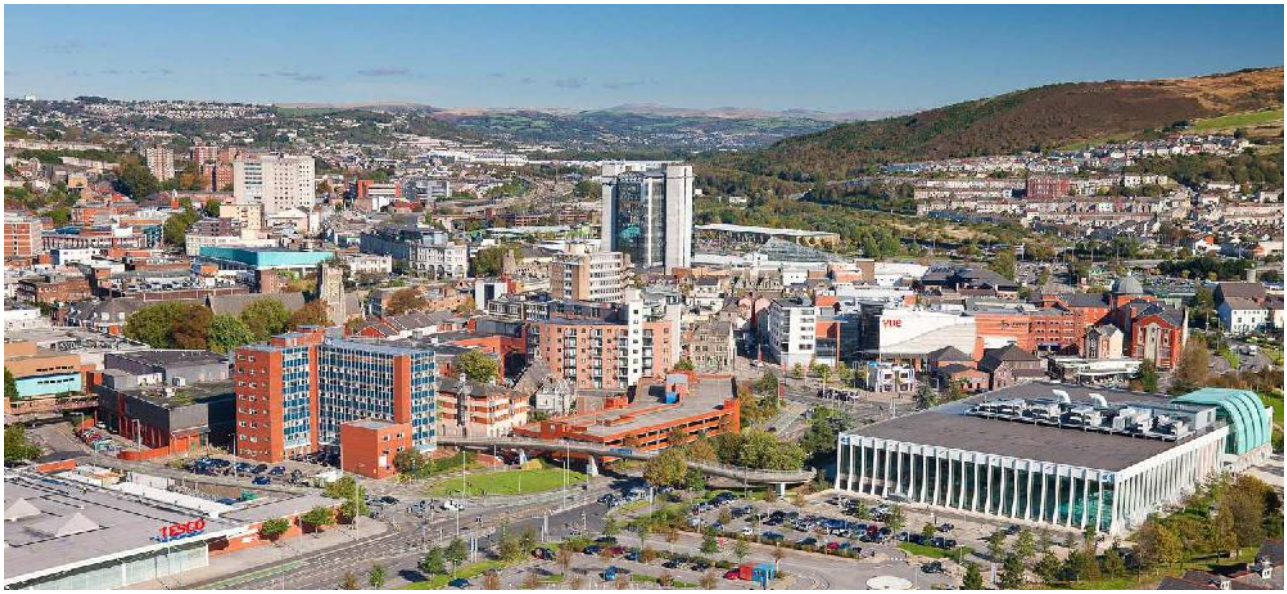
Regenerated Swansea Docks, from Meridian Quay Tower in the Maritime Quarter.
© Crown Copyright (2009) Visit Wales



Looking over Swansea to the South Wales Valleys © Crown Copyright (2007) Visit Wales



Swansea city, docks and bay, with the distant Mumbles headland. © Crown Copyright (2009) Visit Wales



Swansea City Centre and the Neath Valley from Meridian Tower © Crown Copyright (2009) Visit Wales



Promenade and Mumbles. © Crown Copyright (2006) Visit Wales



Extensive heavy industry in the Port Talbot area, with contrasting extensive dunes, ponds and heath at Kenfig Burrows. © LUC



Port Talbot Steel works © CCW Collection



Industrial and transport corridor on the peri-urban eastern edge to Swansea. © LUC



Kenfig Pool © Crown Copyright (2011) Visit Wales



Kenfig Pool and dunes © Crown Copyright (2011) Visit Wales



Porthcawl beach © Crown Copyright (2009) Visit Wales



From Llangennech (Llanelli) overlooking the River Loughor towards Swansea © John Briggs



From Llangennech overlooking the M4 and across the valley to Pontarddulais © John Briggs

Geological Landscape influences

The landscape is generally coastal in character and includes the Loughor, Tawe, Neath and Ogmore estuaries. The coastal plain is predominantly flat-lying but inland the ground rises to elevations of more than 100m, for example Kenfig Hill, Margam Castle, Neath Valley, Morriston, and Penllergaer Forest. The adjacent upland area of the South Wales Valleys rises very sharply between Swansea and Margam.

The exposed bedrock is predominantly Carboniferous but there is a small area of Triassic and Jurassic rocks near Porthcawl. Lower Carboniferous rocks crop out in two small areas at Mumbles and Porthcawl where they consist dominantly of limestone. Overlying this is Millstone Grit, which crops out in a small band near Mumbles. Coal Measures underlie most of Swansea Bay including the coastal strip from Black Pill, Swansea City Centre and the docks, Port Talbot, Margam and towards Kenfig, but are obscured by alluvium and coastal deposits. The overlying unit in the Carboniferous sequence is the Pennant

Sandstone Formation (Upper Coal Measures). These sandstones are thickest in the Swansea area, where they are up to 1,150m thick, and form the higher ground in the area, for example at Sgetty, Townhill, Penllergaer and Morriston. The Pennant Sandstones also form the high ground in the neighbouring South Wales Valleys that forms the backdrop to the flat-lying coastal areas of Port Talbot and Margam. The succeeding Triassic rocks in are found in a small area near Porthcawl where they rest unconformably on Lower Carboniferous Limestone. They comprise red and yellow sandstones and conglomerates.

The area forms part of the southern limb of the South Wales Coalfield, which is major, structurally complex, WNW-ESE-trending trough-shaped structure that extends westwards into Pembrokeshire. The strata on the southern limb dip steeply in a general northward direction which gives rise to steep scarp slopes in the area, for example north of Port Talbot and Margam. Two of the most distinctive structural features of Swansea Bay are the Tawe Valley and Neath Valley disturbances. These are long-lived, NE-SW-striking zones of folding and faulting. The South Wales Coalfield is also transected by a dense network of steep, NNW-striking 'cross-faults' that are aligned approximately parallel to dip of the strata and generally display vertical displacements.

During the last glaciation, Welsh ice moved from the uplands and Irish Sea ice moved eastwards into the Bristol Channel. The former was dominant but Irish Sea ice did have an influence towards the Vale of Glamorgan east of Porthcawl. Ice advanced south-westwards from Mynydd Du, and the Nedd, Tawe and Afan valleys acted as major outlets, affecting deposits in the Swansea area. At Glais there is one of the largest and most impressive of the valley moraines in Wales. The Glais Moraine extends westwards for a mile across the Swansea Valley reaching a height of *c*. 45m above the valley floor. Other landforms and deposits related to the Ice Age include the hummocky terrane between Margam and Pyle, which may be a morainic belt, and the outwash gravels deposited by glacial meltwater streams along the coastal plain.

Swansea Bay also includes important areas of coastal sand dune at Crymlyn, Margam, Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr. These areas represent the remains of more extensive sand dune systems which have been partly buried beneath the industrial development at Port Talbot and Margam. This coastline is also known for the remains of ancient tree stumps exposed periodically on the beaches. These represent a forest which developed on the coastal plain and was then submerged by rising sea levels after the last ice-sheet glaciation.

The outstanding geological diversity of the area is represented in numerous SSSI: Bracelet Bay (Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy, Variscan structures), Oystermouth Old Quarry (Carboniferous stratigraphy), Penllergaer Railway Cutting (Westphalian), Earlswood & Ferryboat Inn (Westphalian) and Glais Moraine (Quaternary).

Landscape Habitats influences

A comparatively large proportion of the area comprises habitats typical of urban and peri-urban areas, including large housing and industrial parts, however this is by no means the full story.

The coastal areas south of Port Talbot and around Porthcawl are defined by undulating sand dunes punctuated by pockets of scrub and trees, common grazed by sheep. These areas are nationally and internationally valued for their coastal habitats, lying within the Kenfig NNR, SSSI and SAC and Merthyr-Mawr SSSI. On the northern bank of the

Ogmore Estuary is one of only three Welsh sand dune systems with species rich calcareous grassland, formed on the limestone plateau. Together with Kenfig Burrows, these areas contain a varied mosaic of dune, standing water, and associated habitats. Internationally important and rare plant and animal species are present including the fen orchid and medicinal leech. This habitat would previously have been present along the majority of this coast but has since been lost to development, remaining other areas including Crymlyn Bog SSSI and Baglan Burrows.

The bay is punctuated at a number of points where watercourses issue into the sea forming estuaries with associated mudflats and salt-marsh. These estuarine areas are of great ecological value with the Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary being particularly valuable, reflected in its designation as a SAC, SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI. Other areas of intertidal coast of particular significance include that at Blackpill in Swansea Bay and mud-flats at Crymlyn, both of which are SSSIs, and the coast at Kenfig which is designated as both a SAC and SSSI.

Farmland areas include semi-improved, and marshy grassland on generally poorer draining surface-water gley soils. The latter is of considerable ecological value, notably at Nant Y Crimp and Penplas Grasslands, which are both designated as SSSIs. Farmland is generally bordered by hedgerows, many of which are species rich with small blocks and linear swathes of mixed and broadleaved woodlands scattered throughout, adding to the ecological value.

Also of note as distinct habitat areas are the coniferous woodland of Penllergaer Forest and the designed landscape of Penllergare Park to the north of Swansea, and the wooded parkland of Margam Park.

Historic Landscape influences

This area has a wealth of archaeological evidence and historic remains, reflecting its strategic coastal position and rich underlying coal resources. Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and Crumlyn Bog and Pantysais Fen are nationally recognised both as landscapes of outstanding historic interest. The extensive evidence indicates how past communities related to shifting climatic and physical conditions of the coastline. Visible remains exposed by the movement of sand include the medieval castle and fortified borough of Kenfig, which is thought to have developed on the site of earlier settlement dating back to prehistoric times.

Merthyr Mawr is the site of a number of important archaeological and historic remains. Prominent features include the ruins of Candleston Castle, a small fortified manor house originally built in the C14th. Earlier features include the defensive Iron Age enclosure of Cae Summerhouse Camp, located in a prominent position on the limestone plateau above the Ogmore River.

Swansea and Neath have varied histories, with the Romans thought to be the first to capitalize on their strategic locations on rivers. Auxiliary forts were established at Loughor and Neath at the narrowest crossing point of the Rivers Loughor and Neath. Practice camps and other Roman remains such as the Roman road Sarn Helen, are also evident throughout the area. But it was the invading Vikings in the C10th who first influenced Swansea's early development, appearing to establish a small community of traders at the mouth of the Tawe.

The Medieval period from the C12th saw further development of Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot, with the Normans establishing castles in each township. Swansea Castle was later garrisoned for the Royalists during the Civil War of 1642-48. The castles at Swansea and Neath remain prominent landmarks today, though evidence for that at Aberavon is now no more than a street name.

Ship building was established as early as the C14th at Swansea and Neath, Swansea's city walls were built, and the rights to hold markets were granted by royal charter.

The presence of coal seams near to the surface, and the location of the area close to the sea for export, led to the rapid expansion of Swansea through the C17th to C19th. It became the busiest port in Wales, exporting coal to as far as France and the Channel Islands, until Cardiff developed infrastructure to link with the rich coal region of the Rhondda in the mid to late C19th, taking over from Swansea as the busiest coal port. Port Talbot alone among the ports of the character area until recently saws substantial tonnages because of the steelworks, while the docks at Neath, Swansea, Llanelli and Burry Port have declined to mere shadows of their former selves.

The success of the coal industry in Swansea led to the establishment of large-scale copper and tinplate smelting which dominated the Lower Swansea Valley as far north as Clydach and led to the expansion of the City, with the development of the Hafod, Plasmarl and the adjacent (now integrated) town of Morriston (Treforys). Despite the decline of the industries and working out of the coal reserves in the early 20th century, there are still characteristic vestiges of industrial buildings and terraced workers' housing that bear testimony to these activities. Features include the industrial waterways of the Tennant and Neath Canals, the forge at Clydach, and copper works at Whiterock and Hafod. The once important Swansea Valley Canal has been covered over extensive lengths but, like the Tennant and Neath Canals, is poised to be a modest addition to the many leisure opportunities in the character area.

Cultural Landscape influences

The City of Swansea provides a regional focus, together with the coalescing and burgeoning towns of Neath and Port Talbot which lie to the east and south-east respectively, and Llanelli to the west. The Port Talbot coastline is still heavily influenced by industrial developments, including steel and chemical works but significant change is happening throughout the area as it moves, partly, to a post-industrial state. Examples of note at Llanelli include the Millennium Coastal Park and the wildlife reserve at Pencaclwydd.

Large areas of the Swansea's docks and the central city were destroyed by bombing in the Second World War, causing a spate of unremarkable post-War redevelopment, which is now itself being replaced. The earlier part of this redevelopment in the 1980s involved the creation of the Swansea Marina and a boat basin, which has been augmented by further moorings in the waters held back by the Tawe Barrage. The recently opened National Waterfront Museum sits awkwardly alongside the Leisure Centre, while the Guildhall and light-coloured mass of County Hall are statements of civic pride. Swansea University has expanded to include the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) and Medical School. Developments on the eastern approaches to Swansea and a planned new urban village at Llandarcy further reinforce the ambitious regenerative projects of the past 40 years. The City retains much that is of architectural interest, but is surrounded by new-build housing

estates on green field sites, and others as adjuncts to once self-contained industrial communities.

All this development in the belt from Llanelli to Port Talbot is putting a heavy strain on the road infrastructure. However the overall perception is one of renewed ambition with an element of leisure attraction, following the decline of traditional heavy industries and their former rail and port facilities.

In contrast, the mediaeval architecture of Neath and Margam Abbeys, the 18th century Orangery and 19th century Gothic bulk of Margam Castle, Neath Abbey Ironworks (also 19th century) among others provide ancient monuments and listed buildings of considerable interest and visual attractiveness.

The performing arts figure large in the region. The coastal strip from Port Talbot to Llanelli have produced such well known stars in modern times as Richard Burton, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Michael Sheen, Katherine Jenkins, Bonny Tyler, Sir Harry Secombe, Ivor Emmanuel, Dame Rebecca Evans, Mary Hopkin and Sian Phillips. Artists abound, among whom are Andrew Vicari and Ceri Richards, while distinguished poets such as Vernon Watkins and Dylan Thomas are bound indissolubly to the area. Nor should the choral traditions be ignored, the Morriston Orpheus Choir being the most notable.

The seaside resort of Porthcawl caters for mixed markets with it's sprawling caravan park and amusement centre, it's 'kiss-me-quick' character contrasting with the upmarket Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. The villages of Newton and Nottage (now absorbed into greater Porthcawl) are attractive enclaves of restaurants and pubs, with narrow streets and vernacular stone buildings.

Welsh speaking is relatively high in the west of the area, being concentrated in Llanelli and the rural valleys areas of Swansea, Neath and Afan. This is in contrast to the eastern rural areas towards the Vale of Glamorgan around Porthcawl.

Appendix 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Print View Map

SURVEY DETAILS FOR NPTGL030 - 2024-08-01

Area Unique ID: NPTGL030

Aspect:Geological Landscape

Area:Kenfig

Region:NeathPortTalbot

Survey Date:2004-01-30

- Level 1: Lowland hills and valleys
- Level 2: Dissected lowland plateau
- Level 3: Lowland plateau

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- No Answer

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- No Answer

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- No Answer

Q1c - Change indicated by

- No Answer

Q1d - What has changed?

- No Answer

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- No

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- Yes
  - CynonGL--

Description

Q3 - If Classification is "Other", specify here

- Empty value

Q4 - What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?

- Broad low lying plain of glacial sand and gravel, with boulder clay covered lower ground around Llanfihangel Wood. Shallow, meandering Cynfig valley with alluvium in floor. Mine and tips from underlying Productive Coal Formation coals.

Q4a - Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?

- No Answer

Q4b - Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?

- No Answer

Q4c - Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?

- No Answer

Q4d - Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?

- No Answer

Q4e - Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?

- No Answer

Q5 - What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?

- Lowland plateau

Q6 - Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?

- Stratigraphic formation(s)
  - Productive Coal Formation
- Superficial deposits
  - Glacial sand and gravel, alluvium, boulder clay
- Active processes
  - Fluvial
- Past processes
  - Glacial

Q7 - What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?

- Mineral workings
- Active upland river or stream channel system

Q8 - What Level 4 components are notable in this area?

- Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit
- Coal / mineral spoil tips

Q9 - What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?

- Fluvial
- Empty value

Q10 - Are there components of significant hydrological importance?

- Yes
  - Cynfig

Q11 - Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?

- Yes
  - High permeability soils

Q12 - Is there current mineral extraction?

- No

Q13 - Has there been mineral extraction in the past?

- Yes

Q14 - Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?

- No

Q15 - Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?

- No

Evaluation

Q16 - Value

- Moderate
  - Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining

Q17 - Condition

- Fair

Q18 - Trend

- Constant

Recommendations

Q19 - Existing management

- Generally Appropriate

Q20 - Existing management remarks:

- Neutral

Q21 - Principal management recommendations

- Conserve as existing

Q22 - Guideline

- Long Term
  - Monitor reclamation of mining area
- Long Term
  - Preserve GL(dissected low level plateau) integrity

Tolerance To Change

Q23 - Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?

- Not known

Aspect Area Boundary

Q24 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q25 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- None

Q26 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- Other
  - 1:25 000 OS Explorer Map Sheets; 1:50 000 BGS Geological Map Sheets; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution)

Q27 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:25,000

Q28 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- Glacial sand/gravel plateau

Evaluation Matrix

Q29 - Evaluation Criteria: Research Value

- Moderate

Q29a - Evaluation Criteria: Educational Value

- Unassessed

Q30 - Evaluation Criteria: Historical Value

- Moderate

Q31 - Evaluation Criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness

- Moderate

Q32 - Evaluation Criteria: Classic Example

- Low

Q33 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation

- Moderate
  - Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining

Q34 - Justification of overall evaluation

- Low lying plain of glacial drift-covered (glacial sand/gravel and boulder clay) Productive Coal Fm; coal mining

Bibliography

Q35 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- 1:50 000 BGS Geological Map Sheet E247 Swansea (SwD) 1977; 1:50 000 BGS Geological Map sheet 248 Pontypridd, S&D, 1975; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution);1:625 000 Geological Map of the UK: Quaternary Geology, S sheet, 1977; 1:100 000 Groundwater Vulnerability Map, Environment Agency. Sheet 35 West Glamorgan, 1990; Conway, B.W., Forster, A., Northmore, K.J. and Barclay, W.J., 1980. South Wales Coalfield Landslip Survey. Report of Engineering Dept of Institute of Geological Sciences, No. EG80/4; Conway, B.W. 1985 South Wales coalfield landslip survey. British Geological Survey;Strahan, A. 1907. The geology of the South Wales coalfield. Part 8, The country around Swansea. Memoir of the British Geological Survey, Sheet 248; London, HMSO, 170pp; Woodland, A.W. and Evans, W.B. 1964. The geology of the South Wales Coalfield. Part 4, The country around Pontypridd and Maesteg. Memoir of the British Geological Survey, Sheet 248 (England and Wales), H.M.S.O., London, 3rd edition, 391pp.;1:25 000 Explorer Map Sheet 166 Rhondda & Merthyr Tydfil 1998;1:25 000 Explorer Map Sheet 151Cardiff & Bridgend, 1998

Assessment

Q36 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q37 - Additional Comments

- Empty value

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Print View Map

SURVEY DETAILS FOR NPTHL056 - 2024-08-01

Area Unique ID: NPTHL056

Aspect:Historic Landscape

Area:Margam Moors East

Region:NeathPortTalbot

Survey Date:2004-01-29

- Level 1: Rural environment
- Level 2: Agricultural
- Level 3: Regular Fieldscapes
- Level 4: Water Meadows

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2017-03-15

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

Q1c - Change indicated by

- No Answer

Q1d - What has changed?

- No Answer

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- Yes
  - Level 3/ 1:10,000 and 1:25,000

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- Yes
  - NPT/HL06 - modern industry built over the same landscape pattern (drained wetland).

Description

Q3 - If Classification is "Other", specify here

- Empty value

Q4 - Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements

- The Margam Moors/Morfa Margam comprises an area of low-lying reclaimed wetland at heights of between 4.5m and 5m OD, largely within the Margam Moors SSSI (584/33WAR). Part of the holdings of the Cistercian Abbey of Margam during the medieval period; the area was probably farmed from Morfa Mawr Grange just to the west beyond the boundary of the aspect area, at the site of the later post-medieval farmstead (demolished in 1976). Three monastic granges associated with Margam are also known from the area, New Grange (or Middle Burrows Grange), Meles Grange (or Grangia de Melis) and Theodoric"s Grange. The strong association with Margam Abbey indicates a likelihood that the reclamation of much of the coastal strip dates to at least the medieval period (Roberts 2003b). The Margam Moors/Morfa Margam are characterised by low-lying enclosed wetland pasture set on a reclaimed salt marsh. The characteristic features of the area are associated with post-medieval fields (Margam Warren), probably

Q5 - If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area? (Tick all that apply)

- Regular Fieldscapes
- Reclaimed land
- Water & Wetland

Q6 - If working at level 4 ,which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? (Please tick all that apply)

- No Answer

Q7 - If working at level 4 only, which building types prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- No Answer

Q8 - If working at level 4 only, which periods prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- No Answer

Q9 - If working at level 4 only, which architectural types prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- No Answer

Q10 - If working at level 4 only, which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- No Answer

Q11 - If working at level 4 only, which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? (select up to three)

- No Answer

Q12 - Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)

- Earth/Turf Bank
- Cut Drainage

Q13 - What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)

- Buried-Waterlogged
- Documentary
- Relict-Earthworks

Q14 - Which chronological period is dominant in the area?

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Medieval (to 1536)
- Post Medieval (1536+)

Q15 - Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?

- Yes
  - Roberts, R, 2003b, Merthyr Mawr, Margam & Kenfig Burrows part 1 and 2: landscape characterization. GGAT Rpt 2003/081 Swansea

Q16 - Are there SMR sites here?

- Yes

Q17 - Are there SAMs here?

- No

Q18 - Are there Listed Buildings here?

- No

Q19 - Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?

- No

Q20 - Are there Conservation Areas here?

- No

Q21 - Are there World Heritage Sites here?

- No

Q22 - Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?

- No

Evaluation

Q23 - Value:

- Moderate
  - This area has been assigned an overall value of moderate on account of 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.

Q24 - Condition:

- Unassessed

Q25 - Trend:

- Constant

Recommendations

Q26 - Existing management

- Unassessed

Q27 - Existing management remarks:

- Empty value

Q28 - Principal management recommendations

- Empty value

Q29 - Guideline

- No Answer

Aspect Area Boundary

Q30 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q31 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- All

Q32 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- OS Landline

Q33 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:10,000 and 1:25,000

Q34 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- The extent of drained agricultural wetland moor.

Evaluation Matrix

Q35 - Evaluation Criteria: Integrity

- Moderate
    - The dominant landscape pattern, characterised as an irregular reclaimed fieldscape of medieval/post-medieval date, defined by a mixture of boundary features such as ridge and furrow, earth banks, drainage ditches and dykes, has lost some coherence as a result of the construction of the GWR South Wales Main Line in the late 19th century, the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir in the early 20th century and the British Oxygen Works in the early 1950s, which have partially obscured or truncated the earlier fieldscape.

Q36 - Evaluation Criteria: Survival

- No Answer

Q37 - Evaluation Criteria: Condition

- Moderate

Q38 - Evaluation Criteria: Rarity

- Moderate
    - Shares characteristics with neighbouring areas HL001 (as an area of reclaimed wetland fieldscape) and HL006 (as an area of wetland occupied by 19th-20th century communications/industrial development).

Q39 - Evaluation Criteria: Potential

- Moderate
    - Although a historic landscape characterisation has been carried out for most of this area, which lies within HLCA 001 (South Wales Main Line (Great Western and Port Talbot Railways) and Newlands Loop Rail Corridor) forming part of the Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows registered landscape, there is potential for further work to be carried out to investigate the origins and development of this reclaimed fieldscape, which, although ostensibly post-medieval in date, may actually be of medieval origin. However, the construction of the railway line to the W, the Eglwys Nunydd reservoir to the E and the British Oxygen Works complex to the N have significantly impacted on this landscape and restricted the potential for further investigation.

Q40 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation

- Moderate

Q41 - Justification of overall evaluation

- This area has been assigned an overall value of moderate on account of 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.

Bibliography

Q42 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- RCAHMW 1982, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan. Vol III: Medieval Secular Monuments, Part II, Non-defensive. Cardiff (HMSO). RCAHMW, 1976a, An inventory of the Ancient MonumentsRoberts, R, 2003a, Historic landscape characterisatio: Mynydd Margam Pt 1 & 2: landscape characterisation and management. GGAT Rpt No. 2003/082. Swansea. Roberts, R, 2003b, Merthyr Mawr, Margam & Kenfig Burrows part 1 and 2: landscape characterization. GGAT Rpt 2003/081 Swansea. Speed Map of Glamorgan 1610 George Yates Map of Glamorgan 1799 O""Connor Plan of Neath 1720 Saxton Map of Glamorgan 1576-77 Thomas Kitchen Map of Glamorgan 1754 Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" Maps 1884/5 Ordnance Survey Second Edition 6" Maps 1900/1 Ordnance Survey Third Edition 6" Maps 1921

Assessment

Q43 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q44 - Additional Comments

- Empty value

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Print View Map

SURVEY DETAILS FOR NPTLH073 - 2024-08-01

Area Unique ID: NPTLH073

Aspect:Landscape Habitats

Area:N/A

Region:NeathPortTalbot

Survey Date:2004-03-05

- Level 1: Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats
- Level 2: Grassland & Marsh
- Level 3: Marsh/Marshy Grassland

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2016-03-10

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- This record has been updated following monitoring work as more up to date information is available

Q1c - Change indicated by

- OS Data, Aerial Photographs
- Policies, plans & information resources

Q1d - What has changed?

- Evaluation

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- No

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- Yes
  - continuous with NPTLH52

Q3 - What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?

- Empty value

Description

Q4 - What are the dominant soil types? (specify up to 3 types)

- Lithomorphic (a/c) soils
- Brown soils
- Ground-water gley soils

Q5 - What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Only select the five most dominant types and, for each of these, specify below what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.

- Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland
  - minor component
- Semi-improved Neutral Grassland
  - main component
- Improved Grassland
  - significant component
- Marshy Grassland
  - major component
- Swamp
  - significant component

Q6 - Does the area contain habitats of international importance?

- Yes

Q7 - If yes, which habitats of international importance?

- Alder woodland on floodplains
- Purple moor-grass meadows

Q8 - Does the area contain BAP habitats?

- Yes

Q9 - If yes, which BAP habitats?

- Wet Woodland
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures
- Fens
- Reedbeds

Q10 - Does the area contain protected sites?

- Yes
  - SSSI(96.52ha) Local Wildlife Site(24.99ha)

Q11 - If yes, which ones?

- SSSI
- Local wildlife site

Q12 - Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?

- 41-50%
  - 42.24%

Q13 - Does the area support important species?

- Yes

Q14 - If yes, which species? (for each of the species, also note the source of information)

- Butomus umbellatus, Hydrocharis morsus-ranae, Carex pseudocyperus, C. disticha, Baldellia ranunculoides, Oenanthe fistulosa, Epipactis helleborine; invertebrates, eg Haliplus mucronatus, Sympetrum sanguineum, Anacaena bipustulata, Corixa panzeri; otter; kingfisher (SSSI schedule); lapwing (LBAP)

Q15 - Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)

- Not known

Q16 - What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?

- Streams
- Ponds
- Wet Ditches
- Hedgerows
- Fence Lines
- Earth Banks
- Other
  - scrub, bare ground, industrial areas

Q17 - Are any of these features in a very good condition? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q18 - Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q19 - What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)

- Stock grazing

Q20 - Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q21 - Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q22 - Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?

- Not known

Q23 - Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?

- No

Q24 - Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character

- Aspect Area comprises two separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; areas of remnant coastal grazing marsh, dominated by neutral grasslands

Evaluation

Q25 - Value

- High
  - small area of coastal grazing marsh; BAP habitats present (marshy grasslands,unimproved neutral grassland, grazing marsh, wet woods etc); mostly SSSI quality

Q26 - Condition

- Unassessed

Q27 - Trend

- Constant

Recommendations

Q28 - Existing management

- Unassessed

Q29 - Existing management remarks:

- Empty value

Q30 - Principal management recommendations

- Empty value

Q31 - Guideline

- No Answer

Aspect Area Boundary

Q32 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q33 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- Most

Q34 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- Aerial photographs

Q35 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:10,000 and 1:25,000

Q36 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- drawn to nearest relevant boundary, or to enclose relevant habitats (notional boundary)

Evaluation Matrix

Q37 - Evaluation Criteria: Priority Habitats

- High
  - area of coastal grazing marsh; BAP habitats well represented; mostly SSSI quality

Q38 - Evaluation Criteria: Significance

- High
  - national

Q39 - Evaluation Criteria: Opportunity

- Low
  - limited intervention necessary

Q40 - Evaluation Criteria: Expansion rates

- Low
  - unlikely to be declining significantly

Q41 - Evaluation Criteria: Sensitivity

- Moderate
  - recreational use; urban impacts

Q42 - Evaluation Criteria: Connectivity/Cohesion

- Moderate
  - Aspect Area comprises two separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; mixture of small and large patches of core grassland habitat

Q43 - Evaluation Criteria: Habitat Evaluation

- High
  - important area of coastal grazing marsh; mainly SSSI; BAP habitats well represented

Q44 - Evaluation Criteria: Importance for key species

- High
  - supports wide range of uncommon and characteristic species; supports BAP species such as otter, lapwing and brown hare

Q45 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species

- High
  - important area of coastal grazing marsh habitat; mainly SSSI; BAP habitats well represented; supports key species

Q45a - Justification of overall evaluation

- area of Priority Habitats, much of it SSSI quality, supporting numerous rare, scarce and Priority Species

Bibliography

Q46 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- Phase 1 survey; GetMapping aerial photosurvey; SSSI schedule Wildlife Site/SINC data used within this project were collated by Local Environmental Records Centres Wales on behalf of the various Local Authorities and Wildlife Trusts involved in the site designation process.

Assessment

Q47 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q48 - Additional Comments

- Empty value

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Natural Resources Wales

Print View Map

SURVEY DETAILS FOR NPTVS277 - 2024-08-01

Area Unique ID: NPTVS277

Aspect:Visual and Sensory

Area:Margam Moor

Region:NeathPortTalbot

Survey Date:2003-10-28

- Level 1: Lowland
- Level 2: Flat Lowland/Levels
- Level 3: Flat Open Lowland Farmland

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2015-02-06

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Bronwen Thomas, in conjunction with the planning authority.Quality Assurance completed by White Consultants.

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

Q1c - Change indicated by

- No Answer

Q1d - What has changed?

- No Answer

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- Yes
  - 1:10000

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- Yes
  - Steelworks heavily dominate both visually and aurally and area also dominated by scarp slope

Q2a - During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?

- No Answer

Description

Q3 - Summary Description

- Flat, predominantly cattle grazed land along coastal plains, situated between M4 motorway, sea/dunes and heavy industry. The area is dissected by railway lines running north to south. The area is heavily veined with drainage ditches (topped with post and wire fences), the area to the west being more heavily so. Willows are prominent through the area especially lining ditches, but also encroaching in to fields forming scrubby clumps. To the west large blocks of wetland species create a more complex and interesting mosaic, while to the east the coherence of the area is diluted by areas of industry, amenity landscapes and fragmentation due to Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir. The skyline to the south is dominated by numerous electric pylons and to the west by the steelworks. There is a single access road into the area as far as the railway and a PROW beyond this. There is a significant amount of fly tipping through the area and it feels uncared for, dominated by the M4 motorway and heavy industry,

Q4 - Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?

- Levels

Q5 - Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?

- Field Pattern/Mosaic

Q6 - Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern

- No settlements

Q7 - Physical form and elements: Boundary type

- Fences

Q8 - Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?

- Medium

Q9 - Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?

- Open

Q10 - Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?

- Simple

Q11 - Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?

- Medium

Q12 - Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?

- Angular

Q13 - Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?

- Muted

Q14 - Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?

- Balanced

Q15 - Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?

- Neutral

Q16 - Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?

- Organised

Q17 - Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?

- None

Q18 - Other Factors: Level of Human Access?

- Infrequent

Q19 - Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?

- Question 19 night time light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58.

Q20 - Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?

- Generally Appropriate

Q21 - What materials? Give Details:

- Empty value

Q22 - There are attractive views...

- ....out
  - to scarp slopes and hills to east

Q23 - There are detractive views...

- ...both in and out
  - industry around and pylons and industry within

Q24 - Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities

- Noisy
  - from steel works
- Threatening
  - steel works and train line through
- Smell
  - unpleasant from steel works - coal oil

Q25 - What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness

- Moderate
  - drainage ditches define area as a levels landscape. it is surrounded by more dominant elements [eg steelworks] which divert focus from the area

Evaluation

Q26 - Value:

- Low
  - This area has a relatively low scenic quality with its flat topography minimising its visual impact- it tends to act as a foil to the more dominant and intrusive landscapes beyond, which disrupt the harmony within the area. The condition of the agricultural part of the area is generally poor, either through lack of management or impingement of development such as the steelworks and electric pylons. However, this landscape (pastoral coastal plain) is rare within the borough and maintains some integrity to the west of the railway.

Q27 - Condition:

- Poor
  - fences replacing hedges, scrub and coarse grass encroachment, development intrusion from industrial surrounds

Q28 - Trend:

- Declining
  - some management

Recommendations

Q29 - Existing management

- Generally Inappropriate

Q30 - Existing management remarks:

- Minimal grazing

Q31 - Principal management recommendation:

- avoid drainage of wetland areas to conserve character

Q32 - Guideline

- Medium Term
  - avoid drainage of marshy grassland/wetland
- Medium Term
  - reinstate grazing regime where possible to protect pasture
- Medium Term
  - Encourage diversity of sward
- Immediate
  - Remove rubbish and prevent fly tipping

Q33 - Define the key qualities that should be conserved:

- openness, variety

Q34 - Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:

- openness

Q35 - Define the key qualities that should be changed:

- Disturbance

Q36 - Define the key elements that should be conserved:

- Ditches, mosaic of wetland/grassland

Q37 - Define the key elements that should be enhanced:

- Access road into area

Q38 - Define the key elements that should be changed:

- na

Tolerance To Change

Q39 - Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?

- Not known

Aspect Area Boundary

Q40 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q41 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- Most

Q42 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- OS Raster

Q43 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:10,000 and 1:25,000

Q44 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- To the north/north-west boundary with steel works and other industry, to south/ south-west edge of dunes at Margam Burrows. To east with Motorway and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir.

Evaluation Matrix

Q46 - Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality

- Low
  - discordant patterns and disruptive landscape elements with poor views to adjacent detractors

Q47 - Evaluation Criteria: Integrity

- Low
  - visually intrusive elements

Q48 - Evaluation Criteria: Character

- Moderate
  - clear local sense of place throughout, topographically and visually

Q49 - Evaluation Criteria: Rarity

- Moderate
  - scarce locally and relatively fragile

Q50 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation

- Low
  - The intrusion of development and reduced grassland maintenance, which influence the low value for both scenic quality and integrity, provide the moderate character for the area, this is considered a low moderate. Although the rarity is viewed as moderate the overall value is considered low.

Q51 - Justification of overall evaluation

- This area has a relatively low scenic quality with its flat topography minimising its visual impact- it tends to act as a foil to the more dominant and intrusive landscapes beyond, which disrupt the harmony within the area. The condition of the agricultural part of the area is generally poor, either through lack of management or impingement of development such as the steelworks and electric pylons. However, this landscape (pastoral coastal plain) is rare within the borough and maintains some integrity to the west of the railway.

Bibliography

Q45 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- Empty value

Assessment

Q52 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q53 - Additional Comments

- Empty value

LMP 14 & 09

Q54 - LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14)

- Valleys, rolling and flat lowland (grassland >50%, open, <20% wooded, lacking hedgerow trees)

Q55 - LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09)

- Lowland open >50% grassland, <20% wooded

Dark Skies

Light Pollution Percentage

< 0.5	0.5 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 8	8 - 16	16 - 32	> 32
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2	24.8	47.6	17.4

Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies. Questions 57a - 57h collectively provide colour band data by %.

Further information: 11365 Wales Dark Skies (arcgis.com). Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K 2021. Tranquillity and Place - Dark Skies. NRW Report No: 514, 70pp. Data download from Lle/DataMapWales.

Data source: December 2019 composite image of monthly average night light produced by the Earth Observation Group at Colorado School of Mines. Derived from Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) Day/Night Band (DNB) senor from Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP) satellite, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Light Pollution km²

< 0.5	0.5 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 8	8 - 16	16 - 32	> 32
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.5	0.6

Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies. Questions 58a to 58h collectively provide colour band data by km2.

Further information: 11365 Wales Dark Skies (arcgis.com). Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K 2021. Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies. NRW Report No: 514, 70pp. Data download from Lle/DataMapWales.

Data source: December 2019 composite image of monthly average night light produced by the Earth Observation Group at Colorado School of Mines. Derived from Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) Day/Night Band (DNB) senor from Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP) satellite, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Q56 - Night Time Light Pollution

- Slight
  - from small industrial plant Consultant led night time light pollution assessment conducted at time of survey record or survey update

Q57a - % in brightness colour band <0.5

- 0.0
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57b - % in brightness colour band 0.5-1

- 0.0
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57c - % in brightness colour band 1-2

- 0.0
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57d - % in brightness colour band 2-4

- 0.0
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57e - % in brightness colour band 4-8

- 10.2
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57f - % in brightness colour band 8-16

- 24.8
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57g - % in brightness colour band 16-32

- 47.6
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57h - % in brightness colour band >32

- 17.4
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58a - km2 in brightness colour band <0.5

- 0.0
  - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58b - km2 in brightness colour band 0.5-1

- 0.0
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58c - km2 in brightness colour band 1-2

- 0.0
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58d - km2 in brightness colour band 2-4

- 0.0
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58e - km2 in brightness colour band 4-8

- 0.3
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58f - km2 in brightness colour band 8-16

- 0.8
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58g - km2 in brightness colour band 16-32

- 1.5
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58h - km2 in brightness colour band >32

- 0.6
    - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Tranquillity & Place

Q59a - % in visually tranquil category 1

- 0.00
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59b - % in visually tranquil category 2

- 0.00
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59c - % in visually tranquil category 3

- 4.71
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59d - % in visually tranquil category 4

- 25.45
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59e - % in visually tranquil category 5

- 35.90
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59f - % in visually tranquil category 6

- 17.60
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59g - % in visually tranquil category 7

- 16.18
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59h - % in visually tranquil category 8

- 0.16
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59i - % in visually tranquil category 9

- 0.00
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59j - % in visually tranquil category 10

- 0.00
    - Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59k - Data Source

- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, the report and webapp, visit the Storymap available from https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/865c1876d9f64280a3dfc6e2769a46a5

SLAs

Q60 - List the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in this local authority or region

- Yes
  - Dulais Valley, Mynydd Y Garth, Margam, Mynydd Y Gelli, Foel Trawsnant, Vale of Neath

Q61 - SLA policy and resources

- Local Plan Policy EN2 Special Landscape Areas & supporting study. https://www.npt.gov.uk/ldp/CoreDocuments/(4)%20Evidence%20Base%20Documents/ldp_submission_eb18.pdf . The Special Landscape Areas GIS dataset is available from DataMapWales https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:nrw_special_landscape_area

Visible Settings

Q62 - Visible settings of LANDMAP V&S areas

- View a map image showing the visible setting of the area

This is a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), calculated using a 30 metre Digital Terrain Model (DTM), using multiple observer points scattered across the area, 1.5m above ground level, and taking into account the Earth's curvature. The data does not extend beyond 35km from an observer point, meaning that more distant views may also be possible.

- Read user guidance that explains the map image
- Bulk download the map images for Wales.
- Read a detailed technical report which explains the data calculations

Q63 - Visible Settings of Designated Landscapes

- View map images showing the visible setting of each National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
  - These are Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), as per Q62, but applied to Designated Landscape areas. Also, for areas not visible, colour-steps show the Height of an object before it would become visible (HOBV), up to 350m high. See Q62 to access the user guidance and a technical report.

Q64 - Key views into or out from Designated Landscapes

- View map images showing the ZTV and HOBV of a selection of key views for each National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in or affecting Wales
  - These are Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), as per Q62, but applied to selected key views into or out from Designated Landscapes. Also, colour-steps show the Height of an object before it would become visible (HOBV), up to 350m high. It is not an exhaustive key view list. See Q62 to access the user guidance and a technical report.

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Print View Map

SURVEY DETAILS FOR NPTCLS024 - 2025-01-24

Area Unique ID: NPTCLS024

Aspect:Cultural Landscape Services

Area:Margam Moor

Region:NeathPortTalbot

Survey Date:2019-03-05

- Level 1: Lowland
- Level 2: Flat Lowland/Levels
- Level 3: Flat Open Lowland Farmland

Details

Q1 - Night time light pollution

- Slight

Q2 - Attractive views

- ....out

Q3 - What are attractive views of/to?

- No Answer

Q4 - Perceptual and sensory qualities

- No Answer

Q5 - Additional cultural, perceptual and sensory qualities and comment

- No Answer

Q6 - Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban)

- Over 75% Zone B

Q7 - International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve

- No

Q8 - Sense of place/ local distinctiveness

- Moderate

Q9 - What contributes to sense of place/distinctiveness?

- No Answer

Q10 - Visual and sensory landscape evaluation

- Low

Q11 - Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value

- This area has a relatively low scenic quality with its flat topography minimising its visual impact- it tends to act as a foil to the more dominant and intrusive landscapes beyond, which disrupt the harmony within the area. The condition of the agricul

Q12 - Scenic quality

- Low

Q13 - Character

- Moderate

Q14 - Geological Landscape evaluation

- Mosaic of: Low, Moderate

Q15 - Landscape Habitats evaluation

- Over 75% High or outstanding

Q16 - Historic Landscape evaluation

- Over 75% Moderate

Q17 - Are there any art/artistic expressions associated with the landscape/area?

- No Answer

Q19 - Are there any folklore/ legends associated with the landscape/area?

- No Answer

Q21 - Are there any events/traditions associated with the landscape/area?

- No Answer

Q23 - World Heritage Sites present

- No

Q24 - Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority

- Approximately 57% of people in the area identify as Welsh. https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/National-Identity/nationalidentity-by-year-identity

Q25 - Welsh language in the authority

- Approximately 20% of people in the area speak Welsh. https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/National-Identity/nationalidentity-by-year-identity

Q26 - HER entries

- 1

Q27 - Cultural Heritage comment

- No Answer

Q28 - % HER classes represented >1 %

- The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL32 100%, . The definitions for the list of HER classes is included in report appendix available from https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/689522/eng-evidence-report-347-landmap-cultural-landscape-servics-cultural-heritage.pdf

Q29 - Archaeological Watching Briefs

- 3

Q30 - Archaeological Excavations

- 1

Appendix 5: Photoviewpoints



Tyler Grange
Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

When printed, cylindrical images need to be curved around the viewer to represent real-world viewing angles. Alternatively they could be viewed flat by moving the head to maintain a constant viewing distance across the panorama. (Ref: LI TGN 06/19)

0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	M4 / A48 Junction and Wales Coast Path	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	North west	**Distance to site:**	196m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 1



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Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

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Taken From:	Wales Coast Path / A48	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	North west	**Distance to site:**	5.5m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 2



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Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

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Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	R48 / Harbour Way Junction and Wales Coast Path	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	South east	**Distance to site:**	144m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 3



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Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

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0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	Wales Coast Path / A48	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	South east	**Distance to site:**	411m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 4



Tyler Grange

Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 0121 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

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0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	Harbour Way	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	South east	**Distance to site:**	373m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 5



Tyler Grange
Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

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0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	Longlands Lane / Wales Coast Path	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	North west	**Distance to site:**	217m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 6



Tyler Grange
Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

When printed, cylindrical images need to be curved around the viewer to represent real-world viewing angles. Alternatively they could be viewed flat by moving the head to maintain a constant viewing distance across the panorama. (Ref: LI TGN 06/19)

0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	Margam Park entrance A48 / Wales Coast Path	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	North west	**Distance to site:**	785m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 7



Tyler Grange
Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 0121 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

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0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1
Taken From:	Margam Castle Grounds	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%
Direction of View:	North west	**Distance to site:**	1.1km	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width

Drawing No:	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Checked:	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Status:	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 8



Tyler Grange

Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 0121 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

When printed, cylindrical images need to be curved around the viewer to represent real-world viewing angles. Alternatively they could be viewed flat by moving the head to maintain a constant viewing distance across the panorama. (Ref: LI TGN 06/19)

0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	Mynydd y Castell	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	West	**Distance to site:**	1.2km	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 9



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Marsden Estate, Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7EX
T: 01211 828 4045 E: landscape@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk

When printed, cylindrical images need to be curved around the viewer to represent real-world viewing angles. Alternatively they could be viewed flat by moving the head to maintain a constant viewing distance across the panorama. (Ref: LI TGN 06/19)

0cm (Original image width 820mm) 10cm

Please note: To view this image digitally, calibrate this scale bar, on screen, for a correct scale representation and view the image at a comfortable arm's length

Date Taken:	03/10/24	**Field of View**	90 degrees	**Projection:**	Cylindrical	**Visualisation Type:**	Type 1	**Drawing No:**	17163_P05	**Date:**	23/10/24
Taken From:	Wales Coast Path / Footpath 9/46 PT/1	**Camera:**	Fujifilm XT-2	**Lens:**	35mm	**Image Enlargement:**	96%	**Checked:**	EL/OK	**Project:**	Land at Tyn-y-Caeau
Direction of View:	South west	**Distance to site:**	628m	**Visibility:**	Good	**Page Size:**	A1 width	**Status:**	Planning	**Title:**	Photo viewpoint 10

Plans:

Plan 1: Site Location and Context

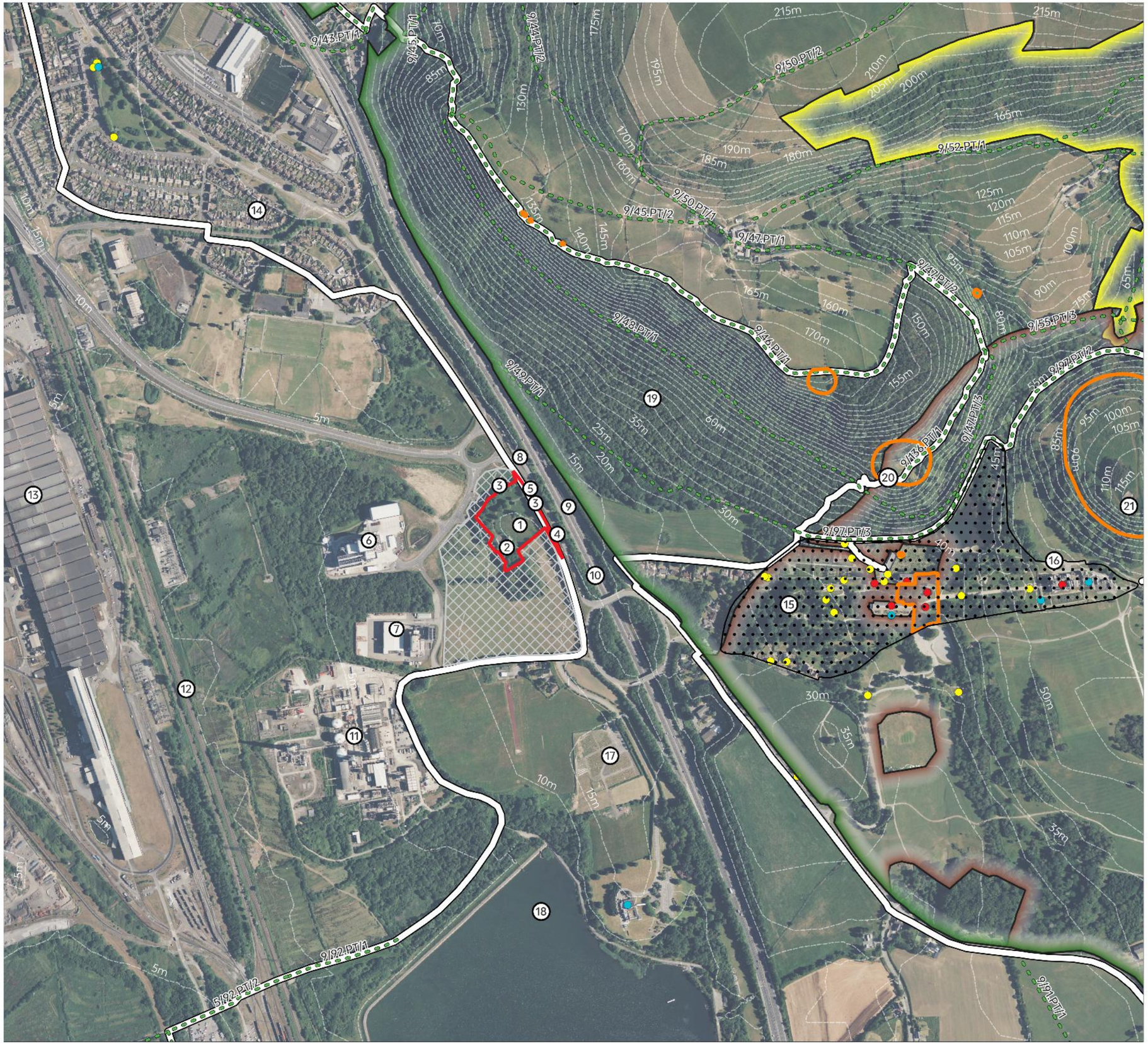
Plan 2: Landscape Designations and Other Considerations

Plan 3: Topographic Context

Plan 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas and Evaluations

Plan 5: Published Landscape Character

Plan 6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Photoviewpoint Locations



Tyler Grange Group Ltd
Map Data © Google

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- 1.5km Study Area
- Special Landscape Area (SLA)
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW)
- Promoted Routes
- Access Land
- Country Parks
- Registered Historic Parks and Garden (RHPG)
- Conservation Area (CA)
- Scheduled Monument (SM)
- Consented Development (ref: P2021/1255)

1.The Site is located south of the A48 junction with Harbour Way.
2. A derelict farmhouse is located in the south-western corner of the Site.
3. Mature vegetation aligns the boundaries of the Site.
4. The Wales Coast Path passes adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site.
5. The Site is accessed off the A48.
6. Margam Green Energy Plant is c.40m in height.
7. Western Bio-Energy Plant is c.30m in height.
8. The A48 passes north-south, adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site.
9. Mature vegeatation aligns the M4 Motorway.
10. The M4 Motorway passes north-south through the area predominantly in a cutting.
11. BOC Gas Plant is c.45m in height with a tower in the west at c.70m.
12. Margam Knuckle Yard is a rail depot supporting the industry for Port Talbot.
13. Tata Steel facility dominates the landscape west of the railway to the coast and extends 4km north-west of the Site.
14. Margam is a suburb of Port Talbot to the north.
15. Margam Park is a RHPG located within a Country Park. A number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments are located within. Aside from PRoW, access to the area is limited to public opening hours 10:00 - 16:30.
16. Margam Castle is a Grade I Listed Building.
17. Margam Cemetery.
18. Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir.
19. Mature woodland cloths the rising ground the to the east of the Site.
20.The Wales Coast Path climbs elevated ground to Hen Eglwys Grade II* Listed Building.
21. Mynydd y Castell Camp is a hillfort to the east of Margam Castle.

Revision	Description
-	First Issue

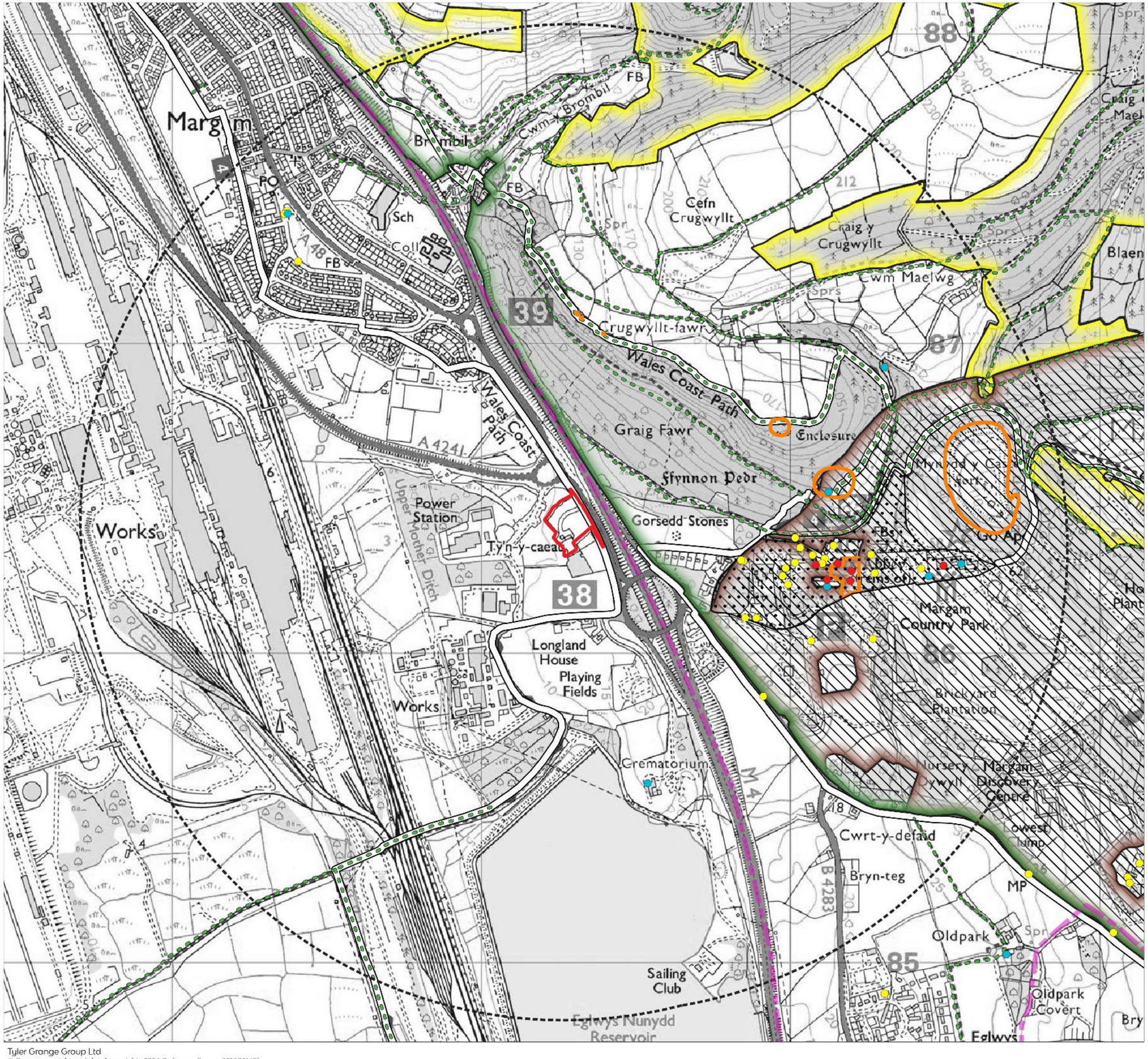
0 0.2 0.4 km

Project	Land at Tyn-Y-Caeau, Margam
Title	Plan 1: Site Location and Context
Scale	1:7,500 @ A3
Drawing No.	17163_P02
Date	October 2024
Checked	OK/AW

Tyler Grange

Head Office: 97 Icknield Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6RU

T: 0121 828 4043 E: hello@tylergrange.co.uk W: www.tylergrange.co.uk



LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- 1.5km Study Area
- Special Landscape Area (SLA)
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW)
- Promoted Routes
- Access Land
- Country Parks
- Registered Historic Parks and Garden (RHPG)
- Conservation Area (CA)
- Scheduled Monument (SM)
- Historic Landscape

Revision	Description
-	First Issue

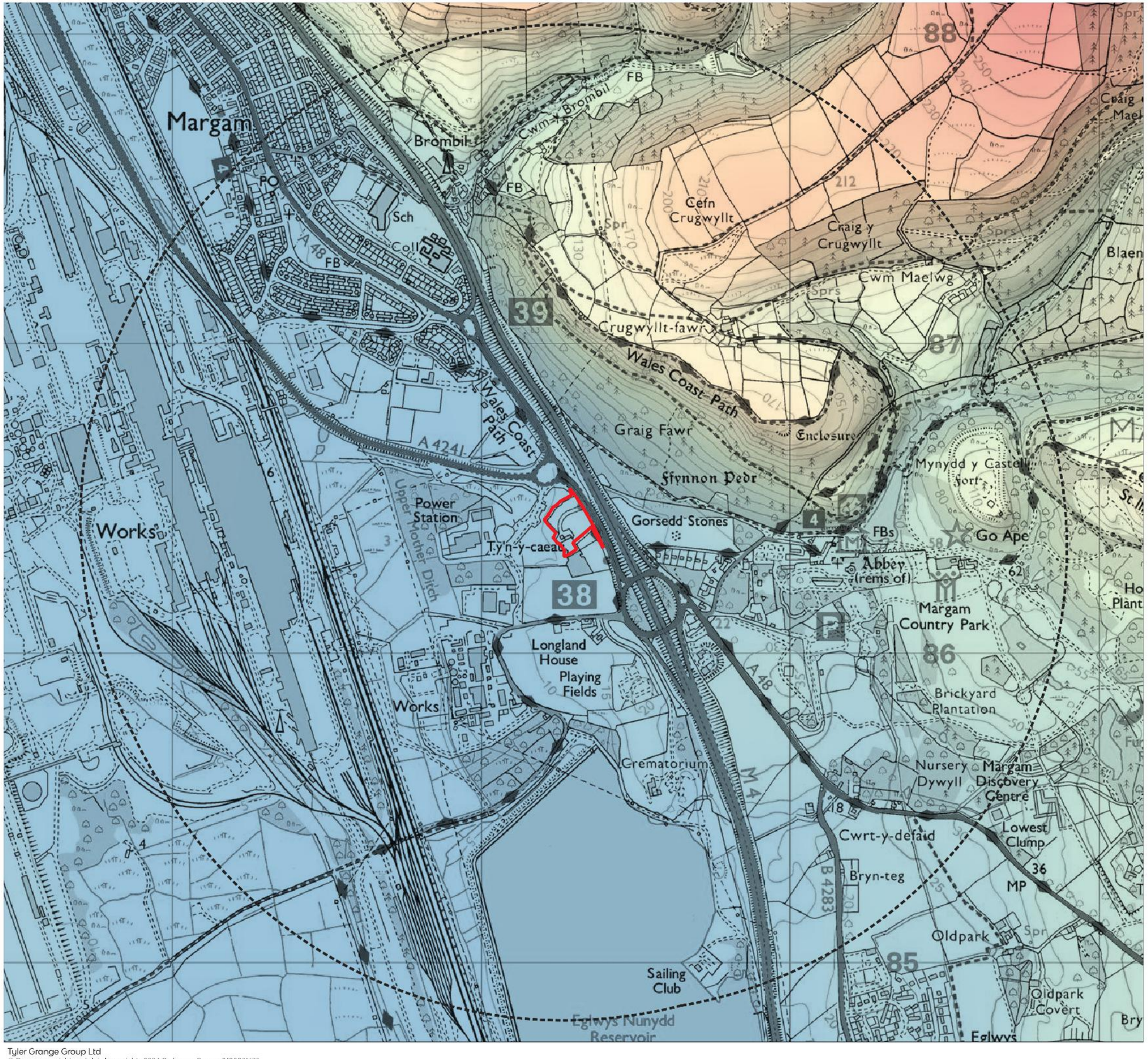
0 0.2 0.4 km

Project	Land at Tyn-Y-Caeau, Margam
Title	Plan 2: Landscape Designations and Other Considerations
Scale	1:12,500 @ A3
Drawing No.	17163_P08
Date	January 2025
Checked	OK/AW

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- 1.5km Study Area

Elevation aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in metres

- -1
- 40
- 81
- 122
- 163
- 204
- 245
- 286

Revision	Description
-	First Issue

0 0.2 0.4 km

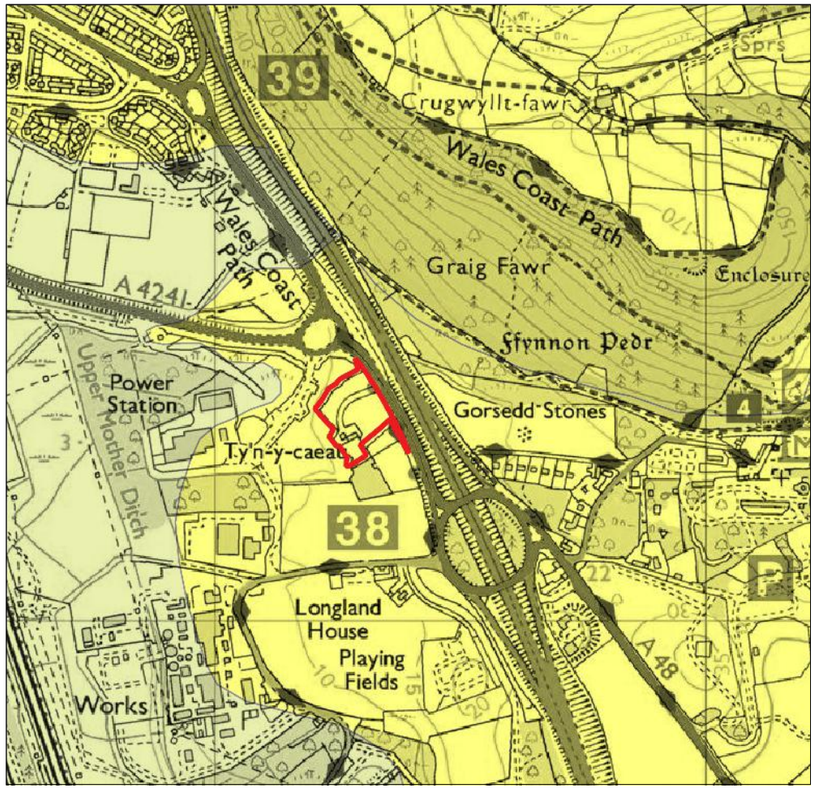
Project	Land at Tyn-Y-Caeau, Margam
Title	Plan 3: Topographic Context
Scale	1:12,500 @ A3
Drawing No.	17163_P03
Date	October 2024
Checked	OK/AW

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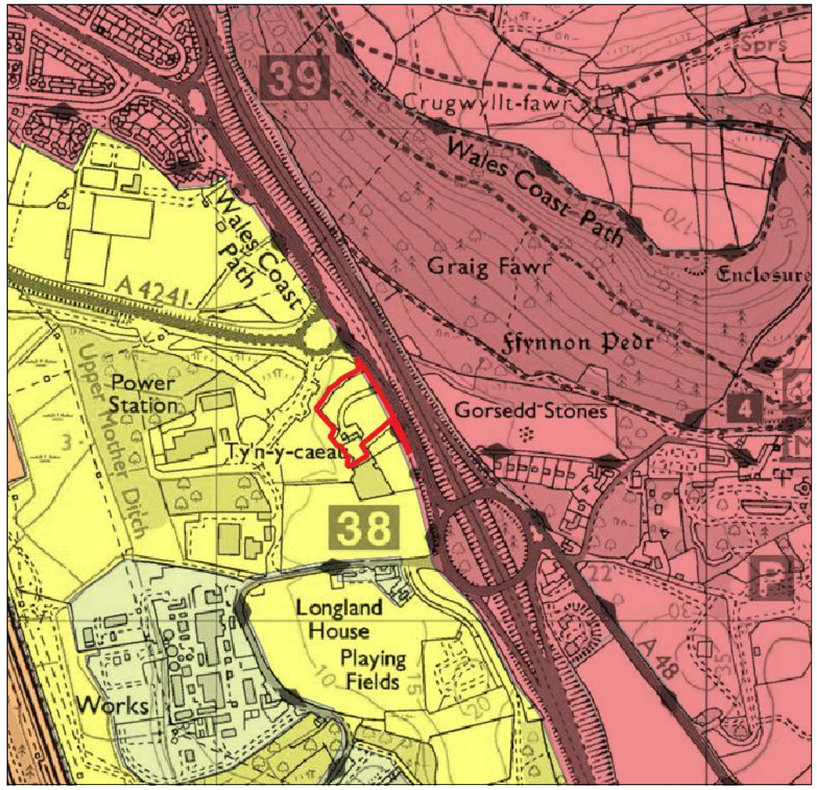
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Geological Landscape



Historic Landscape

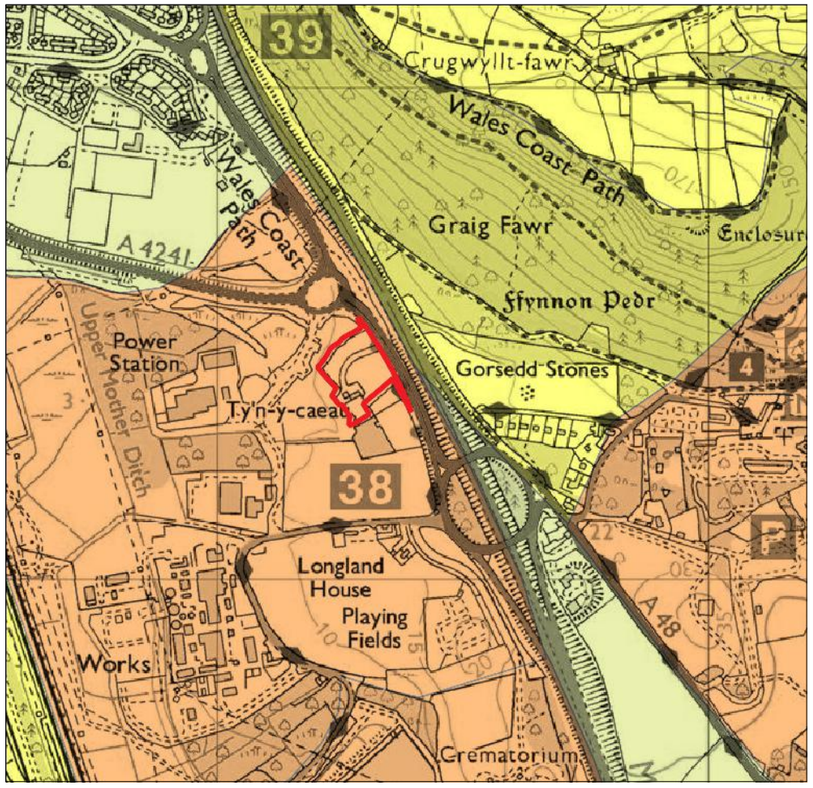


Site Boundary

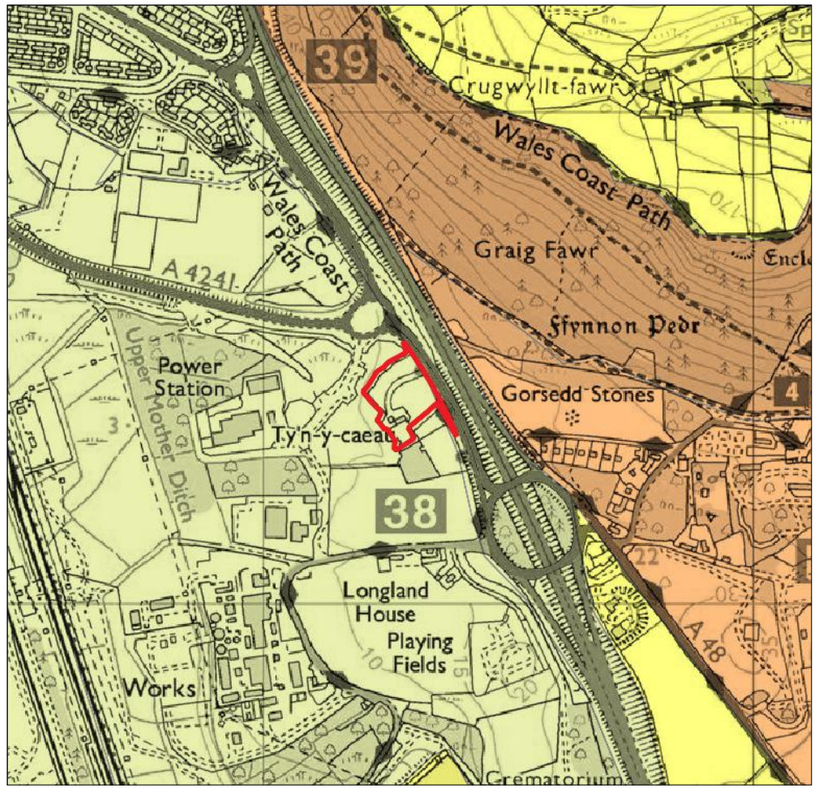
LANDMAP Evaluation

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Landscape Habitats



Visual Sensory



Revision	Description
-	First Issue

0 250 500 m

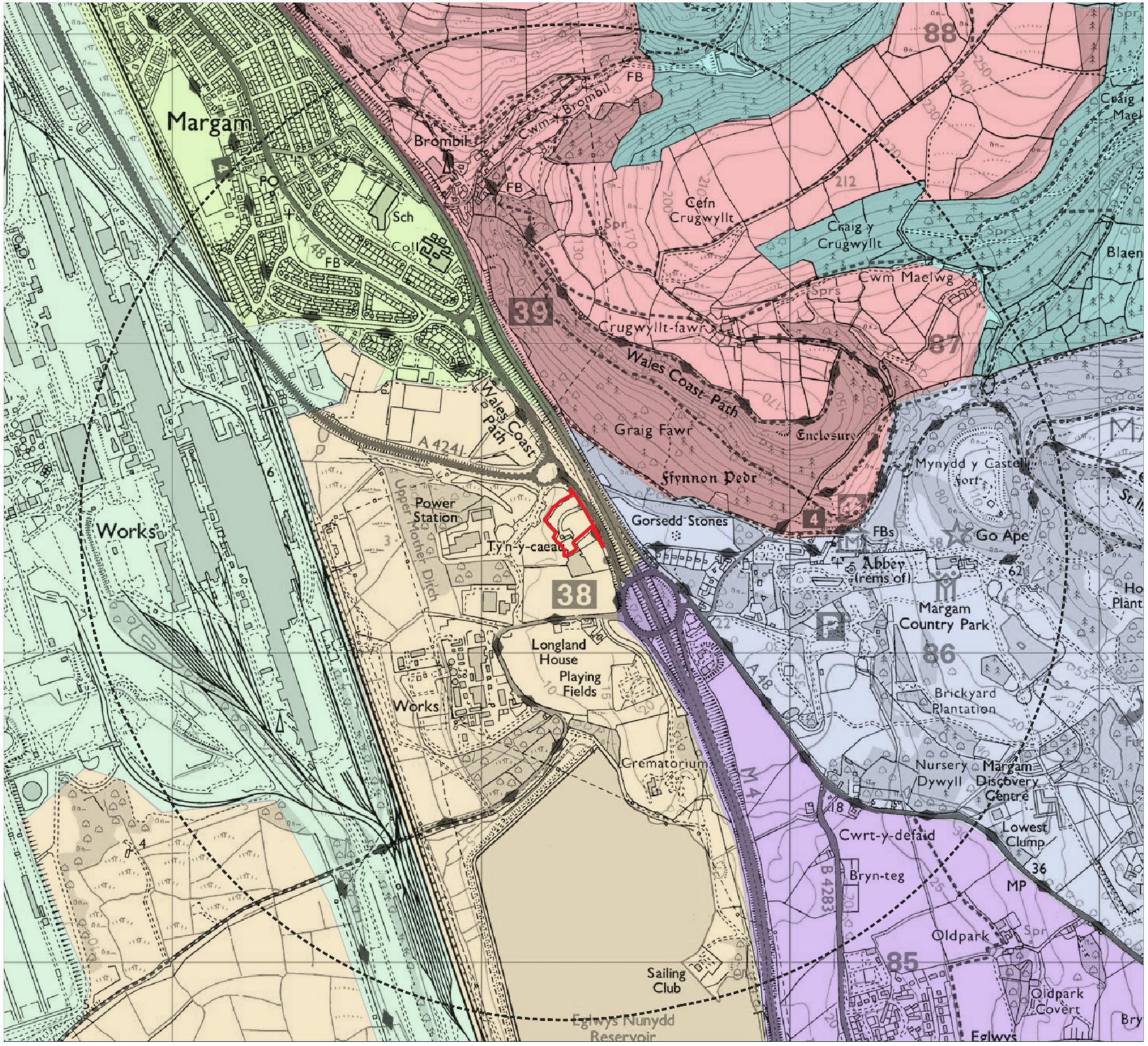
Project	Land at Tyn-Y-Caeau, Margam
Title	Plan 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas and Evaluations
Scale	1:12,500 @ A3
Drawing No.	17163_P04
Date	October 2024
Checked	OK/AW

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- 1.5km Study Area

Neath Port Talbot Landscape Character Areas

- 1: Margam Marsh
- 3: Margam Country Park
- 4: Coedhirwaun
- 6: Mynydd Bromil, Mynydd Emroch & Mynydd Dinas
- 7: Mynydd Margam
- 49: Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan and Margam
- 50: Port Talbot Docks and Margam works

Revision	Description
-	First Issue

0 0.2 0.4 km

Project	Land at Tyn-Y-Caeau, Margam
Title	Plan 5: Published Landscape Character Areas
Scale	1:12,500 @ A3
Drawing No.	17163_P06
Date	January 2025
Checked	RM/OK

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