

Special Landscape Areas

Background Paper

REVISED DEPOSIT PLAN June 2013

NEWPORT
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2011-26



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NEWPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011 – 2026

**SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA
TOPIC PAPER**

JUNE 2013



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to provide a background to the policies contained within the Local Development Plan on the subject of Special Landscape Areas (SLA) within Newport.

The paper introduces the local landscape designation process in Wales, how it relates to national policy, considers cross boundary consistency and sets out the SLA assessment and final designation proposals for Newport.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A Special Landscape Area (SLA) is a non-statutory local landscape designation used by Local Planning Authorities to define areas of high landscape importance. The areas can be designated for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural or historic value in the contemporary landscape and they may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the local authority area. The proposed areas are located predominantly beyond the settlement boundary.
- 1.2 The adopted Unitary Development Plan for Newport does not have SLA designations. The methodology currently implemented and recognised within national guidance (Planning Policy Wales (PPW)) has been developed post UDP adoption. Therefore it is not possible to draw direct comparisons between previously completed and subsequently amended processes.
- 1.3 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has developed a national information system for taking landscape into account in decision making. The LANDMAP system allows information about landscape to be gathered, organised and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. The LANDMAP data is divided into five aspect layers:
- (i) Geological
 - (ii) Habitat
 - (iii) Visual and Sensory
 - (iv) Historic
 - (v) Cultural
- 1.4 Each layer is divided in geographical units known as aspect areas which are mapped onto a Geographical Information System (GIS). Each area has a data set that includes a description, classification and evaluation. The assessment undertaken to identify the SLAs within Newport is based on this data source. For full details please view the report in Appendix 1.
- 1.5 A SLA designation will not preclude development but will be a material consideration in the assessment of any proposals, and the data from LANDMAP will be utilised to ensure developments are appropriate and that this recognised landscape is not destroyed.

2. LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1 Land use planning policy guidance for landscape protection is set out in Planning Policy Wales Edition 5 November 2012. Chapter 5 - Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast, notes the importance of non-statutory landscape designations within the planning system.
- 2.2 PPW states that the process for designating Special Landscape Areas should be 'soundly based on a formal scientific assessment of the landscape value of the site' (para. 5.3.11). The all-Wales LANDMAP data and methodology provides the required level of assessment allowing a consistent quality assured framework enabling landscape assessment to be undertaken across Wales. The LANDMAP process is specifically referenced within PPW as an 'important information resource' and has been undertaken by the Council to identify those areas deemed to be of national landscape importance.
- 2.3 National guidance notes that these designations should only apply to areas where normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary level of protection, and that even when designated it does not unduly restrict acceptable development. This is reflected in the designation process and proposed policy wording.

3. SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The review of the potential Special Landscape Areas for Newport was undertaken by TACP Consultants in July 2009. The review was undertaken utilising the comprehensive data set within the LANDMAP information system and the methodology devised for the South East Wales Local Authority Consortium in 2007. This methodology is now included within Natural Resources Wales (NRW) LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 1 (June 2008) which can be viewed in Appendix 2. .
- 3.2 The TACP work resulted in the study 'Designation of Special Landscape Areas' (June 2009), where 7 potential SLAs considered worthy of designation were identified. The full report is included as Appendix 1 below. The summary recommended that the next step for the Council is to confirm the boundaries of the areas which are outlined in the following chapters.

4. CROSS BOUNDARY CONSISTENCY

- 4.1 The purpose of undertaking the review of Special Landscape Areas in Newport using the LANDMAP methodology was to ensure a nationally consistent approach. Newport is neighboured by four Local Authorities which are at various stages of the Local Development Plan process. The authorities are Cardiff City Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Torfaen County Borough Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council. This section sets out their position in terms of landscape assessment to clarify the position of cross boundary allocations.
- 4.2 **Cardiff City Council** is preparing its Deposit Local Development Plan. The Council commissioned TACP to undertake a review of Special Landscape Areas in February 2008. This review identified 11 possible SLAs. The Preferred Strategy identifies one area with a boundary bordering the Newport City Council administrative area. This area is:
- Wentlooge Levels,
- Cardiff's identified SLA at Wentlooge Levels corresponds directly with Newport's proposed SLA 3 – Wentlooge Levels.
- 4.3 **Monmouthshire County Council** has submitted its Local Development Plan to the Welsh Government. The plan notes that 'following a review of Special Landscape Area (SLA) designations undertaken by TACP in 2010, it has been agreed not to go forward with SLA designation and instead adopt a policy approach to landscape protection and management based upon landscape characterisation, as defined by LANDMAP Landscape Character Assessment. It is considered that designation of the majority of the County as SLA may undermine the intention of the policy to protect those more special landscapes, as reflected in PPW.'
- 4.4 The Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (2009) undertaken by the Council does identify two local landscape character areas which border the Newport City Council administrative area. These areas identified by the study are:
- MA 07 Magor - identified as having High/Medium sensitivity
 - MA 01 Magor – identified as having High Landscape sensitivity
- There is a small area of MA 01 that corresponds with Newport's proposed SLA 5 – Caldicot Levels. This assessment, although not directly comparable to the LANDMAP process, gives an indication as to the quality of landscape within Monmouthshire.
- 4.5 **Torfaen County Borough Council** has submitted its Local Development Plan to the Welsh Government. The Council commissioned TACP to undertake a review of Special Landscape Areas in May 2011. This review identified 8 areas recommended for designation of which 2 have a boundary which border the Newport City Council administrative area. These areas are:
- SLA 5– South Eastern Lowlands, and
 - SLA 6– Southern Lowlands.
- Torfaen's identified SLA 6 corresponds directly with Newport's proposed SLA 1 – North of Bettws.
- 4.6 **Caerphilly County Borough Council** has an adopted Local Development Plan and allocated landscape designations. The Council commissioned TACP to undertake a review of the Special Landscape Areas in 2007. This review

identified 7 areas recommended for designation of which one area borders the Newport City Council administrative area. This area is:

- SLA 4 –North Caerphilly.

Caerphilly's identified SLA 4 corresponds with Newport's proposed SLA 2 – West of Rhiwderin.

- 4.7 In addition to the Special Landscape designation process Caerphilly CBC undertook a process of designating Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLS). The VILLS are areas which had previously been identified as SLAs but were not included in the 2007 review. Therefore the Council designated the areas as VILLS to protect what are generally areas of visual and sensory importance. One of the proposed VILL areas borders Newport City Council's administrative boundary that is:

- Abercarn VILL

This designation does not correspond with a proposed SLA within the Newport authority boundary.

- 4.8 It is not proposed to identify any VILLS in Newport's LDP.

5. FINAL BOUNDARY ALLOCATION JUSTIFICATION

- 5.1 The TACP Report – Designation of Special Landscape Areas (2009) highlighted the need for the subsequent confirmation of the detailed boundaries as set out in the report by the Council. NCC has subsequently examined all sections of these boundaries to ensure that they are clear and definable boundaries.
- 5.2 The proposed SLA boundaries for the LDP are justified as being located either: along Newport Authority’s administrative boundary, the proposed settlement boundary from the LDP or along structures, such as motorways, railways, rivers or canals, the edges of large woodlands or hedgerows. This ensures a consistent and clearly defined boundary line which will ensure future use of the allocation is unambiguous.
- 5.3 The majority of proposed SLAs are located outside the proposed settlement boundary, the exception to this is the proposed SLA 7 – Tredegar Park; this country park area is located within the urban boundary. The review has taken into account subsequent development and allocations proposed by the LDP.
- 5.4 The following section outlines boundary justification where amendments have been made to those SLAs proposed by the TACP report:

Special Landscape Area Title	Amendment to TACP boundary?	Amended boundary justification.
SLA 1 North of Bettws	No	N/A
SLA 2 West of Rhiwderin	Yes	Minor revision at the eastern-most tip to reflect the proposed settlement boundary.
SLA 3 Wentlodge Levels	Yes	Two revisions proposed within this SLA. The first is to exclude an area of mown grass at the north-east tip and include the floodplain west of the River Ebbw. The exclusion is to reflect the proposed settlement boundary. The inclusion is a natural and logical continuation of the landscape character area between the clearly defined visual lines of the River Ebbw to the east and that of the railway to the west. The LANDMAP assessment classifies this area as: 'Moderate' for the Visual and Sensory aspect layer 'High' for the Historic aspect layer 'Outstanding' for the Cultural aspect layer 'High' for the Habitat aspect layer, and 'Low' for the Geological aspect

		<p>layer. Overall the area identified for inclusion is clearly suitable in terms of its overall landscape value and its inclusion will provide a clear defined boundary.</p> <p>The second amendment is to exclude an area of land currently used as a golf course and extend the designation to include a wider section of agricultural land. The exclusion is to reflect the developed nature of the golf course. The inclusion is to provide a clearly defined boundary which runs to the edge of the field rather than through the centre of it.</p>
SLA 4 River Usk	Yes	<p>Revision to land south-west of Caerleon to follow the western edge of the tributary, railway line and settlement boundary.</p> <p>The TACP boundary excluded a small parcel of fenced land within the flood-plain, containing native vegetation. The proposed alteration to include this area of land is not considered significant and has been proposed to ensure a clear and definable boundary is established.</p> <p>The LANDMAP data classifies this area for inclusion as: 'High' for the Visual and Sensory aspect layer, 'High' for the Cultural aspect layer, 'Outstanding' for the Historic aspect layer, 'Unassessed' for the Habitat aspect layer, and 'Moderate' for the Geological aspect layer.</p> <p>Overall the area identified for inclusion is clearly suitable in terms of its overall landscape value and its inclusion will provide a clear defined boundary.</p>
SLA 5 Caldicot Levels	Yes	Revision to reflect the proposed settlement boundary.
SLA 6 Wentwood	Yes	Minor revision to the south-west, along Old Roman Road, to reflect the proposed settlement boundary
SLA 7 Tredegar Park	Yes	The area to the northern section of the deer park has been omitted

		to reflect a planning approval for residential development.
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- 5.5 The majority of the amendments have been proposed in order to reflect the settlement boundary as defined within the Local Development Plan. The settlement boundary information for the LDP was not available to TACP when undertaking the initial assessment. In one case the amendment reflects a planning approval. The amendments to SLA 3 Wentlooge Levels and SLA 4 River Usk, propose the inclusion of land which has been assessed and as well as providing a clear and unambiguous boundary the LANDMAP data also confirms that the areas are of high enough value to be included.

6. PROPOSED LDP POLICIES

- 6.1 The proposed Local Development Plan policy and supporting text for the designation of Special Landscape Areas is set out below:

SP8 Special Landscape Areas

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS ARE DESIGNATED AS FOLLOWS WITHIN WHICH PROPOSALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE AREA THROUGH HIGH QUALITY DESIGN, MATERIALS AND MANAGEMENT SCHEMES THAT DEMONSTRATE A CLEAR APPRECIATION OF THE AREA'S SPECIAL FEATURES:

- (i) NORTH OF BETTWS
- (ii) WEST OF RHIWDERIN
- (iii) WENTLOOGE LEVELS
- (iv) RIVER USK
- (v) CALDICOT LEVELS
- (vi) WENTWOOD
- (vii) TREDEGAR PARK

- 2.27 The Special Landscape Areas have been designated on the basis of the LANDMAP assessment process¹, and are identified on the Proposals Map. The LANDMAP information resource is compiled and managed by Natural Resources Wales and is a nationally recognised resource for landscape assessment; as noted in Planning Policy Wales². The LANDMAP system sets a benchmark methodology³ and quality assurance process to ensure consistency, accuracy and accessibility of landscape information throughout Wales. The study 'Designation of Special Landscape Areas (2009)⁴ as undertaken by TACP sets out a review of SLA designation for Newport. The SLA background paper sets out how the Council has defined the final boundary of each area.
- 2.28 Within Special Landscape Areas, priority will be given to landscape conservation and enhancement. The designation of a SLA does not preclude development but any proposals must demonstrate that they have been designed to respect the valued characteristics of the recognised landscape as well as being in accordance with other policies of this plan.
- 2.29 Developers will be required to ensure that proposals do not impact or affect the intrinsic character quality, feature or conservation value of the SLA. Designs will be required to be of a high standard, appropriate in scale and massing, integrated sympathetically into the landscape as well as ensuring long term management. Supplementary Planning Guidance will provide guidance concerning the value, management and maintenance of the areas.

¹ LANDMAP is available at: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/landmap.aspx>

² Planning Policy Wales is available at : <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/110228ppwchapter5en.pdf>

³ LANDMAP methodology is available at: <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk/methodology/>

⁴ Available at: http://stellentcons/stellent/groups/internal/documents/plans_and_strategies/cont636274.pdf

7. APPENDICES

- 1. Designation of Special Landscape Areas (June 2009) TACP**
- 2. Natural Resources Wales (formerly Countryside Council for Wales), LANDMAP information guidance note 1 (June 2008)**

Appendix 1 - Designation of Special Landscape Areas (June 2009) TACP

Designation of Special Landscape Areas

June 2009



CAERLEON
CAERLEION

NEWPORT/GASNEWYDD

Wyd & Sarn

Usk Patch

79

+

78

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

JUNE 2009

TACP
10 Park Grove
Cardiff
CF10 3BN

Project No: 8262

Revision No.	Date of Revision	Checked by	Date	Approved by	Date
0	22.12.08	CD	22.12.08	LJ	22.12.08
1	26.01.09	CD	26.01.09	LJ	26.01.09
2	02.02.09	CD	05.02.09	LJ	05.02.09
3	22.05.09	CD	22.05.09	LJ	22.05.09
4	04.06.09	CD	04.06.09	LJ	04.06.09

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** TACP Consultants were appointed in July 2008 by Newport City Council (see Appendix, Figure 1.0) to carry out a review of Special Landscape Areas (SLA's) designation within their administrative area. This exercise was to utilise the Special Landscape Area Designation Criteria originally developed for the South East Wales Local Authority Consortium, and now included within the Countryside Council for Wales Guidance Note 1 (June 2008). This methodology utilises the comprehensive data set associated within the LANDMAP Information System landscape assessment methodology.
- 1.2** The study has reviewed the whole of the City Council area. There are no existing SLA's within Newport. The Newport Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 1996-2011 was adopted in May 2006. However, the SLA policy was omitted from the UDP at the inquiry stage as recommended by the inspector.
- 1.3** The Special Landscape Area Study has highlighted 7 areas which qualify under the revised methodology as candidate SLA's. The detailed boundaries will be confirmed by the City Council as they take into account any plan or policy developments within the emerging Local Development Plan process.

2.0 Study Context

- 2.1** The use of non-statutory designations such as Special Landscape Areas to protect areas of landscape value has long been a policy tool within the UK planning system. They have been seen by local planning as a means of protecting sensitive landscapes and in developing an understanding and awareness of those features and characteristics that give a locality its sense of place.
- 2.2** Newport City Council covers an area of some 190 square kilometres, and despite the perception of it being a dominantly urban administrative area some 70% of the area is open countryside. The area contains a variety of landscape types, ranging from the flat, reclaimed coastal marshes of the Gwent Levels, the main valley of the River Usk through to the higher ground to the west around Bettws and east of the area along the Kemeys Graig ridge to the north of Langstone. Three of these landscapes are of European importance, especially the Gwent Levels and River Usk.
- 2.3** The original consideration of SLA's within the Newport area was carried out for the preparation of the UDP. This followed the guidance developed by the then Countryside Commission. (Guidance Document CCP 243) which was the accepted practice at the time. This approach was based primarily on the visual qualities of the landscape and took into account the following criteria:-
- Landscape as a resource
 - Scenic Quality
 - Unspoilt Character and Integrity
 - Sense of Place
 - Conservation Interest
 - Consensus
- 2.4** Since this original exercise was carried out, a new methodology of landscape assessment has been developed and adopted throughout Wales (see Planning Policy Wales (2002) - Section 5.3.13) known as the LANDMAP Information System. This divides the landscape into component elements known as aspect topic layers which are of equal importance and are assessed in terms of their characteristics and value against a standard set of criteria. The aspect topic layers are as follows:-
- Geological Landscapes
 - Landscape Habitats
 - Visual and Sensory Landscapes
 - Historic Landscapes
 - Cultural Landscapes

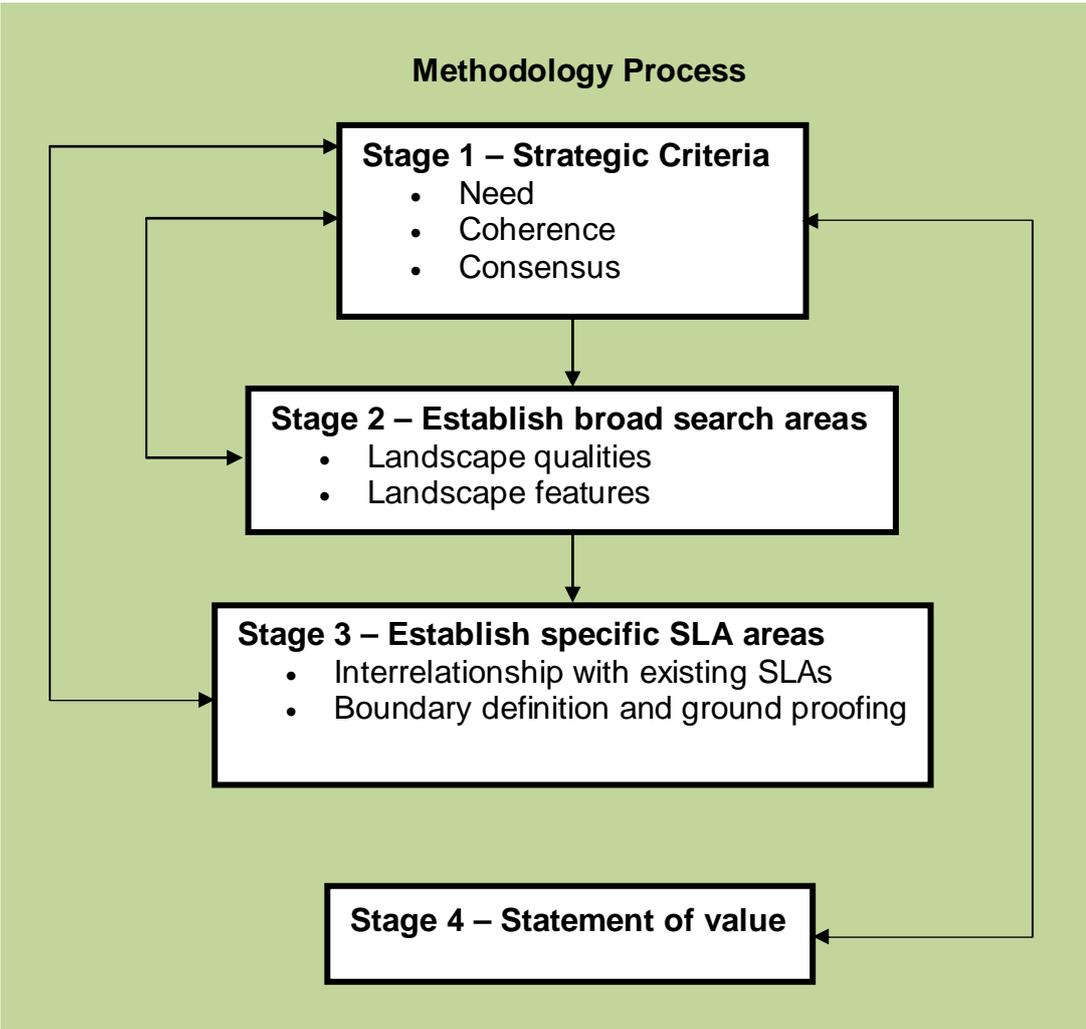
For each of these aspect topic layers, discrete geographical units known as aspect areas are identified and mapped and a data set is developed that includes a description classification and evaluation of quality. In addition other, non-evaluated data sets are developed including a Form and Function layer (ie: landscape type and use) together with the carrying out of a Public Perception Study. This latter exercise brings together the findings from focus group and questionnaire exercises.

2.5 In parallel with this change in landscape assessment, the requirements for local authority development plans have also changed. Under the Planning and Compensation Act 2004, the existing Unitary Development Plan system has been replaced by Local Development Plan (LDP's). In response to this the South East Wales Local Authority Consortium commissioned TACP Consultants¹ to develop a methodology for the designation of SLA's using the LANDMAP Information System. This methodology forms the bases of a Countryside Council for Wales guidance note (Note 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas – June 2008) on the designation of Special Landscape Areas in Wales. It also reflects the guidance within Planning Policy Wales (2002) of which Section 5.3.11 states "...Non Statutory designations such as Special Landscape Areas.... Should be based upon a formal scientific assessment of the landscape value of the site ... Local Planning Authorities should only apply these designations where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary level of protection." This guidance continues in Section 5.3.13 "CCW's LANDMAP Information System methodology is an important resource on which local authorities can draw".

¹ Development of Criteria for Special Landscape Area Designation for South East Wales Local Authorities(Caerphilly County Borough Council host authority) June 2007).

3.0 Special Landscape Area Designation - Newport

3.1 The methodology uses a structured, iterative approach to the identification of areas considered worthy of designation as a Special Landscape Area. The process is illustrated in Figure 2.0 below:-



3.2 Stage 1 - Review of Strategic Criteria

In carrying out this process in Newport, a series of discussions have been held with the client at the identified hold points. The Stage 1 meeting was held on 8 August 2008 with the core client team. The results of the meeting were as follows:-

Strategic Criteria		Response
1.	<i>Need</i> – to what extent will designation be more effective in safeguarding, managing or providing for the special attributes of the area.	It was considered that a weakness of current policy guidance has been the deletion of the SLA's at the Unitary Development Plan Public Inquiry Stage. With the updating of the LANDMAP data to reflect the 2003 methodology and the introduction of the LDP system, the opportunity exists to review the area again and identify potential SLA's.
2.	<i>Coherence</i> – ensure that areas considered for designation make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management or promotion.	Agreed this was important in designating SLA's. Too many, small, discrete areas could undermine the integrity of the policy framework. However it was also agreed that the areas must reflect the information from the data sets.
3.	<i>Consensus</i> - agreement and sufficient support for designation, and must include all stakeholders including community as well as professional groups.	In this initial stage only the core client team have been consulted. Agreed that SLA designations warrant consideration in the emerging LDP.
Conclusions and Recommendation		
Currently there are no SLA designations within Newport. Value to planning policy framework needs to be reviewed in light of the emerging LDP and the updated LANDMAP Information System database.		

3.3 Stage 2 - Establish Broad Search Areas

The broad search areas were established from a desk review and analysis of the LANDMAP Information System data. In line with the methodology guidance this took the form of an iterative process, adding and reviewing aspect topic layers to establish where clustering of Outstanding and High evaluation levels occurred (see Appendix, Figures 3.0-3.4). The boundaries identified (see Figure 4.0) cover a broader appreciation of the area and allow for revision of the candidate SLA's later on in the process. The guidance methodology does not specify the number of outstanding and high aspect areas required for the designation of an SLA. It is apparent that the greater the number, the stronger the rationale for designation will be. Conversely, the fewer the number, the more clearly the designation has to be justified. This is where reference to the three strategic criteria – Need, Consensus and Coherence – has to be made and the professional judgement of the assessor is important.

The nine broad search areas are as follows:-

Area 1: North of Bettws

A small area bounding Torfaen. Important areas for Landscape Habitats (LH048-High), Visual and Sensory (VS014-High) History (HL004-High) and Cultural (CL026-High). Of the remainder of the areas five are moderate two (Geological Landscapes, one Landscape Habitats, two Visual and Sensory) and three (one Landscape Habitats, one Visual and Sensory and one History) are low.

Area 2: West of Rhiwderin

Area comprising seventeen aspect areas one of which (CL022) is Outstanding, six (GL040, VS013, VS024, HL036, HL001 and CL026) are high. The remaining areas are moderate. Low or unassessed.

Area 3: Wentlooge Levels

A distinctive landscape area. Nine areas (LH55, LH57, HL003, HL021, HL047, CL002, CL004, CL007 and CL010) are outstanding, ten (GL034, GL040, VS001, VS006, VS009, HL002, HL020, HL032, CL003 and CL026) are high. The remaining areas are moderate, low or unassessed.

Area 4: Severn Intertidal Zone

Distinctive area, seaward of the flood protection wall, running into the Severn Estuary. Five areas (LH053, HL048, VS007, VS008 and CL004) are outstanding, three areas (VS005, VS006 and CL26) are high. The remainder are moderate to low.

Area 5: River Usk

Includes the area from the mouth of the Usk, through Newport up to the Monmouthshire border. Four areas (LH014, CL001, CL002 and CL007) are outstanding. Four areas (VS011, CL015, CL016 and CL018) are high. The remaining two areas are moderate.

Area 6: Caldicot Levels

The eastern area of distinctive reclaimed marshland running up to the boundary with Monmouthshire near Undy/Magor. Nine areas (LH033, LH035, LH054, HL017, HL018, HL019, HL047, CL004 and CL006) are outstanding, four areas (GL031, LH036, VS005 and VS037) are high. Of the three remaining areas, one is moderate, one low and one unassessed.

Area 7: Wentwood

Northern edge of the local authority border defined by extensively forested Kemeys Graig ridge. One area (CL024) is outstanding, eight areas (GL020, GL021, GL025, LH020, VS030, VS032, LH046, CL019 and CL026) are high. Eight areas (GL022, GL023, GL024, VS031, VS033, HL013, HL046 and CL013) are moderate. The rest are low (one) or unassessed (four).

Area 8: Caerleon

Includes the Usk floodplain and historic settlement of Caerleon. Two areas (HL016 and CL007) are outstanding, six (GL026, LH015, VS026, VS049, CL016 and CL026) are high. Of the remainder one is moderate and two unassessed.

Area 9: Tredegar Park

Extensive formal parkland and associated historic house on the western edge of Newport. Dissected by the M4 motorway. Four areas (HL003, CL010, CL011 and CL025) are outstanding. Two (VS019 and VS023) are high. Of the remainder, two are moderate, two low and two unassessed.

3.4 Stage 3 - Establish the Specific Areas

The primary function of this stage is to review the broad search areas and establish clear, definable boundaries for the SLAs. This was undertaken through a combination of desk survey supported by fieldwork. It also took into account the results of a review exercise undertaken by the client team during September/October 2008. The key issues arising from this exercise relate to the coherence and consensus strategic objectives as follows.

Area 1: North of Bettws

Ensure southern boundary follows a defensible feature such as road etc.

Area 2: West of Rhiwderin

Follow settlement boundary and extend up to the boundary with Caerphilly County Borough Council for reasons of coherence.

Area 3: Wentlooge Levels

Boundary to follow the railways/urban area boundary at LG Factory and to include relevant section of Area 4 (Severn Intertidal Zones).

Area 4: Severn Intertidal Zone

To be included into Area 3 and 6 respectively.

Area 5: River Usk

Include area north of the Celtic Manor to include river valley up to the Monmouthshire boundary. Include floodplain elements of Area 8.

Area 6: Caldicot Levels

Exclude area of Nash Power Station, and associated urban fringe. Likewise exclude area of former Llanwern Steelworks and small area of levels landscape to the north near Bishton and Llanwern.

Area 7: Wentwood

Remove settlement of Parc Seymour and include small area to north east of Langstone down to the A48 for reasons of coherence.

Area 8: Caerleon

Urban area removed, remainder included in Area 5.

Area 9: Tredegar Park

Include areas to north of motorway and reflect the essential setting zone as defined in Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales (PGW CCIF 48).

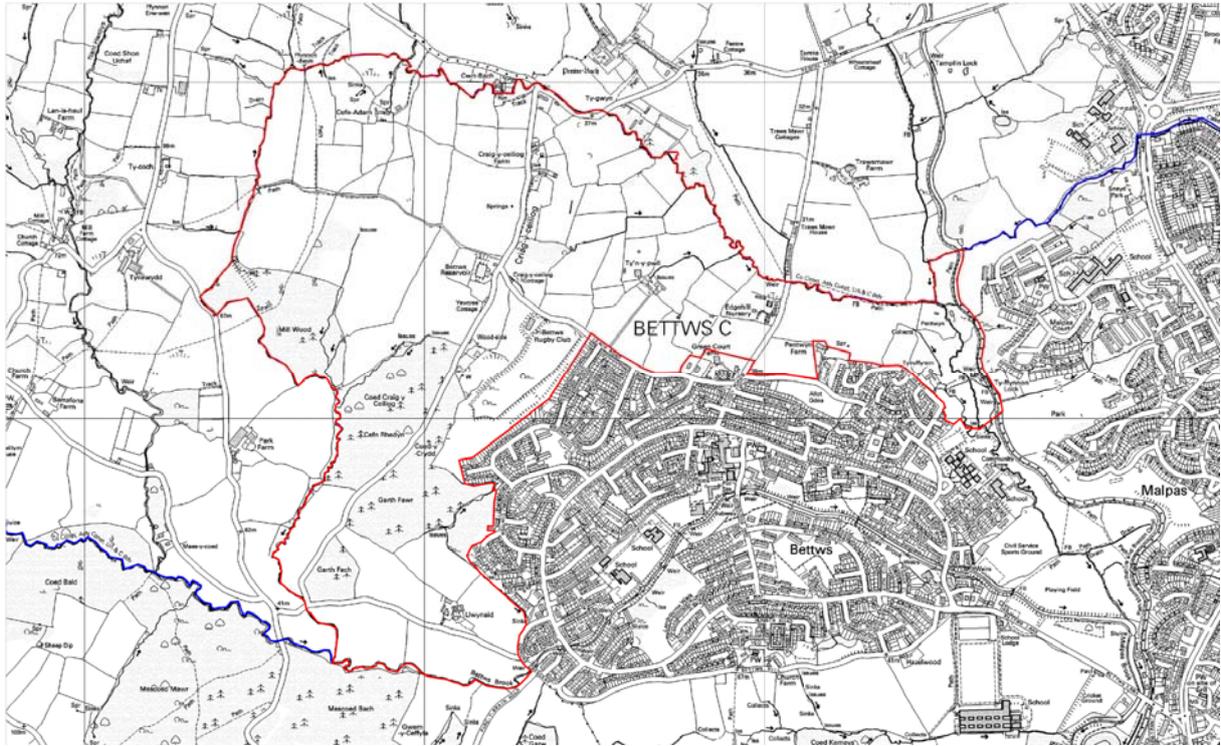
3.5 Stage 4 – Statement of Value

The Statement of Value sets out the key qualities of the individual SLA's. Under the methodology the final boundaries will be determined by the local authority, however, within the statement are the justifications for the identification of an area as a SLA. The areas recommended for designation (see Figure 5.0) are:-

SLA 1	North of Bettws
SLA 2	West of Rhiwderin
SLA 3	Wentlooge Levels
SLA 4	River Usk
SLA 5	Caldicot Levels
SLA 6	Wentwood
SLA 7	Tredegar Park

SLA 1: North of Bettws

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Landscape at Bettws



Hedge boundaries



Urban edge



Traditional farm building

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - A relatively small area of undisturbed, agricultural landscape between the settlement of Bettws and the local authority boundary with Torfaen. A relatively unknown area of the city provides an important visual backstop to the setting of Bettws as well as a buffer zone up to the Torfaen boundary. It also includes important Biodiversity Action Plan habitats - reed beds.

Coherence - It forms a distinctive, lowland agricultural landscape unit established by the local authority boundary and the edge of Bettws. The landscape pattern provides a distinct sense of place. It does not currently relate to the adjacent Special Landscape Areas in Torfaen which are under review. However, it still forms an important landscape unit in its own right.

Consensus - It has never been identified as a potential SLA in previous exercises, however the LANDMAP data has highlighted the underlying qualities of the area which has been confirmed by the professional stakeholders review.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

The area covers an undulating hidden section of the agricultural landscape rising up to 70m AOD on the borders of Torfaen. It is an area of narrow sunken lanes bounded by strong hedgebanks which include hedgerow trees. The landscape pattern consists of a mosaic of woodlands enclosing the fields eg: Mill Wood, Garth Fach and Coed Craig y Ceiliog. It is underpinned by a lowland escarpment dissected by a number of small streams, its eastern boundary is formed by the Monmouth Brecon Canal.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Maintenance of distinctive landscape element – woodlands and hedgebanks, many of which are of nature conservation value.
- Management of urban fringe interface with Bettws. Ensure flytipping etc is controlled.

Boundary Justification

Indicative boundary follows local authority boundary with Torfaen to the north, the line of the Monmouth - Brecon Canal to the east, the urban edge of Bettws to the south and Bettws Brook to the south west and west.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

The validation of the SLA designation has been made against a consideration of the sub-criteria used to produce the evaluation levels for each of the five evaluation aspect area topics. These are shown on the evaluation matrix.

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Research/Educational Value 2 – Historic Value 3 – Rarity/Uniqueness 4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Priority Habitats 2 – Significance 3 – Opportunity 4 – Decline Rates 5 – Threat 6 – Fragmentation 7 – Habitat Evaluation 8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Scenic Quality 2 – Integrity 3 – Character 4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Rarity 2 – Survival/Preservation 3 – Coherence 4 – Potential 5 – Amenity Value
Cultural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Recognition/Transparency 2 – Period 3 – Rarity 4 – Documentation 5 – Group Value 6 – Survival 7 – Vulnerability 8 – Diversity 9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

- Red – Outstanding
- Green – High
- Blue – Moderate
- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

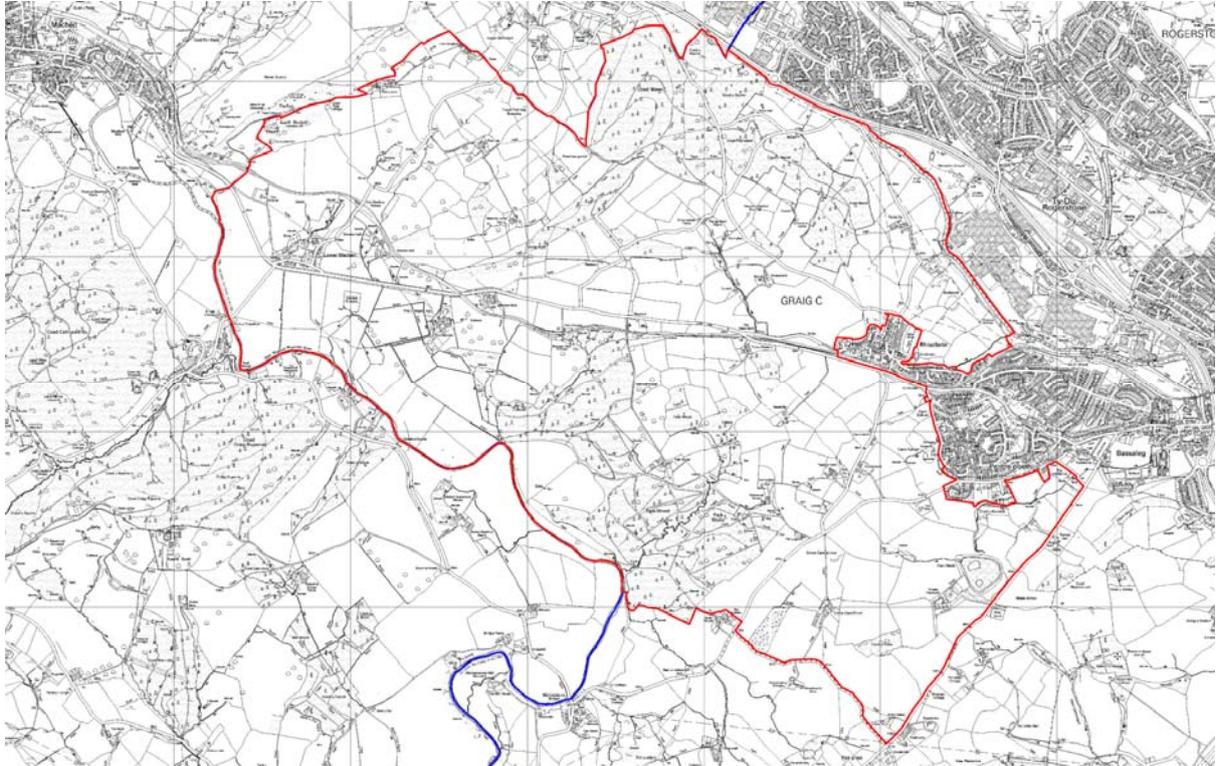
More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 1 - North of Bettws

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological	NWPRTGL050	Bettws (north)	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL051	Craig-y-Ceilog	L	L	M	L						Moderate
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH005		M	L	L	U	U	L	L	U		Low
	NWPRTLH007		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Moderate
	NWPRTLH048		H	M	M	U	U	M	H	H		High
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS014	Maescoed	H	M	H	M						High
	NWPRTVS016	Malpas Brook Valley	M	L	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS017	Bettws Farmland	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS050	Bettws	L	L	L	L						Low
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTLH004	Mescoed Mawr	H	H	M	M	H					High
	NWPRTLH026	Bettws Urban	M	L	M	L	L					Low
Cultural	NWPRTCL026	Newport Hinterland	H	H	M	U	H	M	H	H	U	High

SLA 2: West of Rhiwderin

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Rhumney River Walk



Rhumney River Walk



Rhumney River Walk



Woodland road at Graig

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - An area of rolling farmland rising up to 120m AOD, interspersed with woodland blocks eg. Park Wood, Coed Mawr and Coed Beddw it includes the historic estate at Plas Machen. The lower section forms part of the Rhymney Valley side slopes and it runs up to the Caerphilly boundary at lower Machen. The area is an important transport route (A468) and retains its rural character in an increasingly developed landscape.

Coherence - The core landscape is found in the eastern part of the SLA, for coherence it includes land up to the local authority boundary with Caerphilly and down towards the Cardiff boundary. It relates closely to a similar designated area in Caerphilly.

Consensus - It has not been identified as a potential SLA in previous exercises, however the professional stakeholders recognised its underlying qualities and value of the area as identified within the Landmap criteria subject to the coherence needs identified above.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

An extensive area of lowland, rolling, agricultural landscape, extending from the western edge of Newport at Rhiwderin up towards the boundary with Caerphilly and southwards down to the M4 corridor. It is dominated by a high promontory of land rising over 200 metres AOD at Coed Mawr. This is formed by an outcrop of old red sandstone rocks overlain by Carboniferous Limestone. The southern part of the proposed SLA rises to some 115m AOD at Penylan and affords extensive views southwards across the Gwent Levels onto the Severn Estuary and beyond.

The field pattern is medium to small scale, and sinuous in form being a relict post medieval farmed landscape.

An important feature of the area is the extensive areas of woodland around Coed Mawr in the north, and Park Wood in the south. They are not only important landscape elements but also of nature conservation value, including Plas Machen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Park Wood cSNCI and Coed Mawr West cSNCI.

It is an historically important landscape, the A468 follows the line of the old Roman road from Caerleon to Caerphilly. It is also the location of Plas Machen, a grade II* Listed Elizabethan gentry house which was the home of Morgan family before they moved to Tredegar House. The garden is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales.

It remains a largely tranquil landscape, with only localised disturbance from the principal roads and forms an important rural buffer to the west of Newport.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Ensure retention of woodland cover with replacement of plantations with deciduous mixes.
- Maintenance of historic landscape features.
- Management of grasslands to increase diversity and interest.
- Issues of settlement edge – poor quality boundaries, flytipping, trespass.
- Maintenance and management of field boundaries.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries identified use the local authority boundary with Caerphilly and the minor local road network to establish a defensible case.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

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

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	1 – Research/Educational Value 2 – Historic Value 3 – Rarity/Uniqueness 4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	1 – Priority Habitats 2 – Significance 3 – Opportunity 4 – Decline Rates 5 – Threat 6 – Fragmentation 7 – Habitat Evaluation 8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	1 – Scenic Quality 2 – Integrity 3 – Character 4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	1 – Rarity 2 – Survival/Preservation 3 – Coherence 4 – Potential 5 – Amenity Value
Cultural Landscapes	1 – Recognition/Transparency 2 – Period 3 – Rarity

- 4 – Documentation
- 5 – Group Value
- 6 – Survival
- 7 – Vulnerability
- 8 – Diversity
- 9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

- Red – Outstanding
- Green – High
- Blue – Moderate
- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

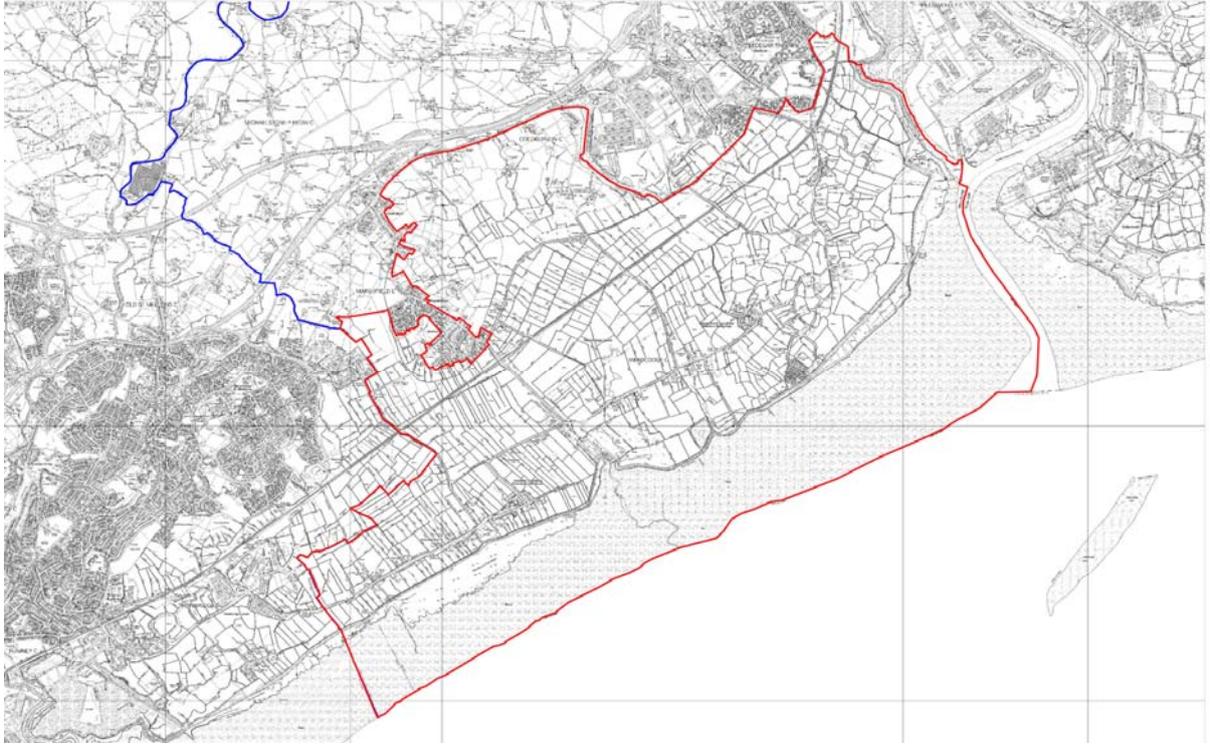
More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 2 - West of Rhiwderin

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological	NWPRTGL040	Michaelstone-y-Fedw	H	M	H	M						High
	NWPRTGL041	Cleppa - Croes-heolydd	L	L	M	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL042	Michaelstone Bridge	L	L	M	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL043	Rhymney	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL044	Coed Mawr - Graig Wylt	M	L	M	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL045	Ebbw River	L	L	L	L						Low
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH001		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Moderate
	NWPRTLH002		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Moderate
	NWPRTLH004		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	M		Moderate
	NWPRTLH027		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Moderate
	NWPRTLH040		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Unassessed
	NWPRTLH056		L	L	M	U	U	L	L	U		Unassessed
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS002	Michaelston-y-Fedw	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS003	Rhymney Valley	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS013	Machen Slopes	H	M	H	M						High
	NWPRTVS022	Ebbw River Corridor	H	L	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS024	Park Wood	H	H	M	M						High
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTL001	Michealstone le Fedw Rolling Hills	H	H	H	L	H					High
	NWPRTL033	Twyn y Cadno/Fox Hill	H	M	M	L	M					Moderate
	NWPRTL036	Lower Machen Corridor	H	H	M	H	H					High
	NWPRTL037	Machen House	H	H	M	H	H					High
	NWPRTL039	Plas Machen PGW (Gt) 33	M	M	M	M	H					Moderate
Cultural	NWPRTCL022	Registered Parks and Gardens	L	M	M	H	H	H	U	H	U	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL026	Newport Hinterland	H	H	M	U	H	M	H	H	U	High

SLA 3: Wentlooge Levels

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Peterstone Great Wharf, to the west



Broadway Reen



Wentlooge Levels - reens



Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - A unique landscape of reclaimed marshland abutting the Severn Estuary. Although covered under its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), these are primarily concerned with protection of the drainage ditch system which is the focus of the biodiversity value in the area. Notwithstanding this and its historic value the area remains under threat from development and changing land uses, in particular an increase in leisure uses, turf cutting and horsiculture. All of these combine to place increasing pressure upon the integrity of the landscape as a whole.

Coherence - The boundary identified includes the inter-tidal zone beyond the protective sea wall. Although different in character from the area inland they are inextricably linked which justifies this choice inland; the boundary seeks to exclude recent development areas, such as the LG Site at Dyffryn, however the golf courses at Peterstone and Coedkernew are included, as is the line of the proposed M4 Link Road. This inland boundary represents the most practicable solution given proposed and existing land use changes.

Consensus - Although the area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which should afford sufficient protection, the professional stakeholder felt that the unique form and character of the landscape is still under threat from development. Given the numbers of High and Outstanding evaluations within the Landmap Information System further justified its inclusion for SLA designation.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

Part of an extensive tract of low lying, reclaimed marsh and wetlands that extends from Cardiff to Chepstow. Rarely rising above 10 metres AOD they form a large, open expanse of primarily pastoral agricultural land. Having been subject to reclamation work since Roman times, a key landscape feature is the distinctive pattern of drainage ditches or “reens”. Their pattern reflects the differing periods of reclamation. Thus the fields on the western side of the area are more rectangular in pattern, and enclosed by cut hedges or lined with willows. To the east the pattern is more sinuous and less defined by vegetation.

The pattern of these reens is reflected in the settlement pattern. There are a number of linear settlements, such as Broad Street Common which is a fine example of an unenclosed street common with farmsteads alongside but set back from the road (B4239). Whereas Peterstone Wentlooge and St Brides Wentlooge are more typical nucleated settlements. The area is traversed by the London-Cardiff railway engineered by IK Brunel for the then Great Western Company. This had an enormous effect upon people of the area through the associated economic benefits of its construction.

The area beyond the seawall is included, and the inter-tidal zone is both an important wildlife and archaeological resource. The importance of the landscape is reflected not only in its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest but also its inclusion on the CCW/Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Maintenance of the pattern and network of drainage ditches.
- Loss of landscape integrity through gradual change in character from developments including leisure, and features such as “horsiculture”.
- Increased pressure for development at existing settlements and associated with major transport routes eg: M4 Link Road.
- Loss of vegetation associated with drainage network.
- Intensification of existing land uses, such as golf courses, fishing lakes etc.
- Fly tipping
- Settlement edge degradation, including pollution to drainage system.

Boundary Justification

The inclusion of the inter-tidal zone provides a synergy with the reclaimed landscape that forms the majority of the area. The western boundary abuts the area of Wentlooge Level within Cardiff that is also designated as a SLA. The northern boundary seeks to include as much of the area as possible taking into account existing and proposed development.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

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

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	1 – Research/Educational Value 2 – Historic Value 3 – Rarity/Uniqueness 4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	1 – Priority Habitats 2 – Significance 3 – Opportunity 4 – Decline Rates 5 – Threat 6 – Fragmentation 7 – Habitat Evaluation 8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	1 – Scenic Quality 2 – Integrity 3 – Character 4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	1 – Rarity 2 – Survival/Preservation 3 – Coherence

	4 – Potential
	5 – Amenity Value
Cultural Landscapes	1 – Recognition/Transparency
	2 – Period
	3 – Rarity
	4 – Documentation
	5 – Group Value
	6 – Survival
	7 – Vulnerability
	8 – Diversity
	9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

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- Blue – Moderate
- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

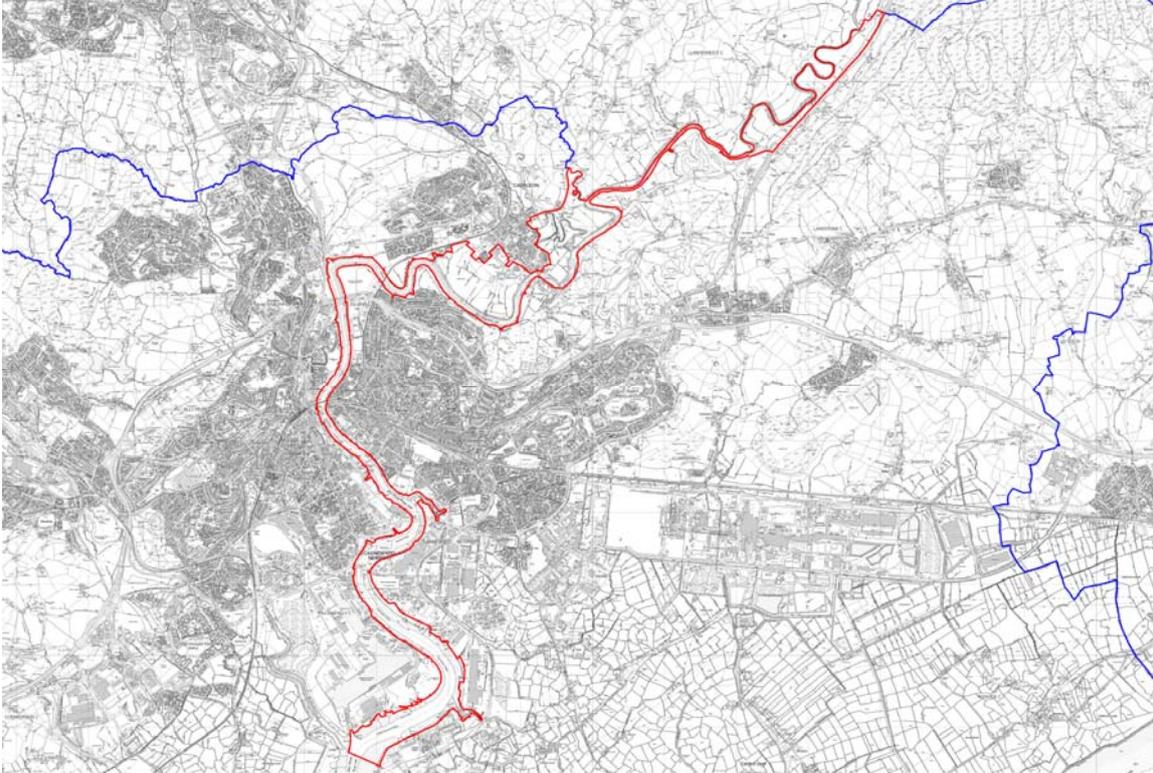
More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 3 - Wentlooge Levels

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological	NWPRTGL034	Wentlooge Level	H	H	M	H						High
	NWPRTGL035	Wentlooge (saltmarsh)	M	L	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL036	Peterstone Great Wharf	M	M	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL037	Peterstone (coast)	M	M	L	M						Moderate
	NWPRTGL038	Marshfield - Coedkernen	L	L	H	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL040	Michealstone-y-Fedw	H	M	H	M						High
	NWPRTGL052	Usk Estuary	L	L	L	L						Low
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH042		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Unassessed
	NWPRTLH049		H	M	M	U	U	M	H	U		Unassessed
	NWPRTLH053		O	O	M	U	M	O	O	U		Outstanding
	NWPRTLH055		H	O	M	U	U	O	H	O		Outstanding
	NWPRTLH057		H	O	M	U	U	O	H	O		Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS001	Wentlooge Level	H	M	H	O						High
	NWPRTVS004	Castleton Environs	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS006	Estuary Saltmarsh	O	H	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS007	Estuary Mudflats	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	NWPRTVS009	St Brides Estuary Grassland	O	H	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS022	Ebbw River Corridor	H	L	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS039	Dyffryn	L	M	M	H						Moderate
	NWPRTVS058	Marshfield	L	L	L	L						Low
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTHL002	Castletown Fen Edge	H	H	M	H	H					High
	NWPRTHL003	Tredegar park	H	H	H	O	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTHL020	St Brides Wentlooge	H	O	H	M	H					High
	NWPRTHL021	Wentlooge Level	O	O	H	H	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTHL024	M4 Communication Corridor	H	M	M	L	M					Moderate
	NWPRTHL032	Newport Docklands	H	H	M	M	H					High
	NWPRTHL038	Parc Golf Course	H	M	M	L	H					Moderate
	NWPRTHL047	Peterstone & Portland Grounds	H	O	O	O	O					Outstanding
Cultural	NWPRTCL002	Cardiff-London Railway	O	O	L	U	H	H	L	L	U	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL003	Celtic Trail	M	O	L	H	O	U	L	H	U	High
	NWPRTCL004	Gwent Levels	O	O	O	O	O	M	O	O	L	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL007	Usk River	H	O	L	U	H	O	M	O	U	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL010	Imperial Park and Others	M	H	L	U	H	L	M	U	O	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL021	Golf Courses	M	M	L	U	L	M	L	M	U	Moderate
	NWPRTCL026	Newport Hinterland	H	H	M	U	H	M	H	H	U	High

SLA 4: River Usk

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Caerleon



River Usk mud banks



Otter prints at River Usk



River Usk habitat



River Usk



River Usk historic structure

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - The proposed SLA includes the River Usk and bank sides from its mouth in the Severn Estuary to the Monmouthshire border. It is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the latter being an EU designation under the Habitats Directive. Notwithstanding the level of designation to the majority of the area, there are a number of backwater areas, reed beds and open areas of flood plain that contribute to the quality and character of the area. It also includes open areas of river bank within the core of Newport itself.

Coherence - As a minimum, the boundary follows the SSSI/SAC designation, to the top of the river's edge. However further inland around Caerleon, it has been broadened out to include the flood plain to the south west and east of Caerleon. This reflects the important historic and cultural landscape aspects that relate to Caerleon, as well as the physical interrelationship between the river and its floodplain.

Consensus - The Caerleon/River Usk area has been identified in previous studies as a potential SLA. The LANDMAP data set shows a number of outstanding and high aspect values, this and the view of the professional stakeholders is that the river corridor through Newport to the Severn Estuary justified consideration.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

A strongly linear feature until it opens out around Caerleon, the primary element being the tidal River Usk. The tidal range provides dramatic contrasts below high and low tide, and the river remains an important biodiversity resource both for the fish within it and as a corridor for otters to pass through the city.

The proposed boundary follows that of the SSSI/SAC designation, effectively the top of the river bank. Where the river leaves the city to the north there are areas of playing field and open space that do not justify inclusion with the proposed SLA boundary. At Caerleon, the boundary takes into account the important historic and cultural landscape features that underpin the importance both of the town and its setting. It also includes the floodplain which provides the visual landscape link between the river and the town whose development has been so influenced by this location. Notwithstanding the other policy measures that relate to Caerleon, in landscape terms it is important that these wider qualities as identified within the Landmap study are properly recognised by their inclusion within the SLA.

The vegetation along the course of the river varies but is primarily of a marginal, riparian character - reed beds, marsh, scrub and in places tree groups.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Enhance and improve quality of urban waterside environment.
- Increase access to riverside for recreational use where this does not conflict with nature conservation features.
- Flytipping/litter management
- Vegetation management
- Management of historic landscapes at Caerleon

Boundary Justification

Use of SSSI/SAC boundary ties the SLA to existing designated area. The area of floodplain at Caerleon relates to the setting of the historic Roman town.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

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

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Research/Educational Value2 – Historic Value3 – Rarity/Uniqueness4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Priority Habitats2 – Significance3 – Opportunity4 – Decline Rates5 – Threat6 – Fragmentation7 – Habitat Evaluation8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Scenic Quality2 – Integrity3 – Character4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Rarity2 – Survival/Preservation3 – Coherence4 – Potential5 – Amenity Value
Cultural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Recognition/Transparency2 – Period3 – Rarity4 – Documentation5 – Group Value6 – Survival7 – Vulnerability8 – Diversity9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

- Red – Outstanding
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- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

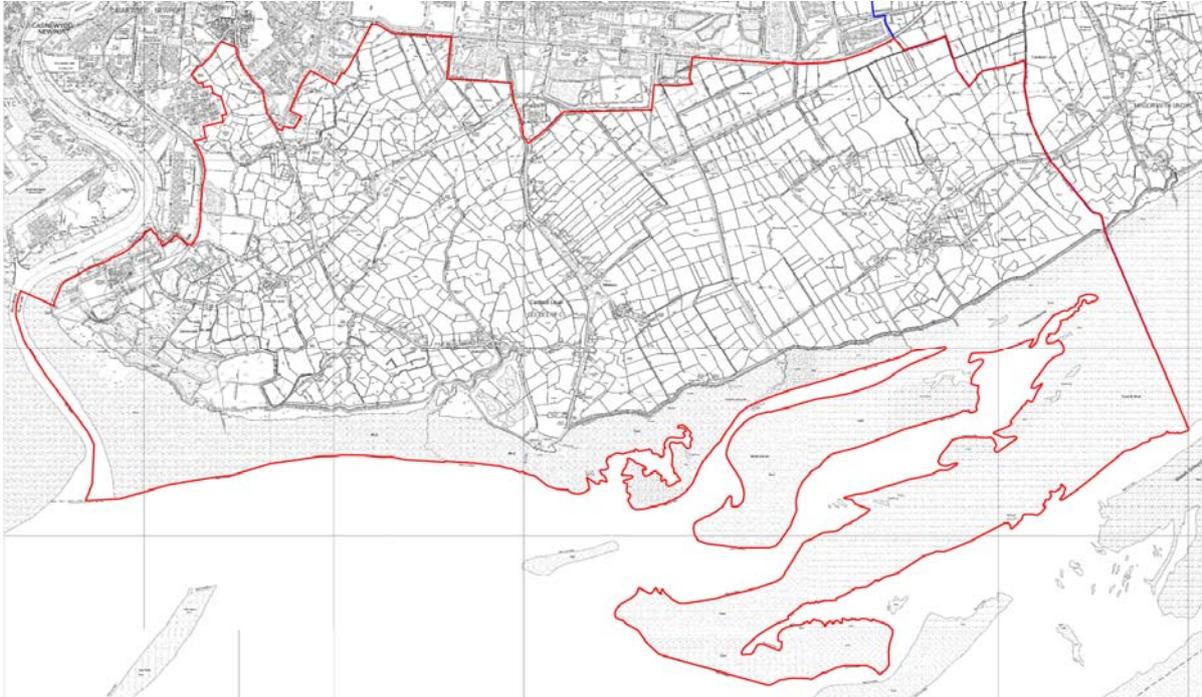
More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 4 - River Usk

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological	NWPRTGL026	Lower Usk	M	M	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL028	Caerleon (Isca)	M	M	M	M						Moderate
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH014		H	H	H	U	M	O	H	O		Outstanding
	NWPRTLH025		H	H	M	U	U	H	H	H		High
	NWPRTLH049		H	M	M	U	U	M	H	U		Unassessed
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS010	Lower River Usk	M	M	H	H						Moderate
	NWPRTVS011	River Usk	H	H	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS025	Caerleon Farmlands	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS026	Usk Floodplain	H	M	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS027	Chepstow Hill	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS040		L	L	M	L						Low
	NWPRTVS041		L	L	L	L						Low
	NWPRTVS042		L	L	M	L						Low
	NWPRTVS043		M	M	M	M						Moderate
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTHL013	A48 Communication Corridor	H	H	M	L	H					Moderate
	NWPRTHL015	Celtic Manor Golf Course	H	O	H	H	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTHL016	Caerleon/Isca Silurum	O	O	O	O	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTHL022	East Usk and Llanwern Industrial	H	H	H	H	O					High
	NWPRTHL023	Newport Historic Centre	H	H	M	H	H					High
NWPRTHL048	River Usk	O	H	H	H	O					Outstanding	
Cultural	NWPRTCL001	M4/M48 m'ways/N'pt relief road	O	O	L	U	O	U	L	L	H	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL002	Cardiff-London railway	O	O	L	U	H	H	L	L	U	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL007	Usk River	H	O	L	U	H	O	M	O	U	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL009	Celtic Manor Resort	H	O	O	U	O	U	L	H	H	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL014	Industrial and Business Parks	L	M	L	U	M	U	U	L	U	Moderate
	NWPRTCL015	Newport Docks Regeneration	M	H	L	U	H	H	U	H	H	High
	NWPRTCL016	Caerleon	H	O	H	O	O	H	L	O	H	High
	NWPRTCL018	A48	H	O	M	H	H	H	L	L	U	High
	NWPRTCL025	City of Newport	O	H	M	M	O	O	M	O	O	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL026	Newport Hinterland	H	H	M	U	H	M	H	H	U	High

SLA 5: Caldicot Levels

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Seawall, to the east



Shore



Street Common, Whitson



Lighthouse

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - Similar to SLA3 – Wentlooge Level, a unique area of landscape, which also has Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation and includes the RSPB Wetland Reserve at Goldcliff that is now a National Nature Reserve. Notwithstanding these designations the integrity of the landscape character and quality is being compromised through environmental change and degradation.

Coherence - The boundary includes the water-tidal zone beyond the protective sea wall. Although different in character from the area inland they are inextricably linked justifying this choice. The inland boundary follows the local authority border with Monmouthshire to the east, and the industrialised area around Nash to the west. The northern boundary abuts the southern edge of the former Llanwern Steelworks site. This forms the most practicable choice despite the fact that the historic edge of the Level in this part is north of the steelworks site at Llanwern and Bishton.

Consensus - Whilst recognising the existing designations as providing protection to the area, the professional stakeholders considered that the unique character is still under threat and therefore justifies inclusion as a protected SLA. This supports the quality of the LANDMAP data.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

As with SLA3, this SLA forms part of the extensive area of reclaimed marsh and wetlands that extends from Cardiff to Chepstow. Reaching up to 10 metres AOD, the area is characterised by its network of drainage ditches (reens) which vary in form and character. The eastern edge of the SLA is characterised by a regular, rectilinear pattern, whereas around Whiston and Caldicott the pattern is more sinuous. These variations reflect the different periods of reclamation and have a consequent effect upon settlement and road pattern. Particular examples are provided at Redwick, the largest nucleated village on the levels surrounded by a number of large orchards and at Whitson, where a distinctive linear pattern of settlement along the line of a street common is found.

The vegetation pattern reflects the differing period of enclosure. The main lines of vegetation follow the drainage ditches and these vary from no vegetation through the reeds and scrub to strong lines of trees, primarily willows and oak.

The main visual detractors to the SLA are the interface with the Llanwern Steelworks site on its northern boundary and the cluster of overhead power lines that focus upon Uskmouth power station.

The SLA also covers the intertidal zone on the seaward side of the sea wall. This includes the Welsh Grounds an extensive area of mudflats exposed at low tide. The interrelationship of the intertidal zone to the inland area is focused upon the protective sea wall.

At Goldcliff, the development of the RSPB reserve had amended the landscape pattern but has increased biodiversity in this part of the area. This is reflected in its recent designation as a National Nature Reserve.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Maintenance and management of the 'reen' system.
- Vegetation management
- Loss of integrity of landscape through incremental drainage in land management with increase in horsiculture, loss of orchards etc.
- Management of the bird reserve at Cardiff
- Impact of proposed M4 Link Road
- Development pressure
- Interface with Llanwern site
- Flytipping, litter

Boundary Justification

The inclusion of the inter-tidal zone provides a synergy with the reclaimed land that forms the core of the area. The inland boundaries reflect the boundary with Monmouthshire and the interface with the Llanwern steel works site.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

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

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	1 – Research/Educational Value 2 – Historic Value 3 – Rarity/Uniqueness 4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	1 – Priority Habitats 2 – Significance 3 – Opportunity 4 – Decline Rates 5 – Threat 6 – Fragmentation 7 – Habitat Evaluation 8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	1 – Scenic Quality 2 – Integrity 3 – Character 4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	1 – Rarity 2 – Survival/Preservation 3 – Coherence 4 – Potential 5 – Amenity Value

Cultural Landscapes	1 – Recognition/Transparency
	2 – Period
	3 – Rarity
	4 – Documentation
	5 – Group Value
	6 – Survival
	7 – Vulnerability
	8 – Diversity
	9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

- Red – Outstanding
- Green – High
- Blue – Moderate
- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

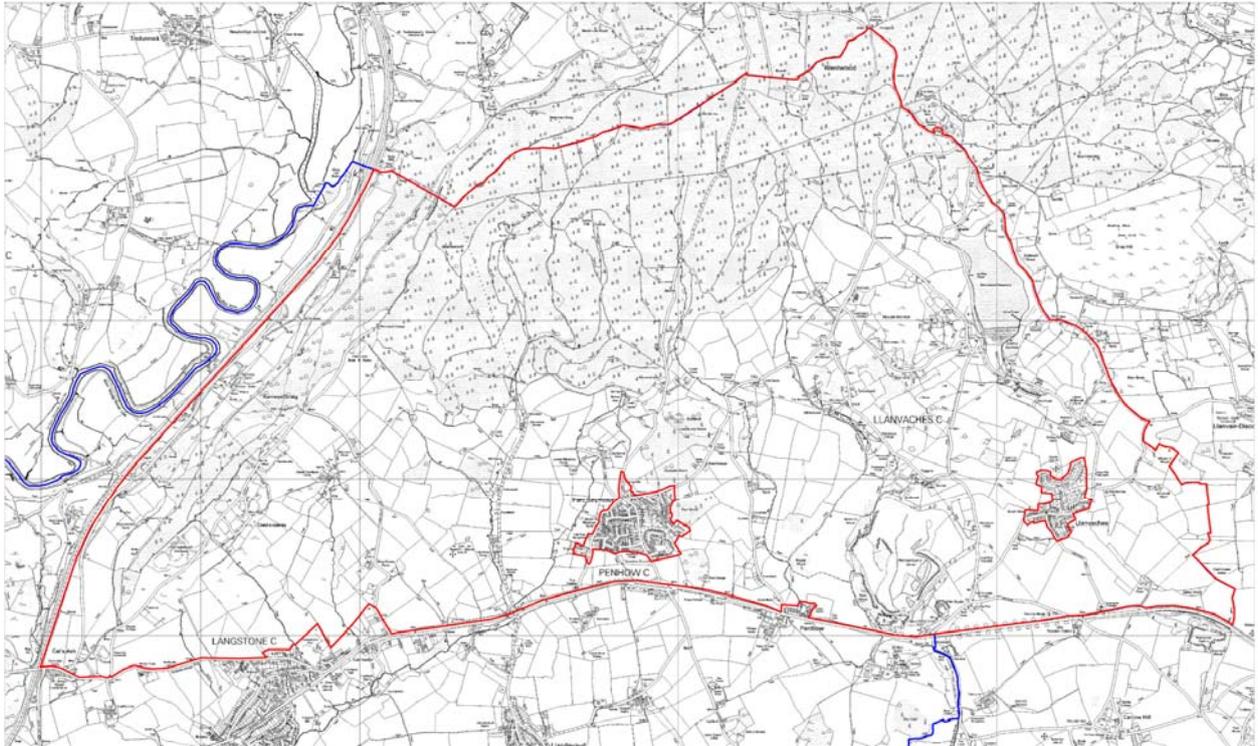
More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 5 - Caldicot Levels

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological	NWPRTGL004	Newport (Barnardstown-Green Moor)	L	L	L	L						Low
	NWPRTGL031	Caldicot Level - Goldcliff	M	H	M	M						High
	NWPRTGL032	Goldcliff (saltmarsh)	M	L	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL033	Welsh Grounds	M	M	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL052	Usk Estuary	L	L	L	L						Low
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH033		H	O	M	U	U	O	H	O		Outstanding
	NWPRTLH034		L	L	L	U	U	L	L	U		Unassessed
	NWPRTLH035		H	O	M	U	U	O	H	O		Outstanding
	NWPRTLH036		H	M	M	U	U	M	H	H		High
	NWPRTLH053		O	O	M	U	M	O	O	O		Outstanding
	NWPRTLH054		H	O	M	U	U	O	H	O		Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS005	Nash Wetlands	H	H	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS006	Estuary Saltmarsh	O	H	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS007	Estuary Mudflats	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	NWPRTVS008	Severn Estuary	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	NWPRTVS037	Caldicot Level	H	M	H	O						High
	NWPRTVS041	Eastern Usk Industrial Area	L	L	L	L						Low
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTL017	Nash/Goldcliff coastal zone	O	O	H	M	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTL018	Redwick	O	O	O	M	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTL019	Whitson	O	O	H	O	H					Outstanding
	NWPRTL022	East Usk and Llanwern Industrial	H	H	H	H	O					High
	NWPRTL047	Peterstone and the Portland Grounds	H	O	O	O	O					Outstanding
Cultural	NWPRTCL002	Cardiff-London Railway	O	O	L	U	H	H	L	L	U	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL004	Gwent Levels	O	O	O	O	O	M	O	O	L	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL005	Uskmouth Power Stations	H	H	L	U	L	H	L	L	H	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL006	Newport Wetlands Reserve	H	O	H	U	O	H	L	O	H	Outstanding

SLA 6: Wentwood

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Wentwood



Wilcric & Llanvaches



Wentwood bluebells



Wentwood Reservoir



Orchids, west of
Penhow Quarry

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - A distinctive, prominent ridgeline that runs northwards, parallel to the A449 and down to the A48. Its proximity to Newport places increasing pressure for development on the lower slopes around Langstone. Early developments further east, such as Parc Seymour, have introduced modern, estate development into the open landscape. The majority of the area is formed by extensive plantations and woodlands primarily under Forestry Commission control longer term management of these will require careful consideration so as to avoid total loss of the cover.

Coherence - The area follows a distinctive landscape unit, bounded by the A499 and A48 roads and the eastern boundary of the local authority.

Consensus – The visual prominence of the area, together with its role as a backcloth to both the Usk Valley and A48 road corridor is seen by the professional stakeholders as warranting its designation as a SLA. This is supported by the quality of the LANDMAP data.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

A major ridge and wider landscape feature which dominates the north eastern corner of Newport. Its northern western edge forms a steeply scarp slope rising from the Usk Valley, visually containing the wider valley at this point. The ridge rises to some 300 metres AOD, running down to 50-60 metres AOD along the line of the A48 road to the south.

The majority of the area is flanked with extensive plantations and woodlands primarily under the management of the Forestry Commission. These form an extensive feature on the higher ground. Elsewhere, the area is characterised by more gently, rolling farmland running down to Langstone and Parc Seymour.

The area is underpinned wooded landscape of great antiquity which is recognised by the earthworks along the ridgeline. It forms an important landscape feature and includes the Wentwood Reservoir which now forms an important recreational as well as functional landscape element.

The settlement pattern, save for Parc Seymour is generally sparse and this provides an important feature to the wider Newport Landscape.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Long term management of woodlands to minimise detrimental effects upon the landscape and wider nature conservation features
- Pressure for development, particularly around Langstone with the consequential loss of or intrusion into the landscape.
- Settlement edge issues – degradation flytipping, litter
- Management of wider agricultural landscape to increase diversity of species and features eg: hedgerow management, tree planting etc.
- Loss of historic landscape features

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the A48/A449 roads and local authority boundary with Monmouthshire.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

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

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Research/Educational Value2 – Historic Value3 – Rarity/Uniqueness4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Priority Habitats2 – Significance3 – Opportunity4 – Decline Rates5 – Threat6 – Fragmentation7 – Habitat Evaluation8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Scenic Quality2 – Integrity3 – Character4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Rarity2 – Survival/Preservation3 – Coherence4 – Potential5 – Amenity Value
Cultural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Recognition/Transparency2 – Period3 – Rarity4 – Documentation5 – Group Value6 – Survival7 – Vulnerability8 – Diversity9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

- Red – Outstanding
- Green – High
- Blue – Moderate
- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

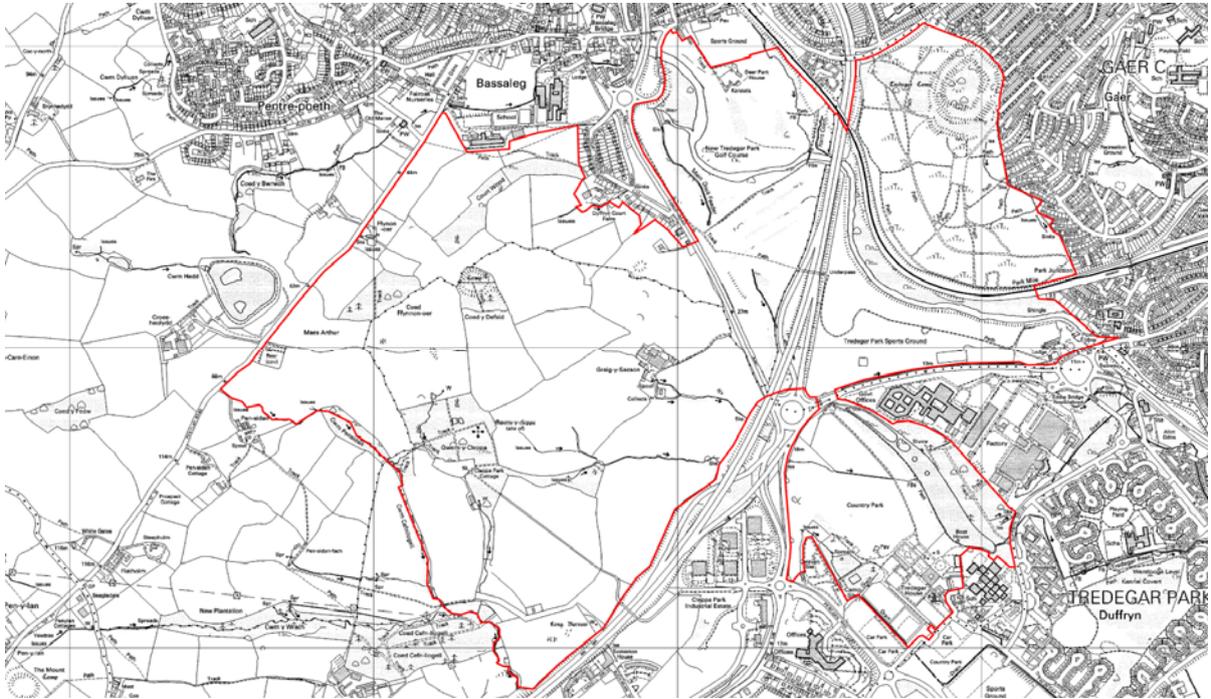
More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 6 - Wentwood

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Geological	NWPRTGL020	Penhow-Langstone	M	M	H	M							High
	NWPRTGL021	Mynydd Alltir Fach - Penhow Quarry	H	M	M	M							High
	NWPRTGL022	Llanvaches	L	L	M	L							Moderate
	NWPRTGL023	Millbrook	L	L	M	L							Moderate
	NWPRTGL024	Windmill Farm	L	L	L	L							Moderate
	NWPRTGL025	Wentwood	H	M	M	M							High
	NWPRTGL053	Abernant	L	L	L	L							Moderate
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH018		H	M	M	U	U	M	H	U			Unassessed
	NWPRTLH020		H	H	H	U	U	M	H	H			High
	NWPRTLH021		H	M	M	U	U	M	H	U			Unassessed
	NWPRTLH023		L	L	L	U	U	L	L	U			Unassessed
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS012	M4 and A4232	L	L	L	L							Low
	NWPRTVS030	Kemeys Graig	H	M	H	H							High
	NWPRTVS031	Wentwood	M	M	H	M							Moderate
	NWPRTVS032	Wentwood Valley Slopes	H	H	H	M							High
	NWPRTVS033	Penhow Lowlands	M	M	M	M							Moderate
	NWPRTVS059	Penhow Quarry	L	L	M	M							Low
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTHL009	Wentwood Forest	H	H	M	M	H						High
	NWPRTHL010	Wentwood and Parc Seymour	H	H	M	L	H						Moderate
	NWPRTHL013	A48 Communication Corridor	H	H	M	L	H						High
	NWPRTHL046	Kemeys House	H	H	H	M	H						High
Cultural	NWPRTCL013	Reservoirs	M	M	M	U	M	H	L	L	U		Moderate
	NWPRTCL019	Penhow and Castle	M	H	H	U	M	O	U	H	U		High
	NWPRTCL024	Wentwood	M	O	O	U	H	O	L	O	U		Outstanding
	NWPRTCL026	Newport Hinterland	H	H	M	U	H	M	H	H	U		High

SLA 7: Tredegar Park

LOCATION PLAN



PHOTOGRAPHS



Graig-y-Saeson from Gaer Fort



Tredegar Park avenue



Tredegar Park



Tredegar Park



Tredegar House

Relevance Against Strategic Criteria

Need - The core of the Tredegar House area is identified within the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales and indeed many of the buildings are listed features, such as the House and Tredegar Fort (the Gaer) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It could be argued that SLA designation is inappropriate given the advice in Planning Policy Wales (2002). However the wider setting of the park, particularly the area north of the motorway, and its proximity to Bassaleg and Pentrepoeth which are subject to constant development pressure, justifies the consideration of the identified area for SLA designation. This will help to give proper protection to this wider setting.

Coherence - The majority of the area follows the Cadw/ICOMOS boundary, same for the western edge which includes the Gwern y Cleppa monument area.

Consensus - Notwithstanding the existing designations the professional stakeholders consider that given the LANDMAP data the area warrants consideration as a SLA.

Primary Landscape Qualities and Features

The primary landscape features relate to the wider parkland and the historic hill fort at the Gaer. A disruptive element is introduced by the M4 motorway which effectively splits the parkland in half. The main tree avenue remains, and this provides the visual link across the motorway corridor. The formal parkland around the house is currently managed as a County Park by the City Council and notwithstanding the intensive development pressures remains a largely intact feature.

The hill fort at the Gaer, which is 91 metres AOD, provides a visually distinctive feature when entering Newport from the west. This prominent open space feature belies the intensity of housing behind it. Whilst generally open in character, there are areas of woodland encroaching onto the area.

The wider parkland to the north is characterised by the formal tree avenue extending up to Dyffryn Court area, some 110 metres AOD. The area is given over to agriculture and is interspersed with a number of woodland blocks; one of which, Gwen y Cleppa includes a Scheduled Ancient Monument site.

Key Policy and Management Issues

- Long term viability of Country Park status for Tredegar House.
- Woodland encroachment on open hill fort at the Gaer.
- Wider development pressures affecting the integrity of the wider parkland, particularly around Bassaleg and Pentrepoeth.
- Loss of distinctive landscape elements, such as the main tree avenue and failure to plan ahead for replacement planting.

Boundary Justification

The area reflects the Cadw/ICOMOS designation boundary. The broader contextual setting north of the M4 follows the urban edge and local road pattern.

Cross Reference to LANDMAP Information System

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

The sub criteria for each aspect topic layer are as follows:-

Geological Landscapes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 – Research/Educational Value2 – Historic Value3 – Rarity/Uniqueness4 – Classic Example
Landscape Habitats	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 – Priority Habitats2 – Significance3 – Opportunity4 – Decline Rates5 – Threat6 – Fragmentation7 – Habitat Evaluation8 – Importance for Key Species
Visual and Sensory	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 – Scenic Quality2 – Integrity3 – Character4 – Rarity
Historic Landscapes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 – Rarity2 – Survival/Preservation3 – Coherence4 – Potential5 – Amenity Value
Cultural Landscapes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 – Recognition/Transparency2 – Period3 – Rarity4 – Documentation5 – Group Value6 – Survival7 – Vulnerability8 – Diversity9 – Potential

Each of the aspect tables are colour coded as detailed below:

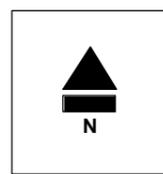
- Red – Outstanding
- Green – High
- Blue – Moderate
- Yellow – Low
- White – Unassessed

More detailed definitions of each of the sub criteria are available in the LANDMAP Handbook or through the LANDMAP website – <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk>

SLA 7 - Tredegar

	Aspect Area	Area Name	Evaluation Criteria									Overall Evaluation
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Geological	NWPRTGL001	Newport (Stow Hill)	M	L	L	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL039	Duffyn	L	L	L	L						Low
	NWPRTGL040	Michaelstone-y-Fedw	H	M	H	M						High
	NWPRTGL041	Cleppa - Croes-heolydd	L	L	M	L						Moderate
	NWPRTGL045	Ebbw River	L	L	L	L						Low
Landscape Habitats	NWPRTLH040		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Unassessed
	NWPRTLH043		H	H	M	U	U	H	H	U		Unassessed
	NWPRTLH046		L	M	M	U	U	L	L	U		Unassessed
Visual and Sensory	NWPRTVS002	Michaelston-y-Fedw	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS019	Gaer	H	M	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS021	Tredegar Park Sports Grounds	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	NWPRTVS023	Tredegar Park	H	H	H	H						High
	NWPRTVS039	Dyffryn	L	M	M	H						Moderate
Historical Landscapes	NWPRTL001	Michealstone le Fedw Rolling Hills	H	H	H	L	H					High
	NWPRTL003	Tredegar Park	H	H	H	O	O					Outstanding
	NWPRTL027	Tredegar Park Historic Setting	H	H	M	M	H					High
Cultural	NWPRTCL001	M4/M48 Motorways/Newport Relief Road	O	O	L	U	O	U	L	L	H	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL011	Tredegar House and Park	H	O	H	H	O	H	L	H	L	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL025	City of Newport	O	H	M	M	O	O	M	O	O	Outstanding
	NWPRTCL026	Newport Hinterland	H	H	M	U	H	M	H	H	U	High

APPENDIX



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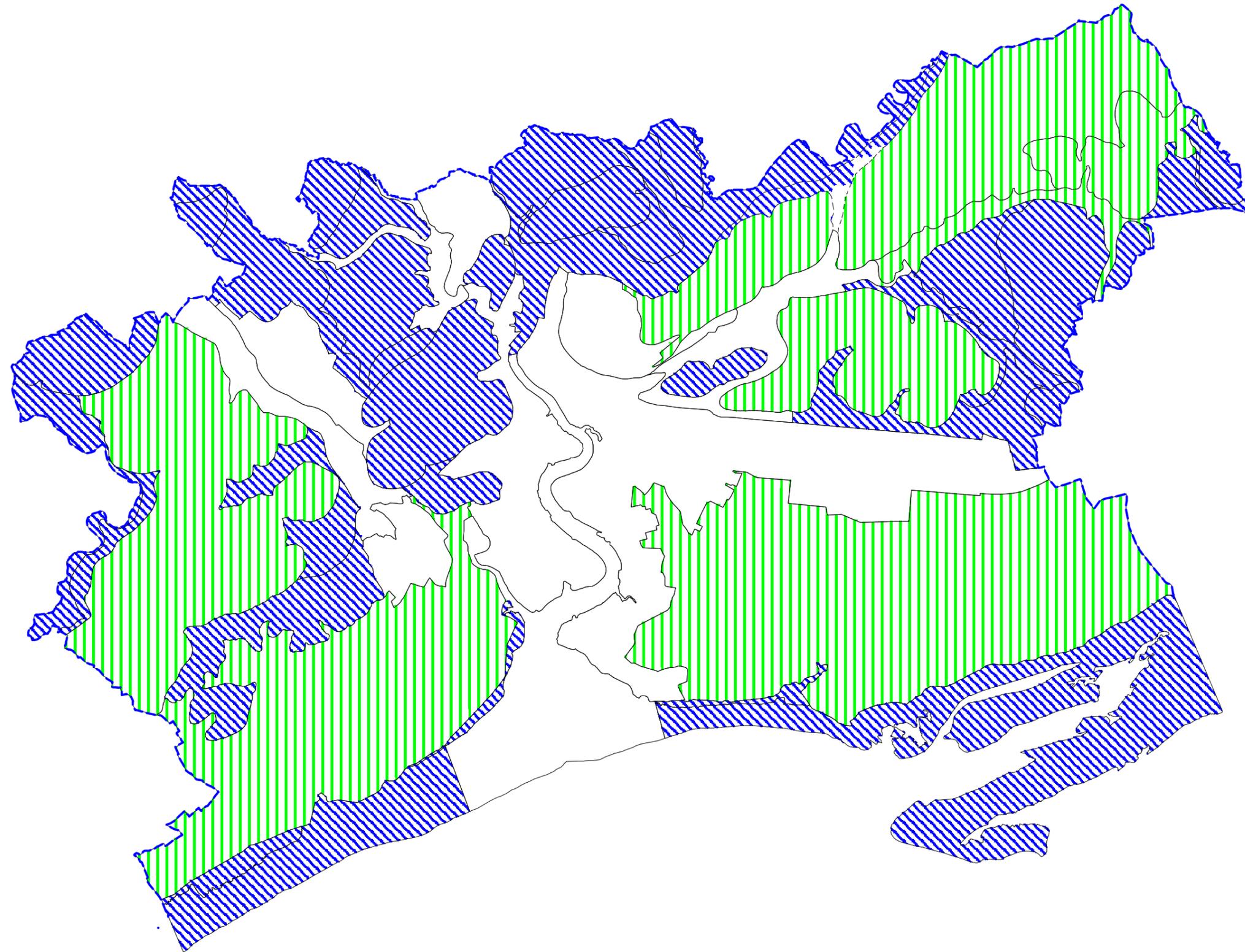
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Special Landscape Areas Review
Newport

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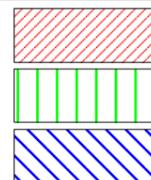
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Outstanding

High

Moderate

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Geological Aspect Layer

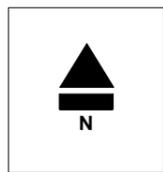
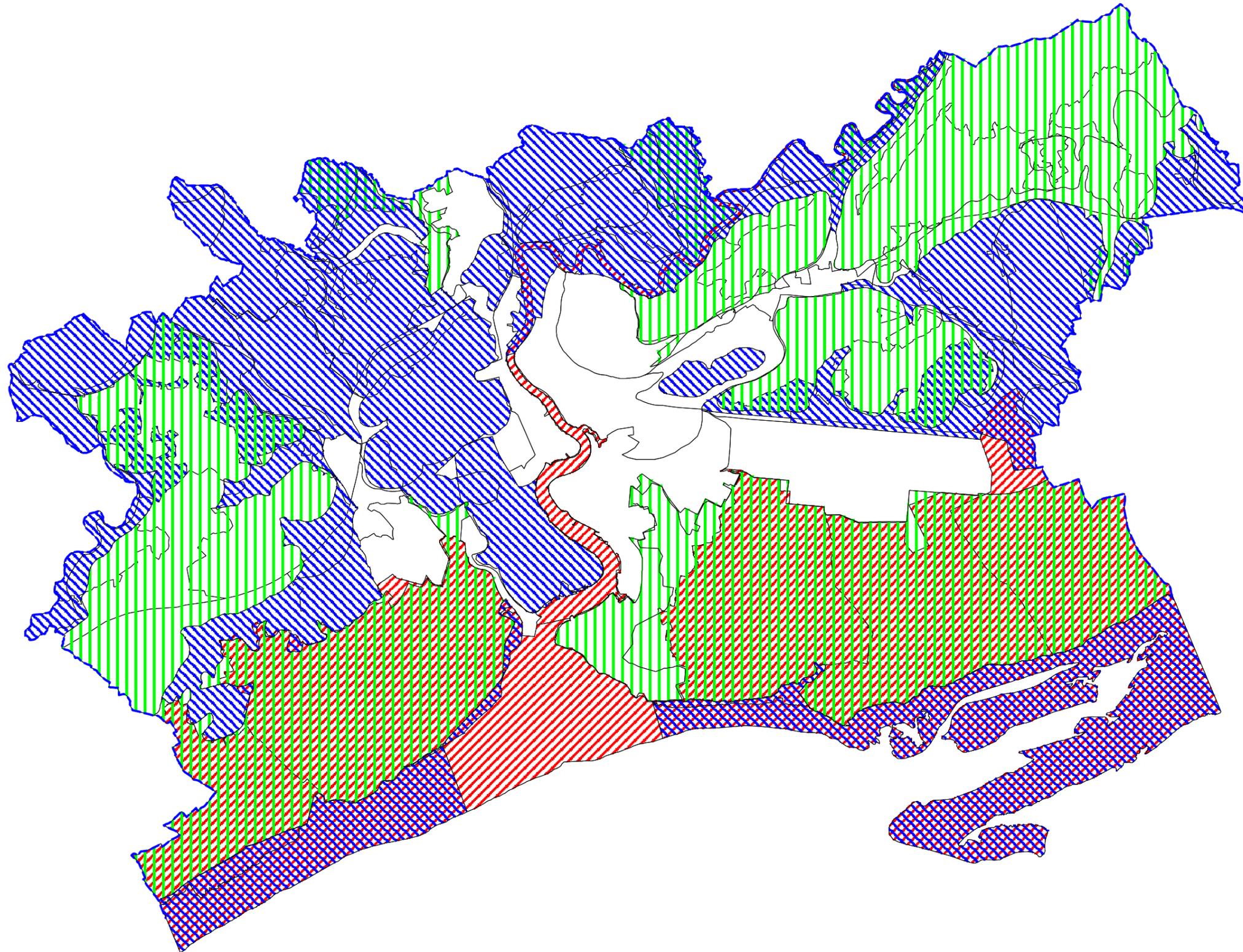
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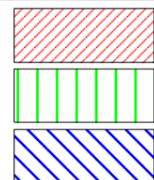
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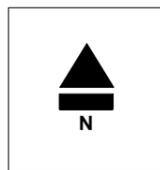
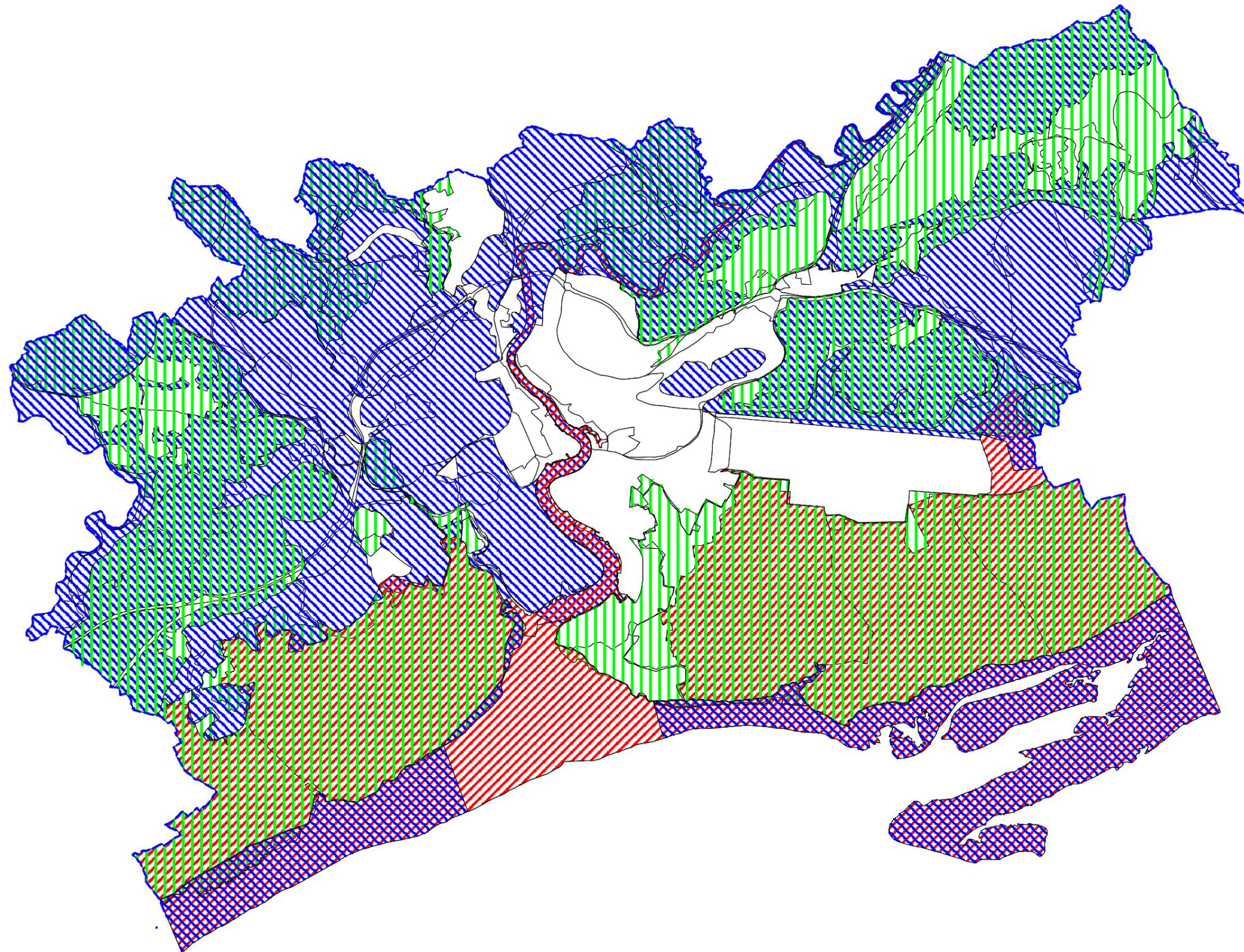
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High
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-  Outstanding
-  High
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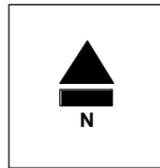
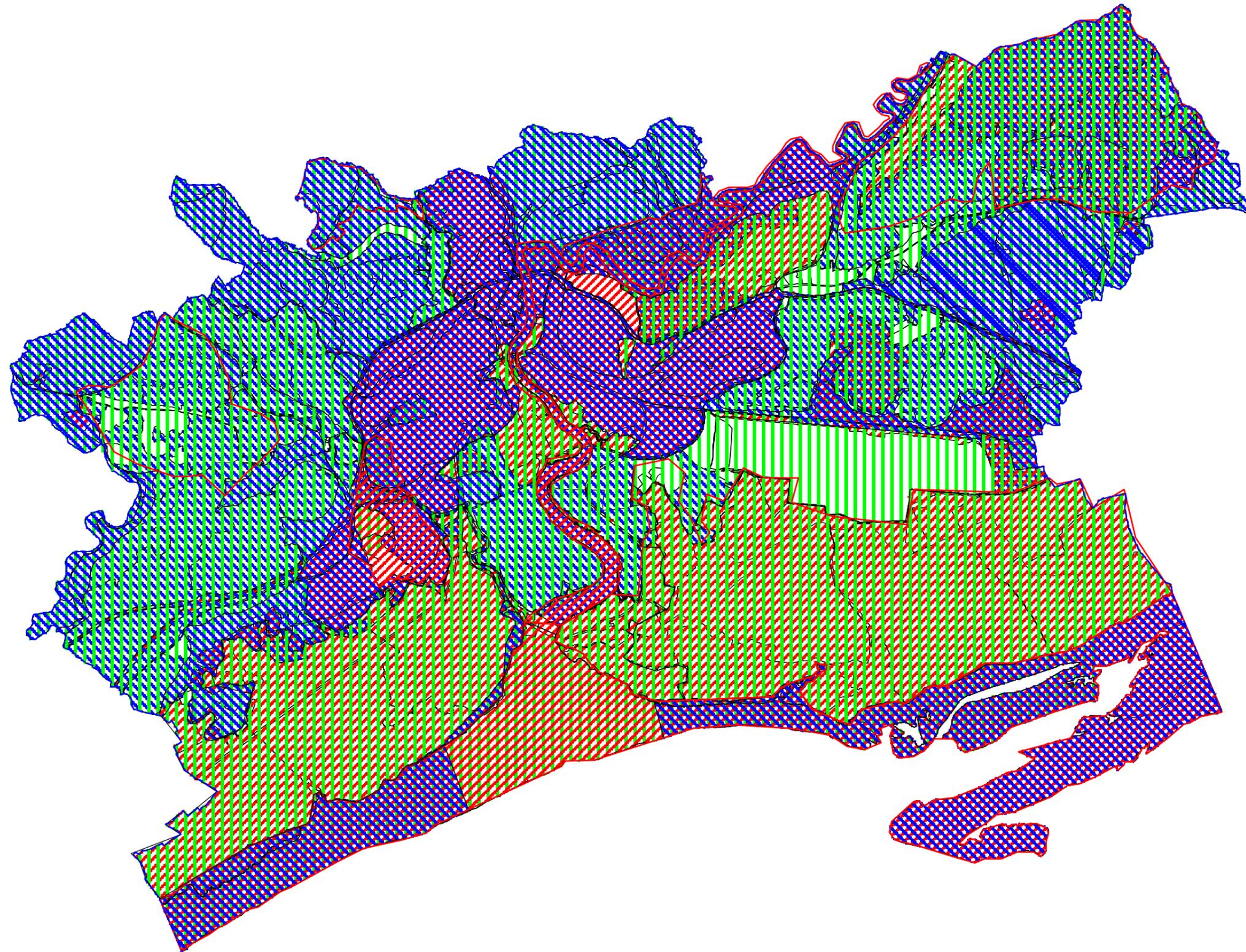
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**Geological, Landscape Habitat and
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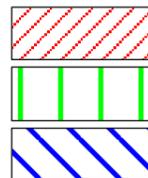
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KEY



Outstanding

High

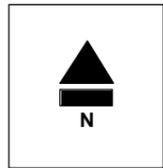
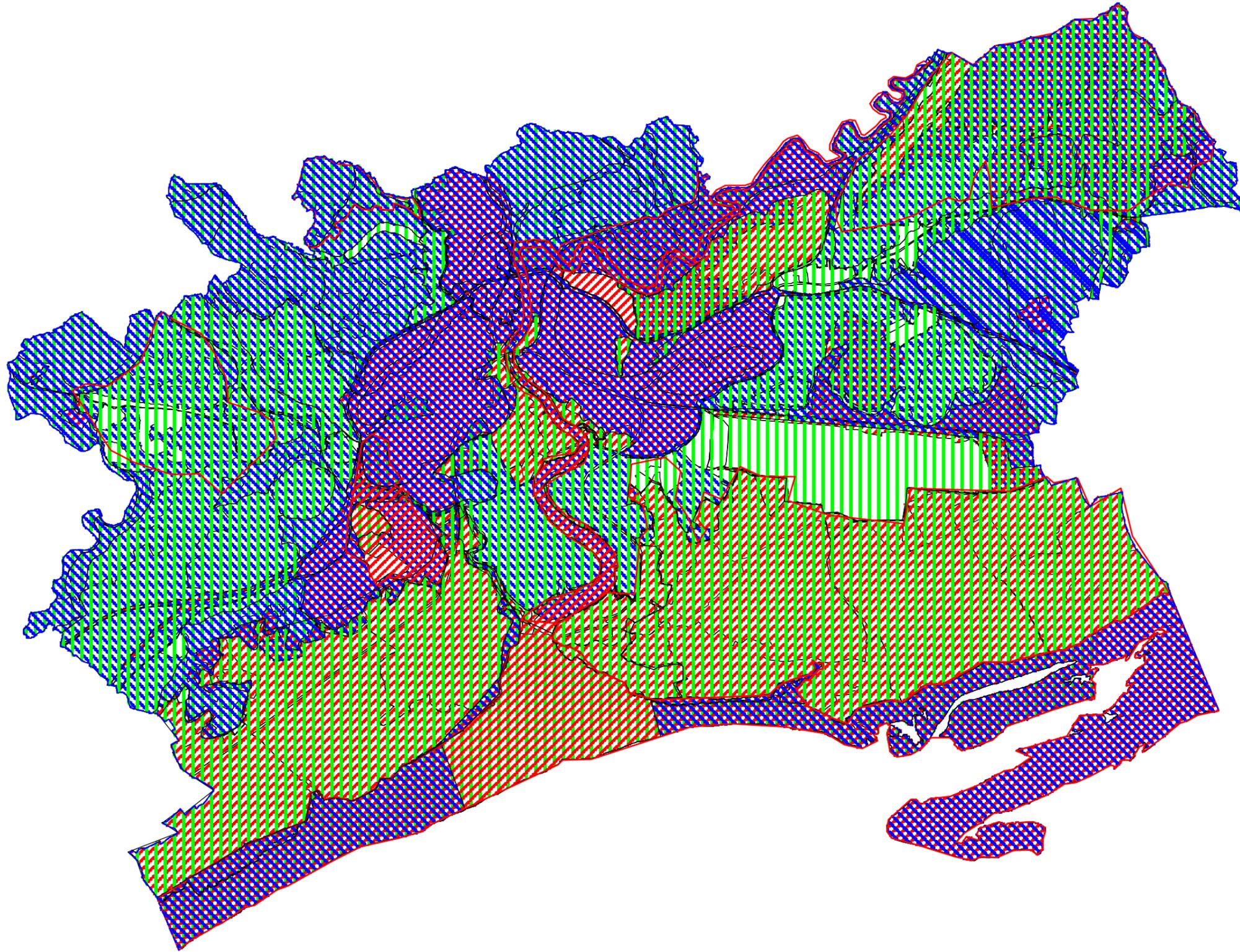
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Aspect Layers**

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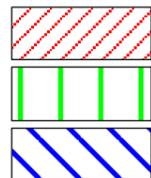
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Outstanding

High

Moderate

----- County Boundary

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Sensory, Historical Landscapes and
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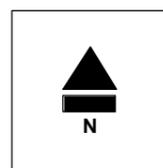
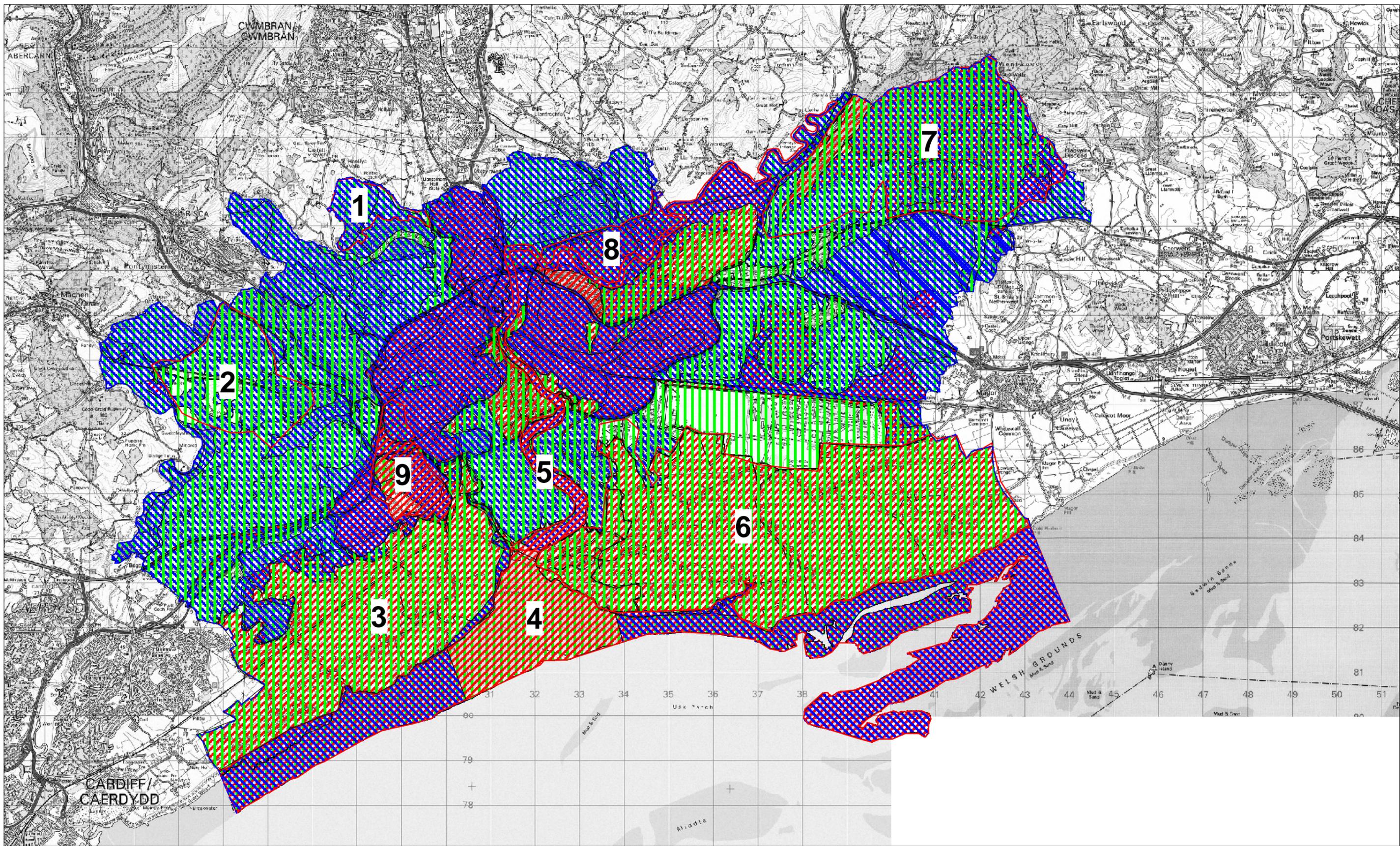
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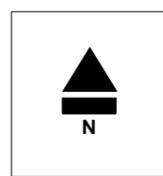
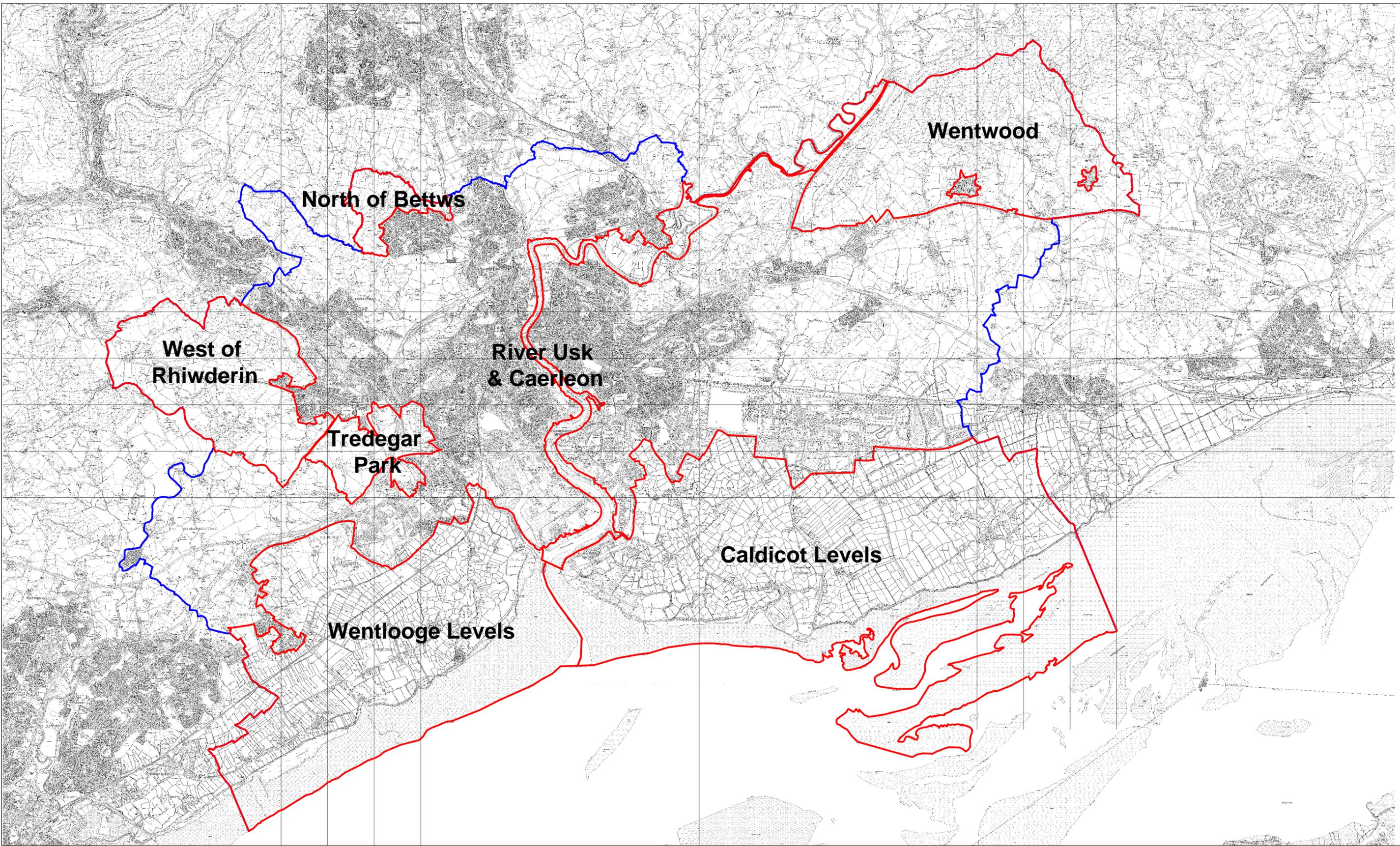


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KEY	
	Outstanding
	High
	Moderate
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	Broad Search Area

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**All aspect layers and identified
Broad Search Areas**

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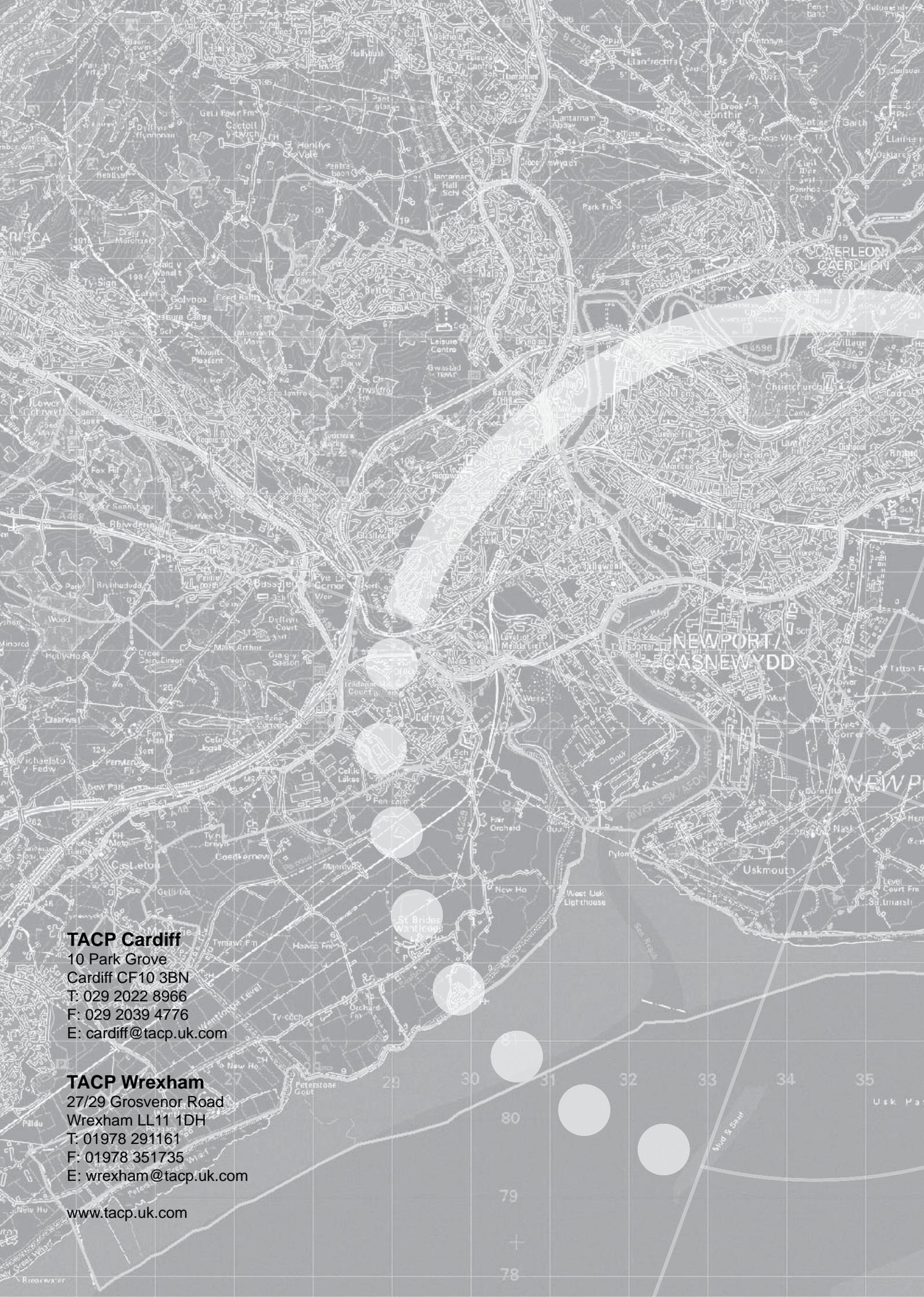


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Special Landscape Areas

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10 Park Grove
Cardiff CF10 3BN
T: 029 2022 8966
F: 029 2039 4776
E: cardiff@taccp.uk.com

TACP Wrexham
27/29 Grosvenor Road
Wrexham LL11 1DH
T: 01978 291161
F: 01978 351735
E: wrexham@taccp.uk.com

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Appendix 2 – Natural Resources Wales (formerly Countryside Council for Wales), LANDMAP information guidance note 1 (June 2008)



LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 1

LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas

June 2008

1. Introduction and Context

The Countryside Council for Wales & Landscape Policy

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. CCW aims to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales. CCW is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

CCW's landscape remit includes:

- Providing a Wales-wide framework of landscape information for planning, management and decision making as advocated by the European Landscape Convention
- Providing advice on identifying statutory and non-statutory national landscape designations
- General duty for the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty of Wales in both areas designated for their natural beauty, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and elsewhere
- As Government's statutory advisors in relation to National Parks and AONBs to provide advice on planning issues, management planning, designation, raising awareness of their purposes; and for National Parks only to provide advice on member appointments and budget allocation
- With Cadw and the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, maintaining and promoting the use of the non-statutory Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales
- Identifying, recording and monitoring the character, qualities and distinct identity of landscapes across Wales through its landscape assessment programme, LANDMAP, and its seascape work
- Providing advice to planning authorities and others on developments that may affect the landscape
- Awarding grants to local authorities and organisations for projects with landscape and access objectives that will improve and enhance the landscape and increase opportunities for enjoying the diverse landscapes of Wales
- To provide opportunities for enjoyment and education in relation to CCW's functions including landscape

This guidance note is the first in a series of CCW guidance notes on LANDMAP and landscape related topics. This particular guidance note presents the national framework and methodology for using LANDMAP to identify the local landscape designation, Special Landscape Area.

2. National Landscape Designations in Wales

Wales hosts national, local, statutory and non-statutory landscape designations. The relationship of a potential SLA should be considered within the context of that wider framework of designations. In brief, the following landscape designations apply within Wales.

National Parks are extensive tracts of country which by reason of their natural beauty and the opportunities they afford for open-air recreation are nationally important landscapes and therefore it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them. The purposes of National Parks are to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities which they were designated for.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are areas whose distinctive landscape character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them. The primary purpose of an AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The needs of agriculture, forestry, rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities should also be taken into consideration. The demand for recreation can be met but must be consistent with the conservation of natural beauty.

Heritage Coasts in Wales are the most scenically outstanding stretches of undeveloped and unspoilt coast. Of the 14 Heritage Coasts in Wales 11 lie adjacent to a National Park or an AONB.

The Register of **Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales** identifies a selection of 58 of the best surviving examples of different types of historic landscape, of which 28 are partially or entirely within either a National Park or AONB. The Cadw sponsored Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project goes on to record in detail the character of those landscapes on the Register, and will be gradually extended to cover other parts of Wales, including urban areas.

World Heritage Sites (WHS) have 'outstanding universal value' and are designated to protect and preserve sites of cultural and natural heritage around the world. Wales has two outstanding cultural WHS and one submitted on the tentative list.

National Parks and AONBs are designated under national legislation. In landscape and planning terms National Parks and AONBs are equal in status. Heritage Coasts and historic landscapes on the Register are non-statutory designations. However, where Heritage Coasts coincide with a protected landscape (National Park or AONB) they have legal protection and are often integrated into the management for that area. Historic Landscapes identified on the Register have no special protection but the Register, and WHS, are a material consideration in the planning process and detailed guidance on its use is set out in the Guide to Good Practice on using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process (2nd revised edition, Cadw, 2007). The aim of the Register is to draw attention to the value of these landscapes when planning applications and developments are considered. WHS have no statutory basis but have comprehensive Management Plans.

3. Local Landscape Designations in Wales

Local Planning Authorities may designate, at their discretion, areas of landscape importance within their county with a local landscape designation (LLD). These LLDs may be included in their Unitary or Local Development Plan (UDP, LDP respectively) to identify areas where special landscape policies apply.

Local Landscape Designations in Wales are frequently known as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and for the purpose of this paper this term shall be applied.

Special Landscape Areas are a non-statutory designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary. Areas of high landscape importance may be designated for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape. Landscapes designated as a SLA may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the local authority area.

4. LANDMAP

Each Authority in Wales should be supported by a rigorous and consistent landscape assessment identifying key landscape characteristics and qualities that can be used to aid planning policy and decisions. In Wales, LANDMAP (Box 1) is the formally adopted methodology for landscape assessment and is advocated by Planning Policy Wales (Box 2). LANDMAP is a whole landscape approach that covers all landscapes, designated and non-designated. The major urban areas of Swansea and Cardiff are currently excluded.

Box 1 LANDMAP: the Welsh approach to Landscape Assessment

LANDMAP (CCW, 2003) is an all-Wales GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. LANDMAP comprises five spatially related datasets known as the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, the Historic Landscape and the Cultural landscape. LANDMAP Information is collected in a structured and rigorous way that is defined by the LANDMAP methodology. Further information can be obtained from www.ccw.gov.uk/landmap.

LANDMAP is a partnership programme between the Countryside Council for Wales and all of the local planning and national park authorities of Wales. Complete, quality assured, coverage of all five layers within each Authority is expected in 2008 thereby providing a nationally consistent resource for landscape planning and decision making.

National coverage provides an opportunity to use Landmap in identifying or revising SLAs. It also provides the opportunity for SLAs to be regionally contextualised and consistent at planning authority administrative boundaries.

Box 2 Relevant extracts from Welsh Assembly Government “Planning Policy Wales”, March 2002

Section 5.3.11 “Non statutory designations, such as Special Landscape Areas...should be soundly based on a formal scientific assessment of the nature conservation, landscape or geological value of the site. Local non-statutory sites can add value to the planning process particularly if such designations are informed by community participation and reflect community values.....”

Section 5.3.13 CCW’s LANDMAP information system methodology is an important information resource upon which local planning authorities can draw in making the landscape assessments needed to inform local policy, guidance and decision making in this field...they can help inform supplementary planning guidance on landscape assessment (covering, for example, ...special landscape areas...).

5. LANDMAP or LANDMAP plus SLAs?

Significant improvements in landscape policy work can be made by using criteria based policies underpinned by LANDMAP assessments. Comprehensive, consistent and quality assured LANDMAP assessments provide the required evidence needed to inform and support criteria based policies and plans. Criteria based approaches fulfil the whole landscape approach of the European Landscape Convention.

However, some authorities may consider that their landscapes can be managed more effectively by adopting a dual approach to landscape management. In this dual approach, all landscapes will be underpinned equally by LANDMAP, but in addition to this, some landscapes of county importance will be specifically identified as a SLA with additional guidance being produced for these key landscapes.

The key issue for each local planning authority is whether to apply a SLA Designation. It is important that the local planning authority makes an individual choice.

6. Special Landscape Areas

A SLA may be designated for one or more reasons but the role of the SLA must be clearly aligned with the original need for the SLA in order to fulfil the objective of the designation. It is important that the role of a SLA has been carefully considered in conjunction with what a local planning authority is trying to achieve with its other policies for the authority.

Potential role of SLAs

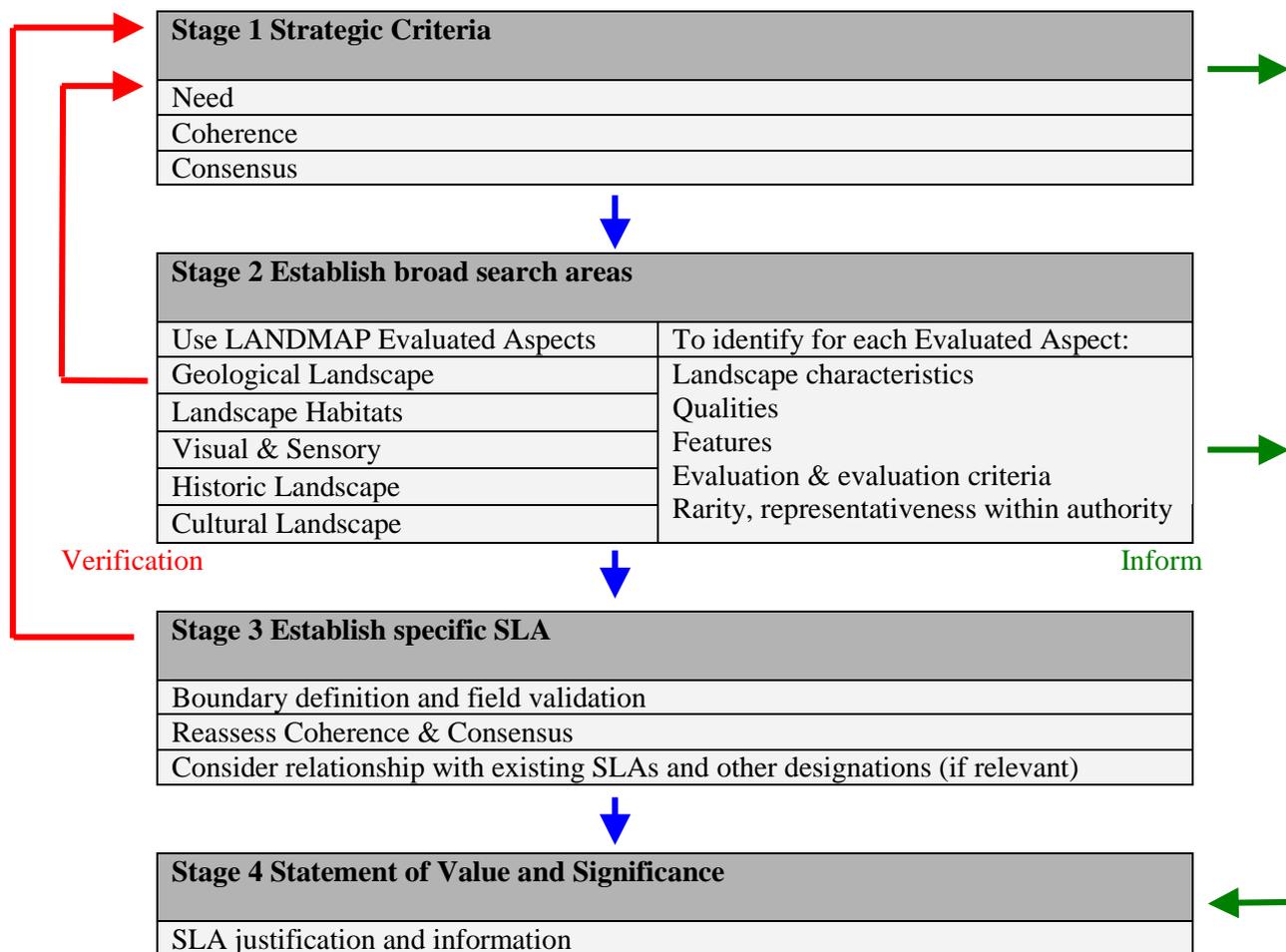
- Raise understanding and recognition of locally valued landscapes important for their distinctive character, qualities and sense of place/bro
- An additional development control measure specific to landscape protection where the policy objectives for an SLA could be used as a primary reason for refusal for inappropriate developments
- To influence positive landscape planning within the SLA. For example to produce design guidance for developments to be in keeping with or enhance landscape character or to target grants towards conservation of special landscape features

7. SLA Methodology for Local planning Authorities

A pre-requisite to identifying SLAs is a complete LANDMAP study for the local authority as much of the information required depends upon this information being readily available. The LANDMAP SLA methodology has four stages, these are summarised in figure 1 and detailed in the following sections. The model is an iterative process, it is expected that the findings at each stage should be reassessed back through Stage 1 to ensure continued validity of the proposed SLA. The Stage 1 Strategic Criteria “coherence” and “consensus” will have greater weight/significance after the SLA areas are drafted but they should be considered from the outset of the process.

Figure 1 Model for identifying potential SLAs using LANDMAP

Source: TACP (2007)



8. Stage 1 Strategic Criteria

Stage 1 Strategic Criteria
Need
Coherence
Consensus

Planning Policy Wales, March 2002, Section 5.3.11, states “Local planning authorities should apply these (SLA) designations...where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection...” Therefore SLAs must demonstrate a need for this designation that is above and beyond existing policies for landscape management and protection.

Need is identified as a Strategic Criteria in Stage 1 of the model to distinguish potential SLAs, SLAs can be reviewed and reassessed against need at stages 2 and 3. Need must relate to purpose, but need may vary between authorities, as may purpose between SLAs. Within a Special Landscape Area the conservation of the visual, ecological, historic, cultural and geological landscape must be the primary consideration or purpose. Identification of a valid, defensible and clearly justified need for a SLA is paramount to an effective designation.

The following questions should be asked when assessing need. Are normal countryside development controls and design policies adequate to protect the character and features that make the landscape special? If a need is identified for added landscape protection, what will the SLA offer in addition to Town and Country Planning Policies? What would be the added value? Are SLAs robust and justifiable in relation to other policies within an authority? Can existing SLAs still be justified? Is the

SLA locally distinct enough to be included in the Local Development Plan? Authorities should determine what guidance will accompany the designation.

Examples of potential circumstances resulting in a need for a SLA

Identification for protection of intrinsic value

- A locally important landscape has visual, cultural, historical, geological or ecological characteristics and qualities of such significance in the local context as to be worthy of identification as a Special Landscape Area. No statutory landscape designations protect the landscape yet evidence from a landscape assessment justifies the requirement of effective protection to safeguard the locally important and locally valued landscape characteristics and qualities.
- A particular landscape type is locally or regionally rare. There is therefore a requirement to safeguard the conservation of a landscape of notable rarity that adds to local or regional distinctiveness and diversity.
- An opportunity to safeguard a locally significant landscape valued for its proximity to settlements and is therefore under pressure for development. The landscape in question has a limited capacity for change or further cumulative change without significantly deteriorating in character, quality and therefore local landscape value.
- A locally important landscape has its own significant visual, cultural, historical, geological or ecological characteristics and qualities but would also protect the settings and views to and from other statutory landscape designations and would therefore contribute to and enhance the landscape policies of an adjacent designation.

Need for clarity in policy constraints

- A Special Landscape Designation is required to focus planning policy objectives, identify policy constraints relevant to a particular area and to give greater weight to landscape considerations in decision making. Where appropriate, the SLA designation should be a material consideration for refusal of planning applications. Clarity must be given as to why a SLA designation could be used a basis to refuse a proposal in addition to existing policies.
- The range and purpose of other designations does not duplicate the SLA designation. The scope of existing designations and existing open countryside and development control policies is deemed to not adequately protect/enhance landscape interests. The designation of areas as SLAs adds extra protection/guidance/information. However, SLAs should not be designated to prevent a perceived threat of development when other planning policies (e.g. green belt/wedges) may be more appropriate.
- To highlight to decision makers the need for landscape change that is in keeping with the distinctive local landscape character and qualities, thereby safeguarding distinctiveness and landscape value whilst allowing appropriate change.
- To produce policy guidance for an SLA that is clear and easily conveys a landscapes special characteristics, qualities and local value without the need for specialist knowledge thereby making it easily understood by planning officers, developers and land managers (agriculture and forestry).

Focused Management and Promotion

- The SLA designation is intended to raise awareness of the special characteristics, qualities and importance of a locally valued landscape so that it can be promoted as a positive management tool for targeted landscape management guidelines and grant bids.
- Raise awareness and recognition for valued landscapes outside of nationally designated areas.
- Development proposals can benefit from design guidance that is produced for an SLA to enhance development quality and to encourage developments that are in keeping with local character.
- For some authorities, it may be found that SLAs are not the most appropriate course as they may be difficult to distinguish from the wider landscape or that a clear, robust and defensible need can not be established. In these circumstances the whole landscape policy approach underpinned by criteria based policies may be more appropriate. Likewise if the coverage of other statutory, national designations is significant within an authority, careful consideration must be given as to whether it is appropriate to add more designations.

Stage 1 Strategic Criteria
Need
Coherence
Consensus

A SLA will be designated for its intrinsic value; as such the size, scale and boundaries will be determined by the landscape character displaying the values for which it is designated. There is no minimum size. However, the area that is designated must be large enough to allow landscape policy and management objectives to be developed and fulfilled.

In some SLAs, a coherent and defensible boundary for an SLA may encompass *small* parts of the local landscape that does not display the same high landscape importance. It is the prerogative of the local planning authority to make the decision to include areas of lower landscape importance as long as a clear and defensible justification is made, and can be made at an Inquiry, and they form a *minority* part of the SLA. Circumstances when this may occur may be:

- To include an integral area of similar topography or land cover that could be enhanced
- A proportionately small area of active mineral or other workings that could be restored to a high quality landscape
- A SLA is identified across an adjacent local authority boundary and a case can be made for continuity including provision for landscape improvement of the “mutually shared” landscape.

In some instances, there may be a part of the landscape that is significantly affected by existing or planned new development or is characterised by significant detractors or damage so that a case may be made to exclude the area from the SLA.

Coherence should be considered when drafting the broad search areas and reassessed at the specific SLA stage.

Stage 1 Strategic Criteria
Need
Coherence
Consensus

Consultation on the Local Development Plan or other Landscape Policy Plans provides the opportunity for input into the SLA designation. The LANDMAP approach includes opportunities for

participation and input from professionals and stakeholders through the Local User Information Groups, and these groups could be reconvened for this purpose. Local communities could potentially input through the LANDMAP public perception studies. These studies can help identify what is of local importance and in identifying a sense of place/identity or bro.

Where need is clearly identified and coherence and consensus taken into account, the following sections will guide authorities through the identification and justification of a SLA.

9. Stage 2 Establish Broad Search Areas

Stage 2 Establish Broad Search Areas	
Use LANDMAP Evaluated Aspects (5 spatial datasets in GIS format)	To identify for each Evaluated Aspect:
Geological Landscape	Landscape characteristics
Landscape Habitats	Qualities
Visual & Sensory	Features
Historic Landscape	Evaluation & evaluation criteria
Cultural Landscape	Rarity, representativeness within authority

This stage identifies broad search areas that are then refined at Stage 3. The broad search areas are determined from the five LANDMAP Evaluated Aspects: the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, the Historic Landscape and the Cultural Landscape. The LANDMAP overall evaluation score and LANDMAP evaluation criteria for each evaluated aspect layer will be particularly informative at this stage.

In LANDMAP each Evaluated Aspect (spatial layer) is divided up into discrete geographical units (polygons in GIS) referred to as aspect areas. Each aspect area is distinctly defined by its unique landscape characteristics and qualities. Every aspect area has a unique survey record which details the aspect areas classification, important or dominant characteristics and qualities, management recommendations and evaluation. For any given authority, there will be five evaluated aspect GIS layers, each with their own collection of aspect areas and survey records.

By using the classification, evaluation and landscape information for the aspect areas within each evaluated aspect, broad SLAs can be drafted and refined. Examples of this follow in this section.

Understanding LANDMAP Evaluation Scores

All aspect areas have a single overall evaluation score. The overall score is calibrated from a local to an international scale of importance, their definition is summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1 LANDMAP Overall Evaluated Score

Overall evaluation score	Definition of importance to the evaluated aspect...
Outstanding	International or national
High	Regional or county
Moderate	Local
Low	Little or no importance

The overall evaluation scores for each aspect area are derived from the individual scores attributed to each evaluation criteria for a specific evaluated aspect. The same scale of importance is applied as identified in table 1. The evaluation criteria for each Evaluated Aspect is summarised in table 2 below and an example of how this all comes together in table 3.

Table 2 LANDMAP Evaluated Aspects Evaluation Criteria

Geological Landscape	Landscape Habitats	Visual & Sensory	Historic Landscape	Cultural Landscape
Research Value Educational value Historical Value Rarity/uniqueness Classic Example	Priority habitats Significance Opportunity Decline rates Threat Fragmentation Importance for key species	Scenic quality Integrity Character Rarity	Integrity Survival Condition Rarity Potential	Recognition/transparency Period Rarity Documentation Group value Survival Vulnerability Diversity Potential

Table 3 Evaluation Criteria and Overall Evaluation Score for Gelligaer Common Aspect Area CynonVS404 of the Visual & Sensory layer, Caerphilly

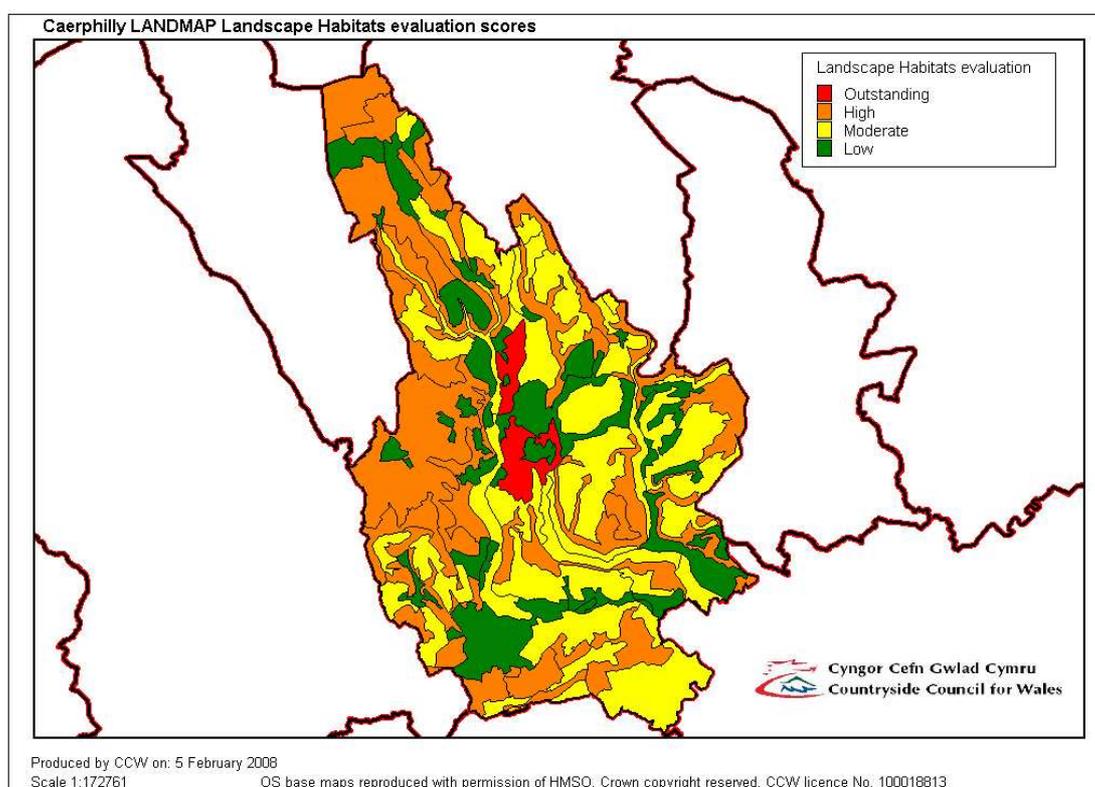
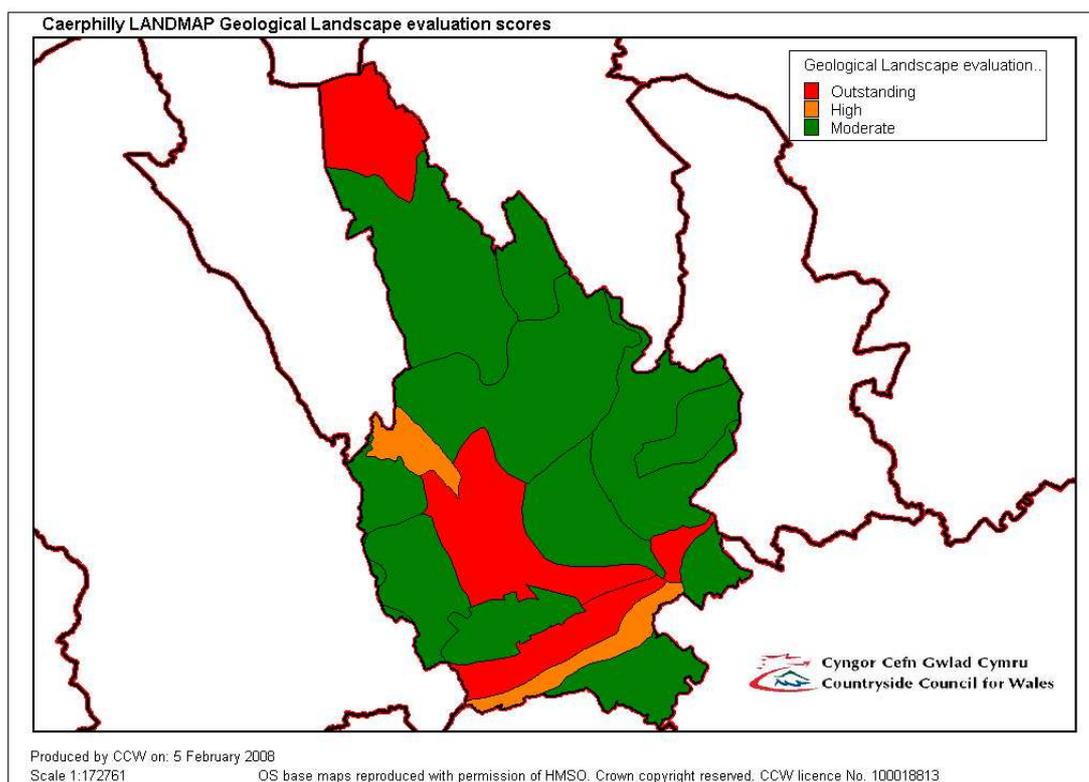
LANDMAP Classification: Upland/Exposed Upland/Plateau/Upland Grazing (Level 3)			
Visual & Sensory Evaluated Aspect	Individual Evaluation Criteria Score	Overall evaluation	Justification
Scenic quality	High Largely unspoilt.	High Views with exposed, open feel.	Both high and moderate criteria, area is quite open and wild with some attractive views.
Integrity	Moderate Moderate sense of place.		
Character	Moderate		
Rarity	High Attractive largely unspoilt upland area with good views		

The overall evaluation score and evaluation criteria can be spatially mapped to aid in the identification of potential SLAs.

The thematic maps in figure 2 define the *overall evaluation score* for four individual layers in the County Borough of Caerphilly giving an overall picture of the LANDMAP evaluation scores and their distribution.

The thematic map in figure 3 takes into account *both the LANDMAP overall evaluation and the evaluation criteria*. In this instance, all 5 evaluated aspects and all 30 evaluation criteria are considered, all evaluation criteria have equal weighting. In the final calculations, account is taken of the circumstances where there may be an inequality in the number of evaluation criteria between the evaluated aspects (i.e. some have four criteria, others nine) and where some criteria are unassessed (i.e. not evaluated). Final maps can be viewed as images or as thematic maps in a GIS environment where the underlying database containing the overall evaluation and evaluation criteria can be interrogated and viewed. The example in figure 3 is taken from the LANDMAP studies for 6 of the South Wales local planning authorities, the deeper the red or higher the value then the higher the recorded evaluations.

Figure 2 Overall Evaluation Scores for the Geological landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory and Cultural Landscape in Caerphilly



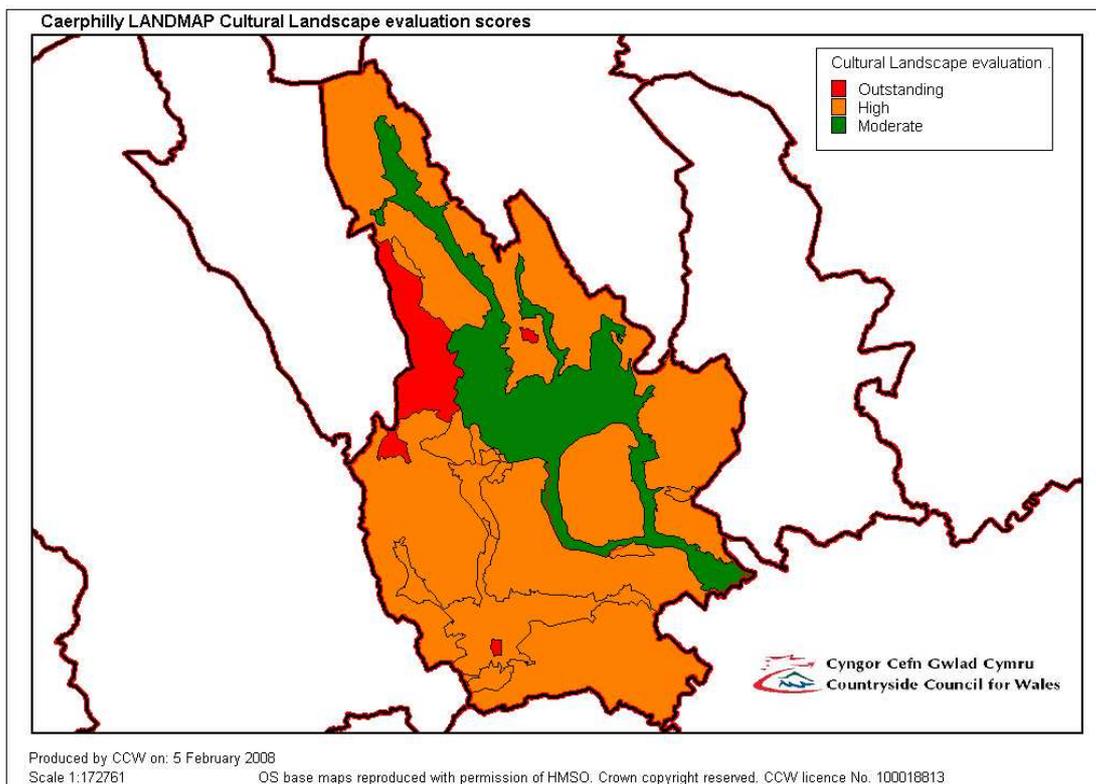
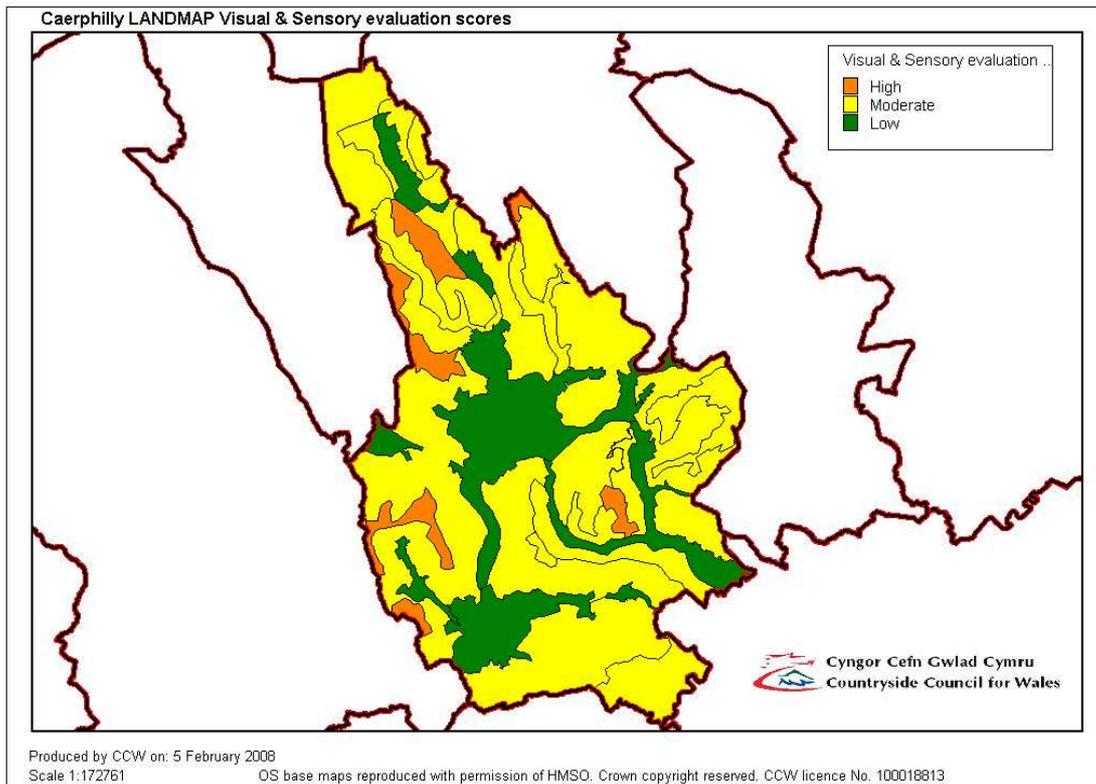
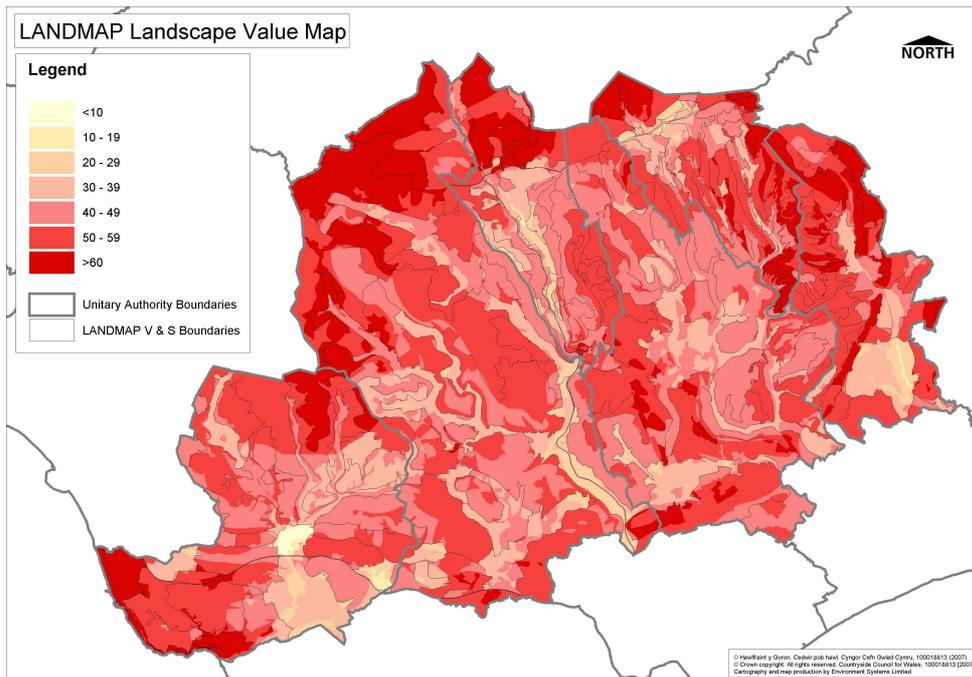
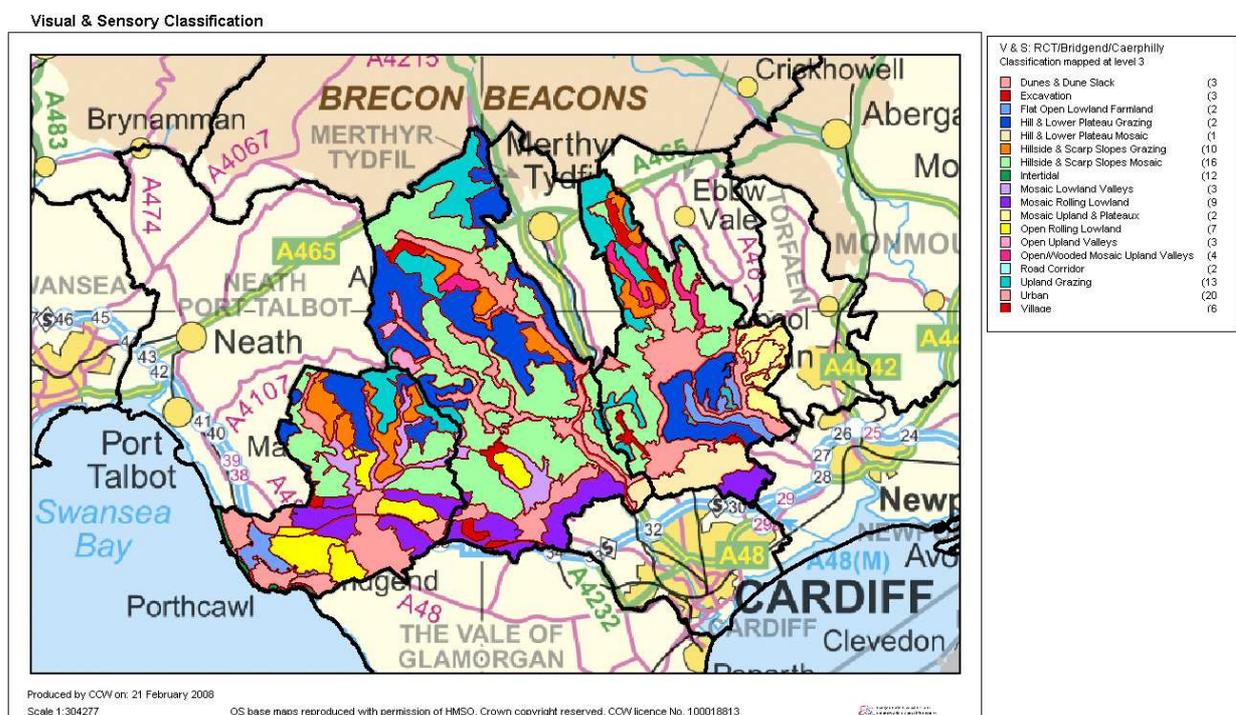


Figure 3 Landscape value map showing the combined evaluation scores for all 5 aspects, (incomplete coverage for the historic layer) Source: Environment Systems 2007



Rarity, representativeness and landscape type for all five evaluated aspects should be included in the identification of SLAs. One way to effectively illustrate rarity, representativeness and landscape type using LANDMAP Information is to create thematic maps using the hierarchical classification unique to each evaluated aspect. An example is shown in figure 6 of the Visual & Sensory classification for Caerphilly, landscape types are colour coded and spatially mapped across the authorities.

Figure 4 Visual & Sensory Classification Caerphilly/RCT/Bridgend



Before progressing to Stage 3 of the model, the broad SLAs should be verified by reassessing them in the context of Stage 1 Strategic Criteria. If they are upheld, progress to Stage 3.

Stage 3 Establish Specific Special Landscape Area

Stage 3 Establish Specific SLA
Boundary definition and field validation
Coherence & Consensus
Consider relationship with existing SLAs (if relevant)

SLAs are further refined in Stage 3 by more detailed work on the information resources outlined in Stage 2 and by field verification of the desk based emerging SLAs. At this stage the boundary definitions and the coherence and consensus of the SLA should be assessed.

Boundaries should be precisely drawn based upon the information from Stage 2 and professional judgement. Boundaries should be drawn to coincide with permanent physical features that are identifiable on the ground and can be clearly mapped. Suitable physical features could include roads, rivers, field boundaries or topographical features. Coastal boundaries should be referenced to the CCW Seascape work (White, 2008) within Wales. Boundaries should be drawn based upon landscape information at that point in time and should be drawn to include those features that give the SLA its special qualities. Boundaries should be fully justified and defensible at Public Inquiry.

SLA's may form part of an Authority's Local Development Plan or be integrated with their Planning GIS system. It will therefore be important to capture defensible SLA boundaries to a common base map (e.g. OS derived data or Master Map) to ensure subsequent integration and compatibility.

Where a SLA encompasses or overlaps with other national, local, statutory or non-statutory designations then the statement of value should clearly reference these designations and differentiate between the reasons for designation.

Where a SLA boundary meets a local planning authority boundary, a consensus between the two authorities on the designation of the SLA would be appropriate and promotes regional consistency of local landscape designations.

Stage 3 Establish Specific SLA
Boundary definition and field validation
Coherence & Consensus
Consider relationship with existing SLAs (if relevant)

Reassess against coherence and consensus (Strategic Criteria)

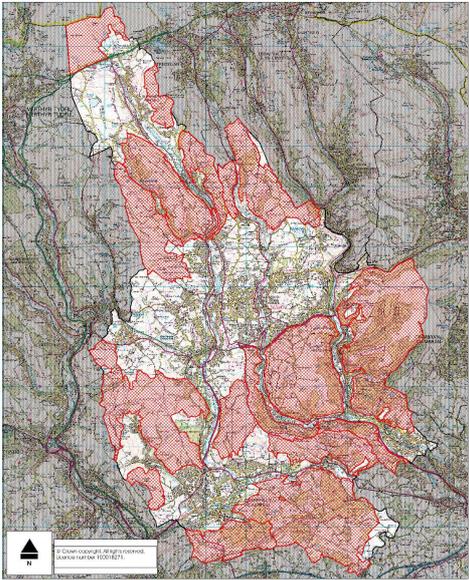
Stage 3 Establish Specific SLA
Boundary definition and field validation
Coherence & Consensus
Consider relationship with existing SLAs and other designated sites (if relevant)

In identifying SLAs, consensus with or divergence from, existing SLAs may occur. The purpose of the review of a local landscape designation is to re-examine the case for SLAs in the context of updated and consistent LANDMAP information. Existing SLAs cannot be automatically lifted into a new LDP. A review of existing SLAs is recommended for inclusion in a LDP.

Caerphilly County Borough Council carried out a review of their SLAs in 2007, the review has recommended six SLAs. Table 4 highlights the change from the original position in 1996 through stages 2 and 3 of the 2007 review to the final proposed SLAs in 2008.

Table 4 Relationship of existing SLAs to proposed SLAs 2008

Source: TACP (2008)

Existing SLAs in Caerphilly (~1995/96)	Stage 2 Broad Search Areas	Stage 3 Specific Search Areas & Areas recommended for SLA designation 2008
	Northern Rhymney Valley	Upper Rhymney Valley
	Gelligaer	Gelligaer Common
	Common/Deri Valley	Mynydd Eglwysilan
	Aberbargoed	North Caerphilly
	Caerphilly environs	South Caerphilly

10. Stage 4 Statement of Value & Significance

Stage 4 Statement of Value

SLA justification and information

The SLA Statement of Value is the primary information source for designated SLAs. All SLAs for a local authority area should be mapped in a GIS environment and a technical report should draw together all the Statements of Value for the identified SLAs.

Table 5 Suggested headings for inclusion in the SLA Statement of Value & Significance

Title	Name of SLA should reflect its location and be locally recognisable perhaps reflecting a sense of place/bro
Location map	Location map at 1:25,000 scale setting the SLA in a landscape context
Boundary justification	Clear explanation for basis of SLA boundaries including identification and explanation of any other designations wholly or partly within the SLA
Photographs	Convey the key characteristics, qualities and features defining the SLA
Relevance against Strategic Criteria	Statement and reasoned justification
Primary landscape qualities and features	Summary description to encapsulate the essence of the SLA in terms of its landscape value and contribution from the physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical landscape. This information can be drawn from the summary descriptions of the LANDMAP Aspect Areas included in the SLA. The written statement of characteristics and qualities should define the relationship between what is important to warrant "special" status
Key policy and management issues	Local authority policy and planning and development documents should be used to inform priorities and develop policies for SLAs. The recommendations from the LANDMAP Aspect Areas are an additional

	information resource. This section should highlight to decision makers what is important and what local features need to be enhanced and protected. The document could also be used to promote awareness and understanding
LANDMAP	List aspect areas that form the SLA from all five Evaluated Aspects

Table 6 Extracts from the Statement of Value “Relevance against Strategic Criteria” for Gelli-gaer Common, Caerphilly Source: TACP (2008).

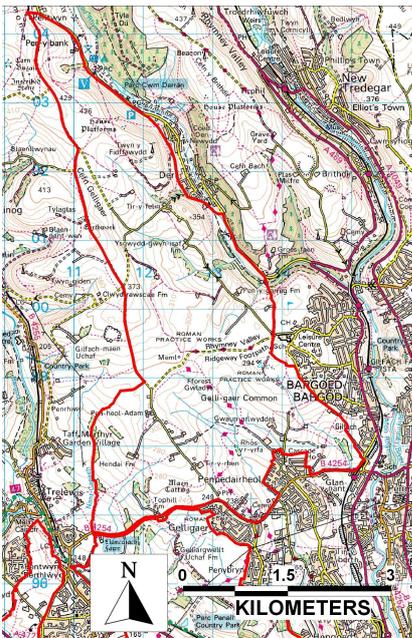
Gelligaer Common SLA 2008	Primary landscape qualities and features
	<p>An extensive, increasingly rare upland landscape in south east Wales, exhibiting numerous examples of continuity of land use from prehistoric times. An open exposed landscape, it has distinct visual and sensory characteristics with extensive views over the coalfield plateau and up to the Brecon Beacons, together with the sense of wind noise and disturbance. Designated as common land, the majority of the area exhibits typical upland heath vegetation. There are a number of statutory and non-statutory environmental designations. Its western edge is formed by the boundary with Merthyr Tydfil Borough along the Cefn Gelligaer and further south the Nant Caiach. The remainder of its boundary is established by the road network and settlement pattern around Penpedairheol and Bargoed, and along the Bargoed Rhymney Valley around Deri and Parc Cwm Darran. The eastern flank of the SLA is typified by more rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinneys and hedgerows. Many of the fields are improved grassland. There are a number of vegetation lined minor streams. Physically it is a characteristic glaciated upland landscape and includes at its southern end part of the fault bounded ‘col’, formed by glacial melt waters and linking the Taf and Rhymney Valleys. Today this is used by the cross valley B4254 road.</p>
Need	<p>The core of the area - Gelligaer Common - represents an important and increasingly rare upland landscape within south east Wales exhibiting continuity of land use over many centuries. This is reflected in the archaeological remains from pre Roman times. The area offers extensive opportunities for recreation and access although there are signs of degradation and loss of quality through fly tipping and litter in general. The surrounding, more lowland areas above Penpedairheol, Bargoed and Deri form both physical and visual buffer zones to the core SLA.</p>
Coherence	<p>The area is based upon a distinct, upland landscape unit. The western boundary is formed by the boundary with Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council, along Cefn Gelligaer, however the landscape unit continues into the Merthyr Tydfil area. The other buffer zones are included to establish appropriate, defensible boundaries and reflect the intervisibility between the two landscape units.</p>
Consensus	<p>It relates closely to an existing SLA designated under the Rhymney Valley Landscape Strategy. Professional Stakeholders have supported the designation.</p>

Table 7 Extracts from the Statement of Value Evaluation Validation for Gelli-gaer Common, Caerphilly. Source: TACP (2008).

Evaluated Aspect	Aspect Area Identifier	Overall Evaluation Score	Individual Evaluation Criteria & Score								
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Geological	GL 008	Moderate	M	L	L	L					
	GL 009	Moderate	M	L	L	L					
	GL 051	High	H	M	H	H					
Landscape Habitats	LH 112	High	H	H	M	M	M	M	H	U	
	LH 116	High	H	H	M	M	M	M	H	M	
	LH 123	Moderate	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
	LH 128	Moderate	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H	
	LH 133	High	H	M	M	H	M	H	H	H	
	LH 142	High	H	M	M	M	M	M	H	H	
Visual and Sensory	VS 114	Low	L	L	M	L					
	VS 143	Moderate	M	M	M	M					
	VS 308	Moderate	M	M	M	M					
	VS 404	High	H	H	M	M					
	VS 785	Moderate	M	M	M	M					
Historical Landscapes	HL 602	Unassessed									
	HL 634	Unassessed									
	HL 831	Unassessed									
Cultural	CL 045	High	M	O	L	U	H	M	M	H	U
	CL 051	Outstanding	M	O	H	H	H	H	L	H	U
	CL 056	High	H	H	L	L	O	H	L	H	U

Key to Table 7 LANDMAP evaluation criteria

Geological Landscape	Landscape Habitats	Visual & Sensory	Historic Landscape	Cultural Landscape
1. Research Value Educational value 2. Historical Value 3. Rarity/uniqueness 4. Classic Example	1. Priority habitats 2. Significance 3. Opportunity 4. Decline rates 5. Threat 6. Fragmentation 7. Habitat evaluation 8. Importance for key species	1. Scenic quality 2. Integrity 3. Character 4. Rarity	Unassessed (Gelli-gaer Common is on the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales)	1. Recognition/transparency 2. Period 3. Rarity 4. Documentation 5. Group value 6. Survival 7. Vulnerability 8. Diversity 9. Potential
Each of the evaluation scores in table 7 are colour coded as follows:				
Red	-	Outstanding		
Green	-	High		
Blue	-	Moderate		
Yellow	-	Low		
White	-	Unassessed		

11. References & Further Information

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TACP (2008) Caerphilly County Borough Council Designation of Special Landscape Areas. Project No. 8247

Welsh Assembly Government (2002) Planning Policy Wales ISBN 0 7504 2854 6

White, S (2008) Regional seascape assessment for Wales. Countryside Council for Wales Policy Research Report No. 08/3.

12. Monitoring and Review

As a non-statutory landscape designation, SLAs should be subject to monitoring and review. The timing and frequency of this will be determined by the local planning authority. Reviews of SLAs could be timed to coincide with any monitoring and updating of LANDMAP Information and/or an authority's Local Development Plan review.

13. Contact

Jill Bullen
Cydlynnydd LANDMAP Cymru/LANDMAP Wales Coordinator
Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru/Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, SY23 3EE
ffon/tel: 01970 821107
e-bost/e-mail: j.bullen@ccw.gov.uk

Jenny Kamp
Swyddog Data LANDMAP/ LANDMAP Data Officer
Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru/ Countryside Council for Wales
Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd
Bangor, LL57 2DW
Ffon/Tel: 01248 387283
e-bost/e-mail: j.kamp@ccw.gov.uk

www.ccw.gov.uk/landmap