



Cardiff Landscape Evidence Base Update

Local Landscape Designations

Cardiff City Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

January 2025

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft SLA 1 client issue	H Simeonov	K Davies	K Davies	15.03.2024
2	Full first draft	H Simeonov V Kakar V Vaughan	H Simeonov K Davies	K Davies	14.06.2024
3	Client comments actioned	H Simeonov	H Simeonov	K Davies	01.08.2024
4	Final issue	H Simeonov	H Simeonov	K Davies	28.10.2024
5	Final issue	H Simeonov	H Simeonov	K Davies	10.01.2025



Land Use Consultants Limited

Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Cardiff Council (CC) commissioned LUC in January 2024 to undertake a review of local landscape designations across the local authority area to provide evidence for the emerging Local Development Plan. This report presents the results of the review and recommendations for local landscape designation in Cardiff.

Background

National Policy

1.2 Welsh national planning policy supports the designation of local landscapes. As stated in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, 2024) Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are applied by local planning authorities where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. It states that such designations should not unduly restrict acceptable development. The designation of Special Landscape Areas should set out the features, characteristics or qualities that require extra protection, and explain how the policy or designation will achieve this protection. It also states that LANDMAP and associated landscape character assessments (including the Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales) should be used to inform local landscape policies and to help identify or revise SLAs.

Local policy

1.3 The Council supports the continued use of local landscape designation, particularly for the extra level of protection it provides for the areas of landscape outside the urban area and the green riparian corridors within the urban area.

The boundaries of the existing SLAs are identified in the Cardiff Local Development Plan 2006 – 2026 (adopted in 2016).

1.4 Policy EN3: Landscape Protection, gives particular priority to protecting these valued landscapes from inappropriate development, and to the opportunity to manage and enhance the character and quality of these areas.

"SLAs are designated to protect areas that are considered to be important to the overall landscape of the County due to their visual and sensory, geological, cultural, historical and habitat landscapes. They are intrinsic to the overall character of the area and provide a living history of the evolution of the area's landscape as well as a cultural backdrop and visual setting".

[Policy EN3]

1.5 The SLAs were first identified in the Landscape Study of Cardiff in 1999 [See reference 1] and included the following areas, which are shown on Figure 1:

- St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley;
- Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges;
- Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge;
- Wentloog Levels; and
- Flat Holm.

1.6 A further review in 2008 [See reference 2] proposed to include the three main river valleys which link the urban area with the countryside via green corridors and provide a valuable landscape, amenity, and biodiversity resource. In the 2006- 2026 Local Development Plan these corridors were not included as SLAs but recognised separately as 'strategically important river valleys' under Policy EN4 and have corresponding River Corridor Action Plans:

- River Taff Corridor;
- Nant Fawr and Roath Park; and
- River Rhymney Corridor.

Purpose of the study

1.7 The purpose of this study is to review the Cardiff landscape to identify landscapes of the highest quality and most value that could merit local designation in line with current best practice and national guidance, and to provide up to date evidence and justification for the existing SLA areas and their boundaries.

Chapter 2

Method

2.1 An essential element in reviewing and proposing areas for local landscape designation is the adoption of a consistent, systematic, and transparent process. The methodology for this study draws from Welsh government guidance as well as LUC's experience in undertaking designation reviews elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

National guidance

2.2 National guidance is provided by National Resources Wales (NRW) in 'LANDMAP Guidance Note 1: Landscape Areas' (NRW 2017) (referred to as GN1). The Guidance defines SLAs as:

'Areas of high landscape importance' which 'may be designated for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape. Landscapes designated as an SLA may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the local authority area'.

2.3 GN1 states that there may be multiple applications for an identified SLA:

- To recognise and protect (through development management) locally valued landscapes important for their distinctive character, qualities and sense of place;
- To influence positive landscape planning. For example, by producing design guidance to enhance landscape character or to target land management grants towards the conservation of special landscape features recognised within the SLA;
- To raise understanding and appreciation of the importance of local landscapes by communities, visitors and the wider public.

2.4 The guidance encourages the use of the best available landscape evidence at both a strategic and local scale, this can include Landscape Character Area descriptions in addition to LANDMAP data. Other evidence includes:

- The descriptions of Wales's National Seascape Assessment, as well as any local Seascape Character Assessments undertaken at the Local Planning Authority (LPA) scale;
- The descriptions of the Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales;
- Wales Tranquil Areas Map, 2009;
- Campaign to Protect Rural England's (CPRE) Night Blight mapping, 2000.

Scope of the study

2.5 The geographic scope of this study includes a full review of the whole local authority area, including the existing Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), as shown on Figure 1. SLAs in adjoining local authorities have also been considered to ensure continuity across authority boundaries.

Key stages and tasks

2.6 The review followed four main stages, each focussing in at a more detailed level to develop the candidate SLAs and identifying their qualities.

- **Stage 1: Defining Strategic Criteria** – the study defined a set of practical and landscape criteria, as set out below, against which each potential SLA was judged.
- **Stage 2: Establishing Broad Areas of Search** – this is a Geographic Information System (GIS) exercise overlaying and combining evaluation scores from the LANDMAP classifications to identify broad search areas. The existing SLAs provided a key starting point, but LANDMAP data was also used to refine broad areas of search for the candidate SLAs.

- **Stage 3: Evaluating Candidate SLAs** – individual SLAs were further refined by more detailed desk-based work and field survey. LUC consulted with council officers on the proposed SLAs before proceeding to the next stage.
- **Stage 4: Preparing Statements of Significance** – once the proposed SLAs were agreed they were mapped, and accompanying Statements of Significance are detailed.

Stage 1: Defining strategic criteria

2.7 The first stage of the project defined a set of detailed practical and landscape criteria against which to assess each candidate SLA. Strategic Criteria are set out in NRW's GN1, and these were developed in more detail to ensure the robustness of the candidate SLAs. Areas need to meet both of the two 'Practical Criteria' and at least one of the 'Landscape Criteria.'

Practical criteria

Need

Factors to consider:

- Presence/absence of other designations.
- Strong recommendation from LPA and local support on need for additional level of designation/protection for particular areas.
- Areas where the LPA has identified particular pressures and need for positive planning and management to conserve special character.
- Conservation value of the visual, ecological, historic, cultural and geological landscape.

Sources of evidence: Designations, LCA information. Information on need agreed through steering group meetings with client and informed by support by local community and other stakeholders.

Cohesiveness/ integrity of landscape character

Factors to consider:

- Size – a SLA must be more than an individual landscape feature or site and form a coherent ‘area’.
- Recognisable as a cohesive area– may have distinct boundaries.

Sources of evidence: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscapes and Cultural Landscapes evaluations. LCA information. Field survey.

Landscape criteria

2.8 Areas must have locally important or valued landscape characteristics and qualities e.g. visual, ecological, historic, cultural, and geological value.

Landscape distinctiveness and sense of place

Factors to consider:

- Coherent landscape character conferring a recognisable sense of place.
- Distinct landform or topography forming a discrete and recognisable area.
- Strong character linked to cultural or natural factors – which contribute to understanding of its historic character and wider cultural record or a create a strong degree of naturalness.
- A landscape with particular associations for example with representation in art, music, literature, language or folklore.

Sources of evidence: LANDMAP Visual&Sensory, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscapes and Cultural Landscapes evaluations, LCA information, Historic landscape designations, Nature/wildlife designations, Field survey.

Landscape quality

Factors to consider:

- An intact landscape with characteristic landscape elements well represented throughout.
- A landscape with characteristic elements in good condition.
- Incongruous elements or features not present or not visually intrusive.

Sources of evidence: LANDMAP evaluations (selected questions), LCA information, Field survey.

Scenic quality and perceptual aspects

Factors to consider:

- Strong visual character with memorable, important or distinctive views.
- Special perceptual qualities such as strong sense of tranquillity, ruralness or remoteness.

Sources of evidence: LCA information, LANDMAP (views), Field survey, Intrusion mapping.

Landscape rarity

Factors to consider:

- Classic, rare or unique examples of a landscape.

Sources of evidence: LANDMAP (geological landscape and visual and sensory landscape rarity scores).

Natural or cultural associations

Factors to consider:

- The natural, historic and cultural importance of the landscape or elements within the landscape. These might include designations for biodiversity or historic environment value or cultural associations with the landscape.

Sources of evidence: LANDMAP evaluations (cultural landscape and historic landscape), Landscape, ecological and historic designations, Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping showing presence of national trails, local attractions, Film and media. Visual expression of natural or cultural features/ associations contributing to a distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality.

Recreational value

Factors to consider:

- The capacity of the landscape area for recreational purposes.

Sources of evidence: OS mapping showing presence of national trails, local attractions.

Stage 2: Establishing Broad Areas of Search

2.9 The purpose of Stage 2 was to identify broad search areas for SLAs that can be refined at Stage 3 (Evaluating candidate SLAs). This stage of the process focused on GIS information provided by LANDMAP to discover spatial patterns which might highlight areas worth investigating for local designation.

2.10 There are five LANDMAP aspect layers. Each has their own spatial layer in GIS, which divides the land into discrete geographical units, referred to as 'aspect areas'. Each aspect area has a survey record which documents how it is classified, what its characteristics and qualities are, and how it has been evaluated.

2.11 From LUC's experience of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Landscape Designation review (LUC, 2012), a combined analysis was undertaken of selected LANDMAP data in order to identify broad search areas. A selection was made of the most relevant evaluation criteria within the five aspect layers in

order to undertake targeted analysis. This included the following LANDMAP aspect layers:

- Geological Landscape: classic example.
- Landscape habitats: priority habitats and significance.
- Visual and sensory: scenic quality, integrity, character and rarity.
- Historic landscape: integrity and condition.

2.12 The Cultural Landscape aspect layer was used in the Gwynedd and Anglesey LLD review and included the recognition/ transparency and rarity evaluation criteria. This LANDMAP layer has since been superseded and has not been used for this study. More information on this topic has been included in the **Appendix B**: Additional Information.

2.13 Data for each of the selected aspect areas was obtained as shapefiles provided by NRW. LUC carried out analysis in both tabular and mapped form.

2.14 Within each LANDMAP aspect area, there are a series of questions that are evaluated, based on a four point score as follows:

No value=0, Low=1, Medium=2, High=3, Outstanding=4

2.15 These are represented in **Appendix A** in tabular form for each of the selected LANDMAP aspect layers.

2.16 To assess the relevant LANDMAP aspect layers together, relevant GIS data for each aspect was overlaid and combined. The results were presented spatially using a colour scale to show cumulative values across the study area and identify broad areas of search that scored higher than surrounding areas.

2.17 The criteria related to the setting of nationally designated landscapes are relevant for this study as there are no nationally designated landscapes in the vicinity of the Cardiff area. The closest National Park is the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) is 18 kilometres to the north-east, and the Wye Valley National Landscape is 25 kilometres to the east, while the Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast is approximately 15 kilometres to the south-west. The non-statutory Gwent Levels Registered Landscape of Outstanding and Special

Interest in Wales is partially within the Cardiff area and extends to the north-east towards Caldicot.

2.18 The results of Stage 2 are presented in **Chapter 3** of this report.

Stage 3: Evaluating candidate Special Landscape Areas

Desk Review

2.19 The broad areas of search identified using information within LANDMAP provided a starting point for identifying areas suitable for local landscape designation.

2.20 However, it is clear that LANDMAP alone cannot provide all the answers. The broad areas of search were considered in more detail against a clear set of criteria to validate and identify candidate SLAs, using relevant information from the Cardiff landscape character assessment 'A Review of Landscape Character Areas' (TACP, 2008) and other data sources as mentioned above in Chapter 1. This was reviewed against the LANDMAP results.

2.21 Criteria were considered for each candidate SLA. All candidate SLA need to meet both of the two 'Practical Criteria' and at least one of the 'Landscape Criteria' as defined in Stage 1.

Field Survey

2.22 A bespoke field survey of candidate SLAs was undertaken to consider the criteria in more detail and identify appropriate and robust boundaries.

Landscape is a continuum, and the SLA boundaries are generally drawn to follow identifiable features on the ground such as field boundaries or roads that provide a 'best fit'. As boundaries generally represent zones of transition, there will rarely be a perceptible change in landscape character and quality along every boundary.

2.23 The outputs of the evaluation exercise for Stage 3 are presented in **Chapter 4** of this report.

2.24 Each candidate SLA evaluation contains:

- Summary and recommendations,
- Evaluation against the criteria,
- Photos of the area and mapping.

Stage 4 Preparing Statements of Significance

2.25 Once the final selection of candidate SLA was agreed, the boundaries were finalised, and draft Statements of Significance prepared as part of **Chapter 4** of this report.

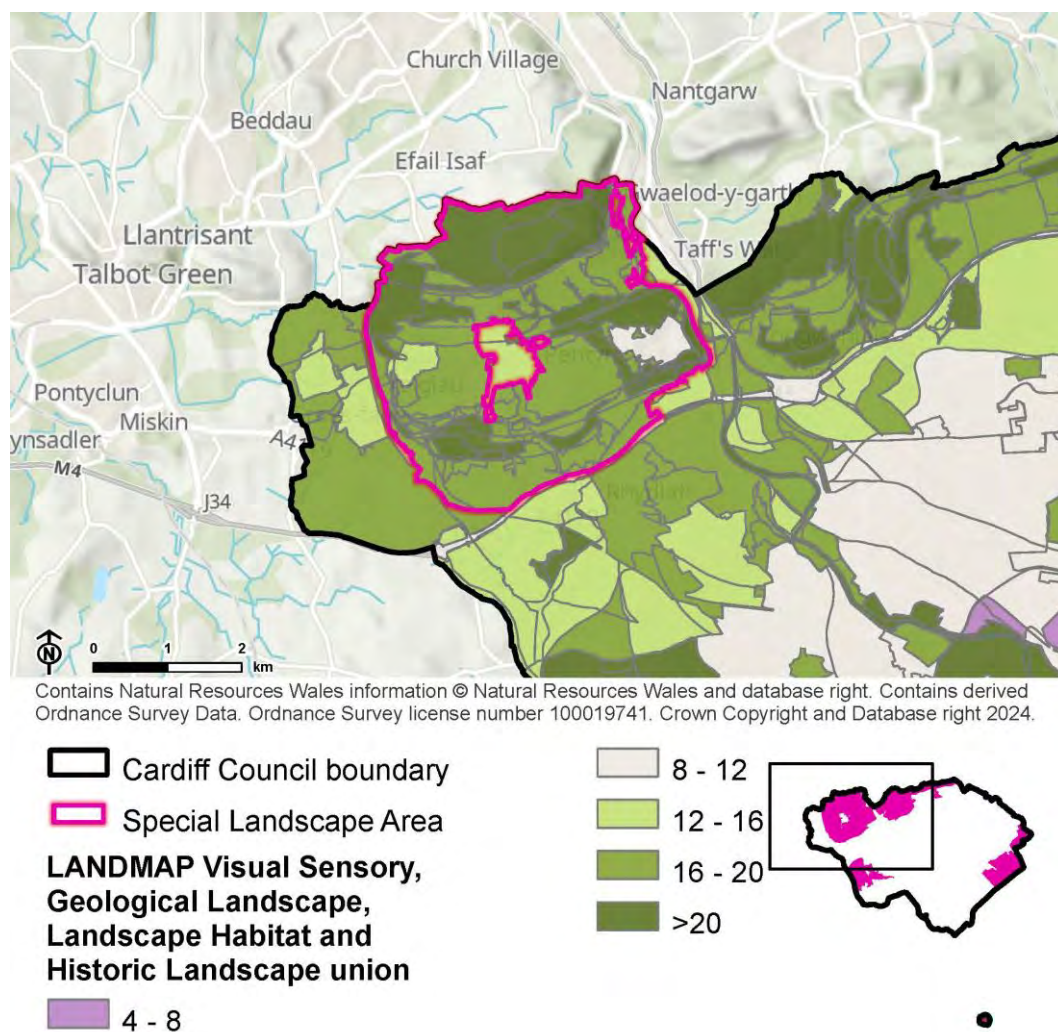
Chapter 3

Identifying broad areas of search

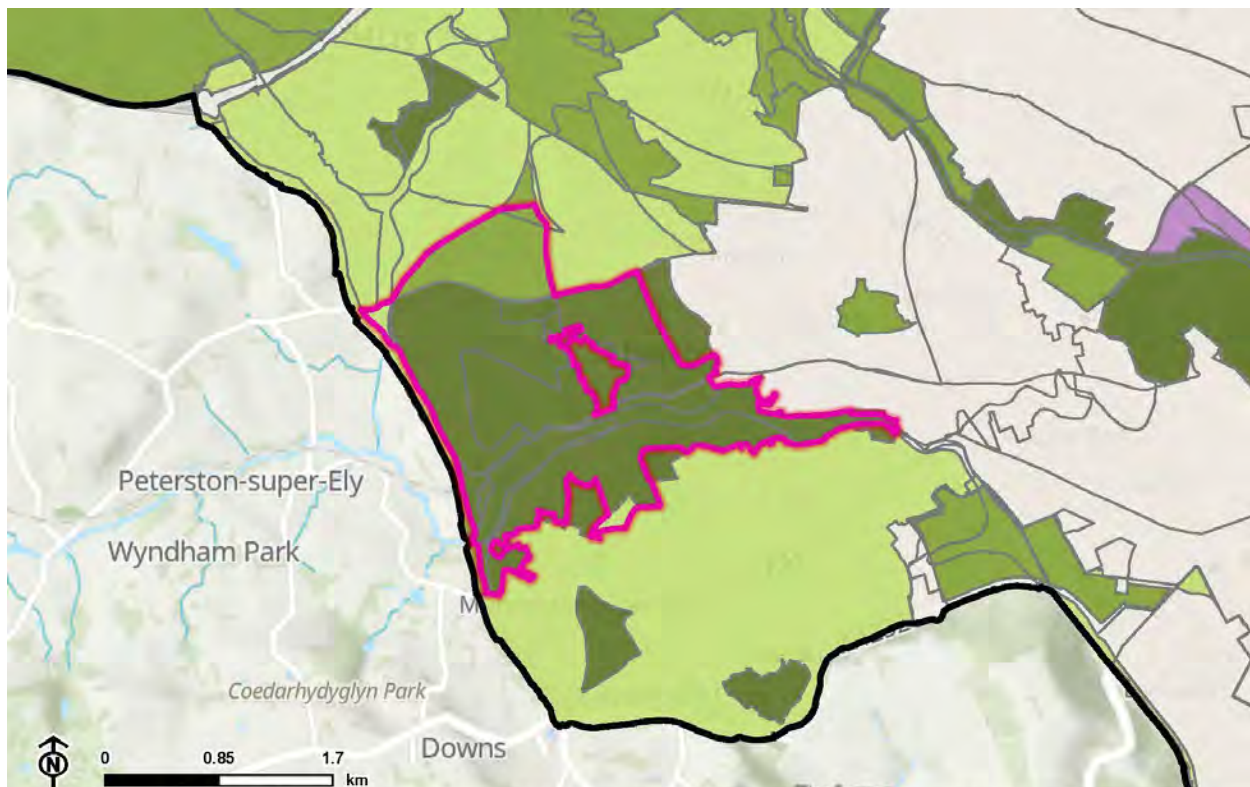
3.1 The results of the Stage 2 analysis of LANDMAP data, identified five broad areas of search. Figures 2 to 7 illustrate this information in the context of the study area. Areas in darkest green have the highest cumulative scores across the selected questions.

3.2 The broad areas of search included:

3.3 Garth Hill & Penttyrch Ridges: a broad search area was identified in the north-western extents of the Cardiff authority area with a high overall score, in a similar location to the existing Garth Hill and Penttyrch Ridges SLA 1.



3.4 St Fagans Lowlands & Ely Valley: A broad search area to the west of Cardiff was identified with a high overall score. It was identified in the general area of the existing SLA 2 St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley. The relevant aspect layers were solely within the Visual and Sensory aspect layer. In the Historic Landscape aspect layer, the surrounding built up area rates slightly higher, indicating a concentration of historic assets in the adjoining suburban area.




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 Cardiff Council boundary

 Special Landscape Area

**LANDMAP Visual Sensory,
Geological Landscape,
Landscape Habitat and
Historic Landscape union**

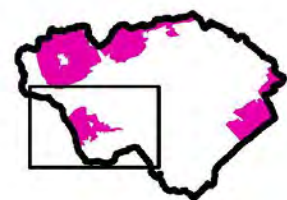
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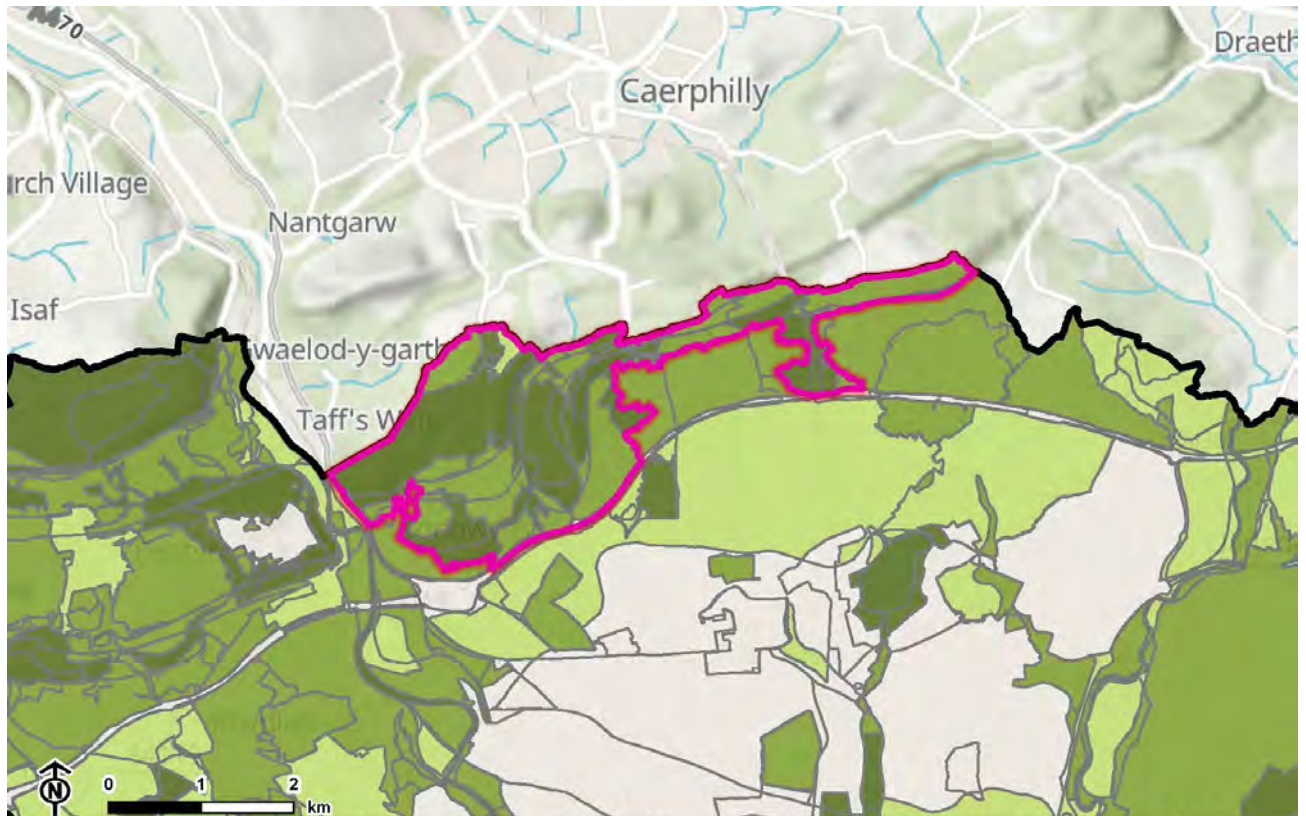
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3.5 Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge: A broad search area was identified to the north of Cardiff due to higher scores in Geological Landscape, Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape aspect areas. The area is in a similar location to the existing SLA 3.



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Cardiff Council boundary

Special Landscape Area

**LANDMAP Visual Sensory,
Geological Landscape,
Landscape Habitat and
Historic Landscape union**

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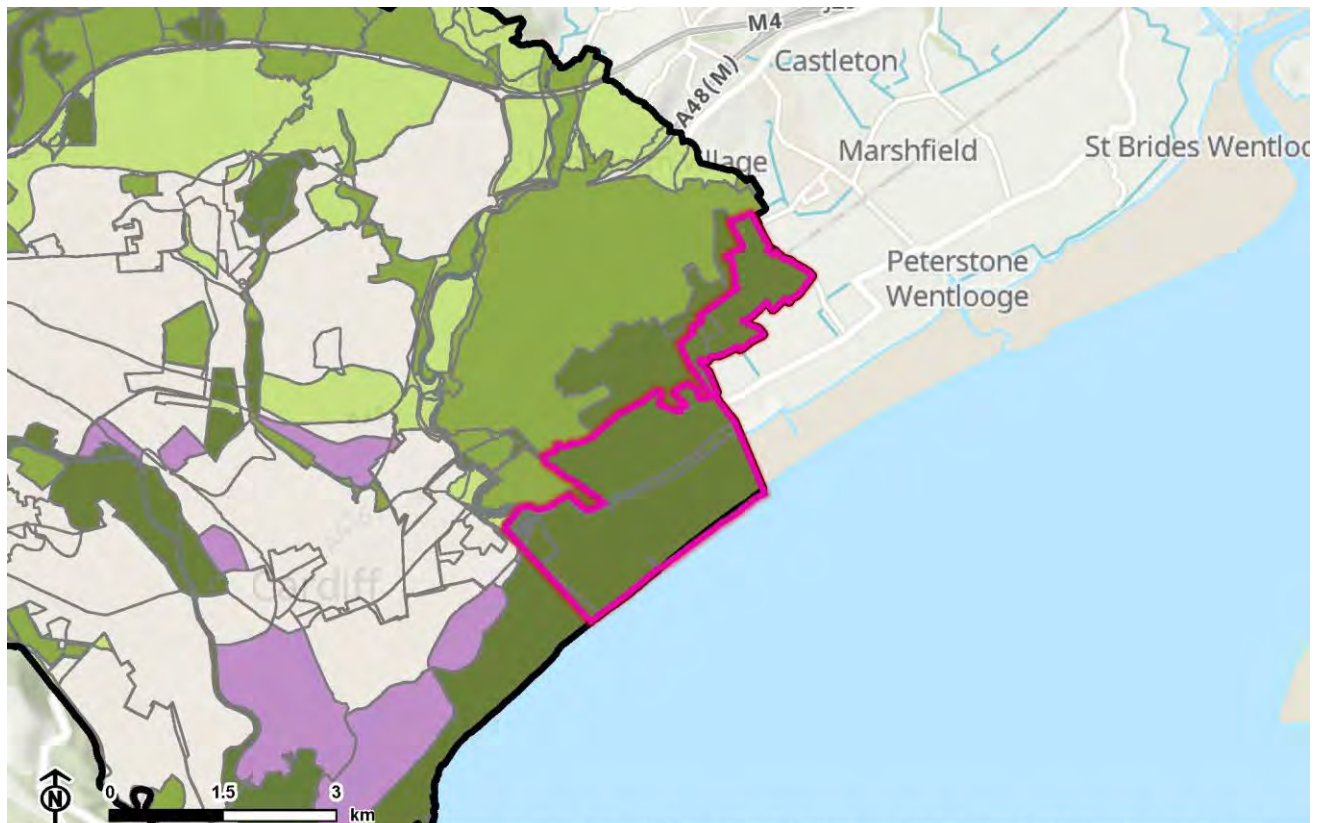
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3.6 Wentloog Levels: A broad search area was identified which extends along the south-eastern coastal edge of Cardiff and extending inwards across the Wentloog Levels. This corresponded with high ratings contributed by Historic Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Visual and Sensory aspect layers. The broad search area corresponds with the existing Wentloog Levels SLA 4.



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 Cardiff Council boundary

 Special Landscape Area

**LANDMAP Visual Sensory,
Geological Landscape,
Landscape Habitat and
Historic Landscape union**

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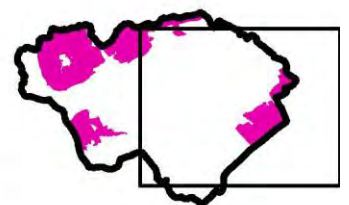
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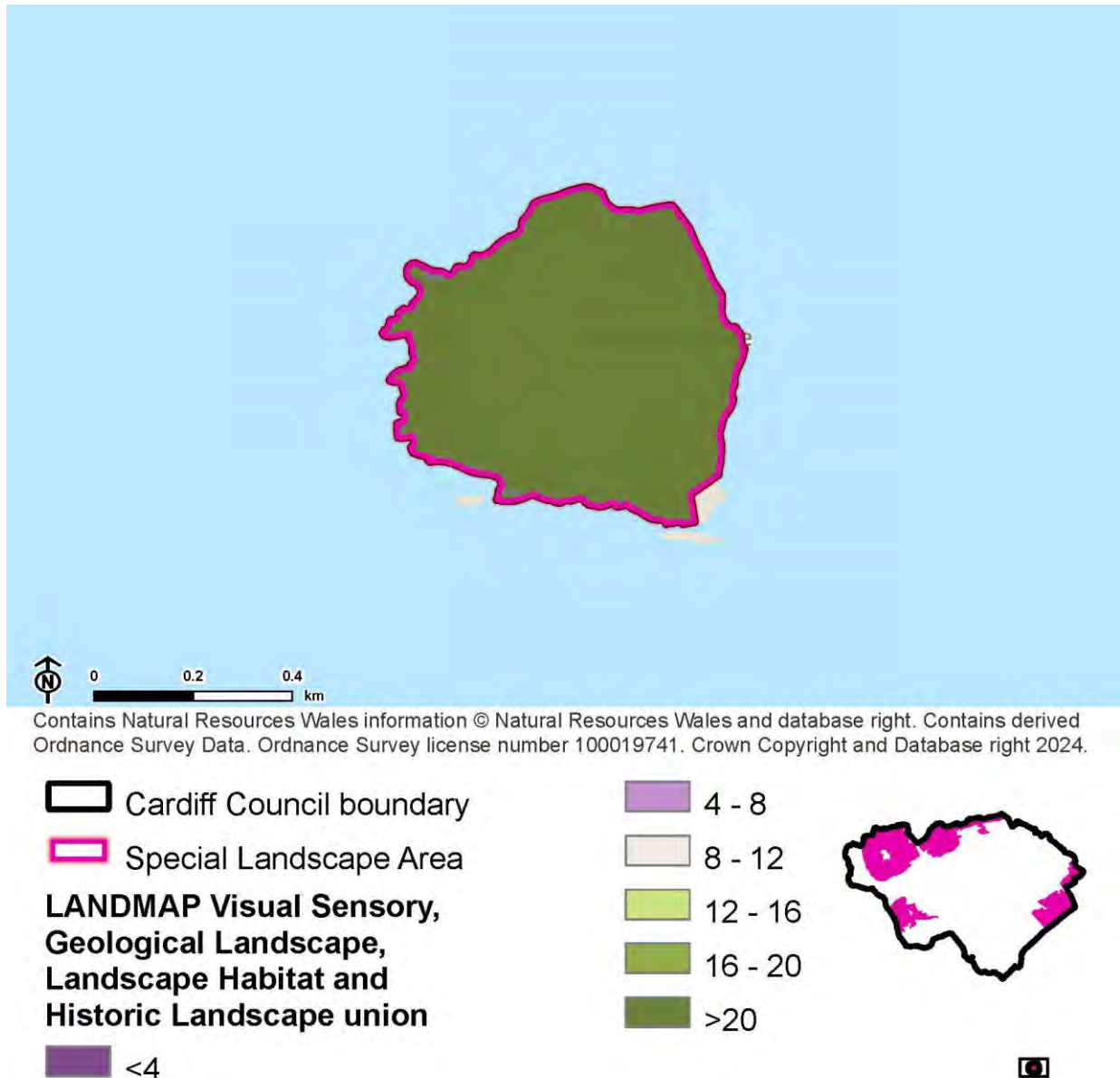
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3.7 Flat Holm Island: A broad search area was identified on Flat Holm Island due to high scores across all LANDMAP aspect layers. This corresponds with the existing Flat Holm SLA 5.

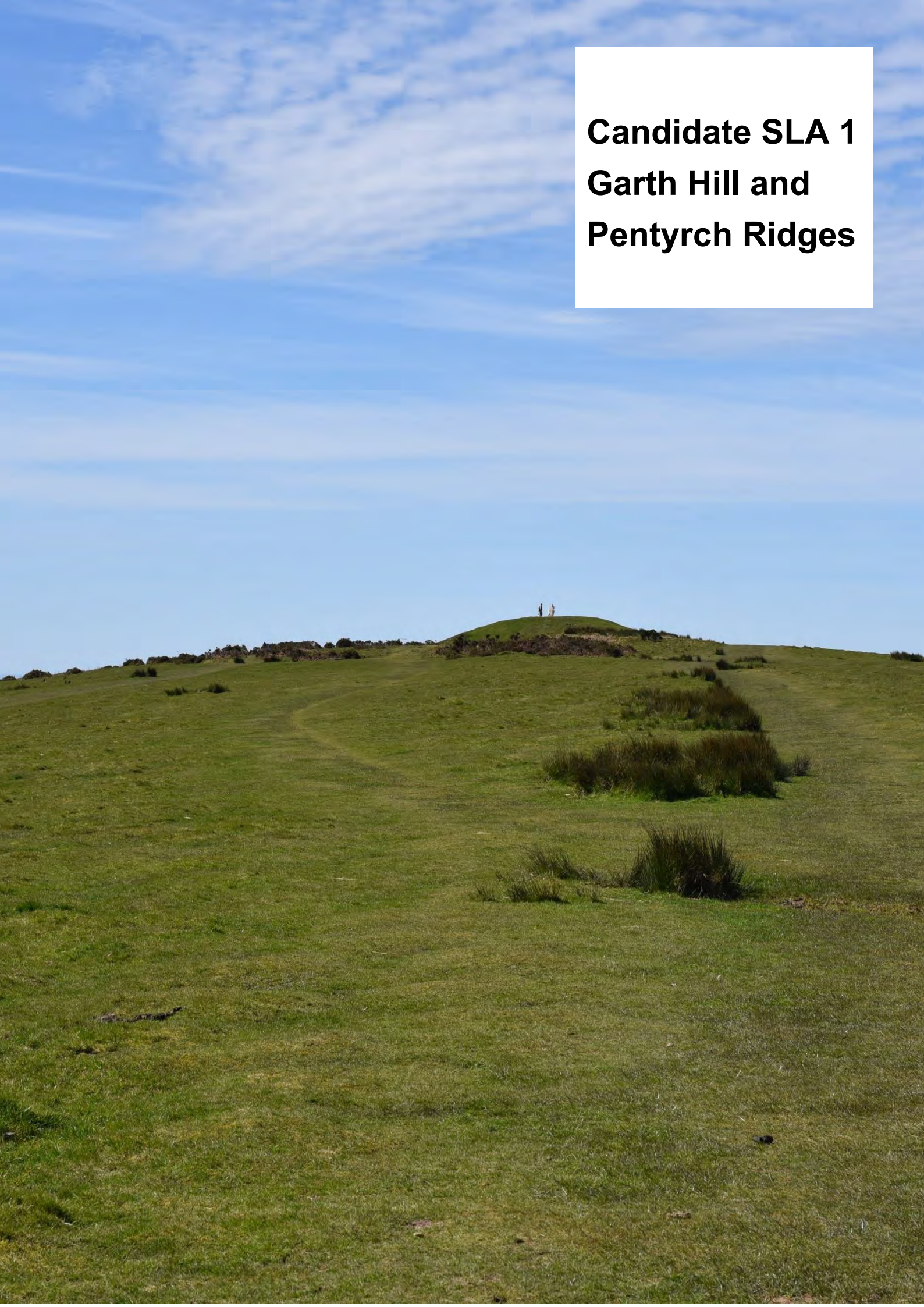


Chapter 4

Evaluation of candidate Special Landscape Areas

4.1 This chapter presents the results of the evaluation of the candidate SLAs in Stage 3. These are illustrated in Figure 8.

**Candidate SLA 1
Garth Hill and
Penttyrch Ridges**



Candidate SLA 1 Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges

Summary and recommendations

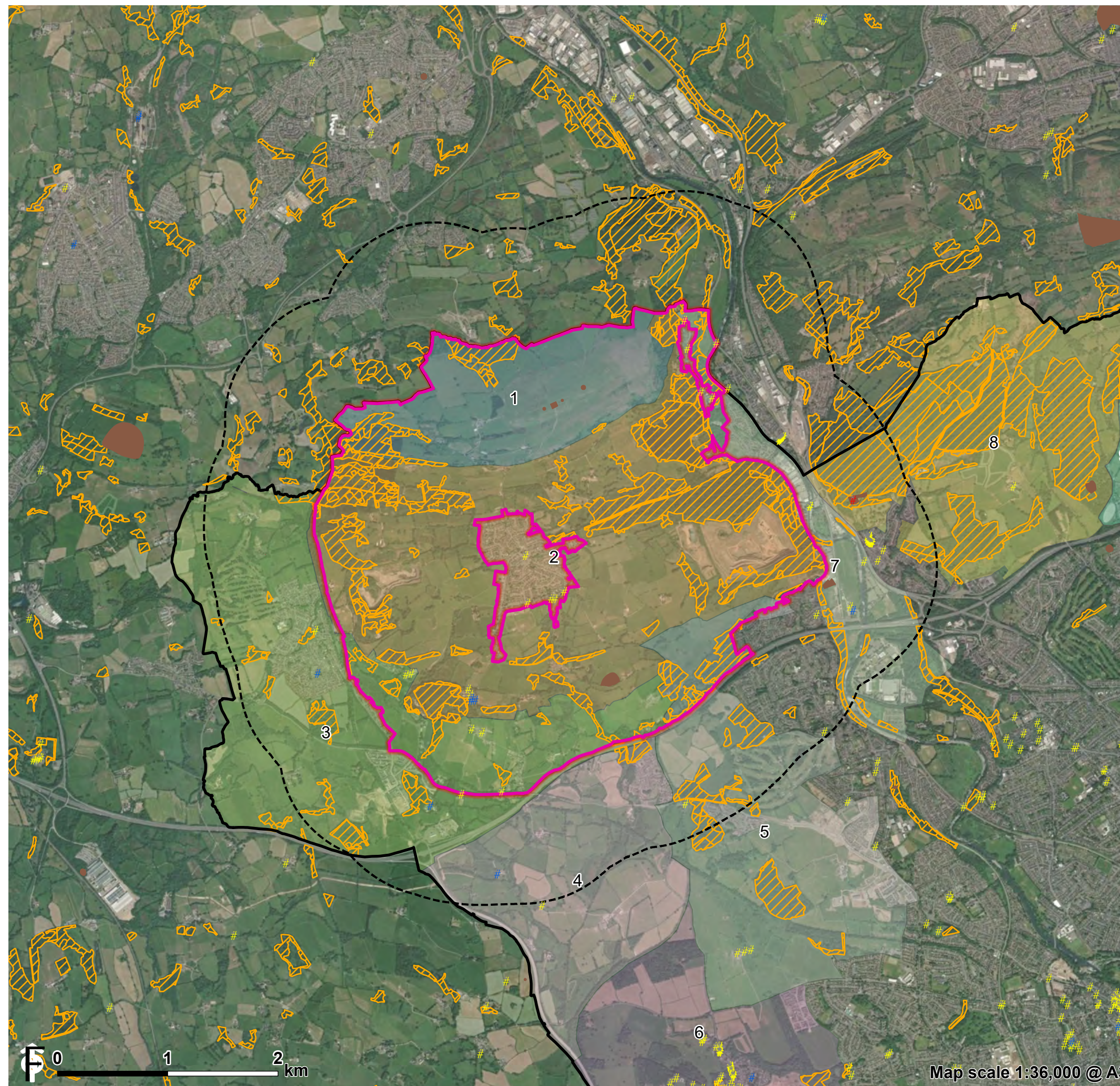
Relationship to existing local landscape designation

4.2 The area is largely contiguous with the existing SLA.

4.3 The majority of the candidate SLA falls within LCA 1 Garth Hill Uplands and LCA2 Pentyrch Ridges and Valleys. It also includes a small area of LCA 3 Western Lowlands, in order to establish a clear defensible boundary along a disused railway to the east of Creigiau, the Llantrisant Road and M4 motorway.

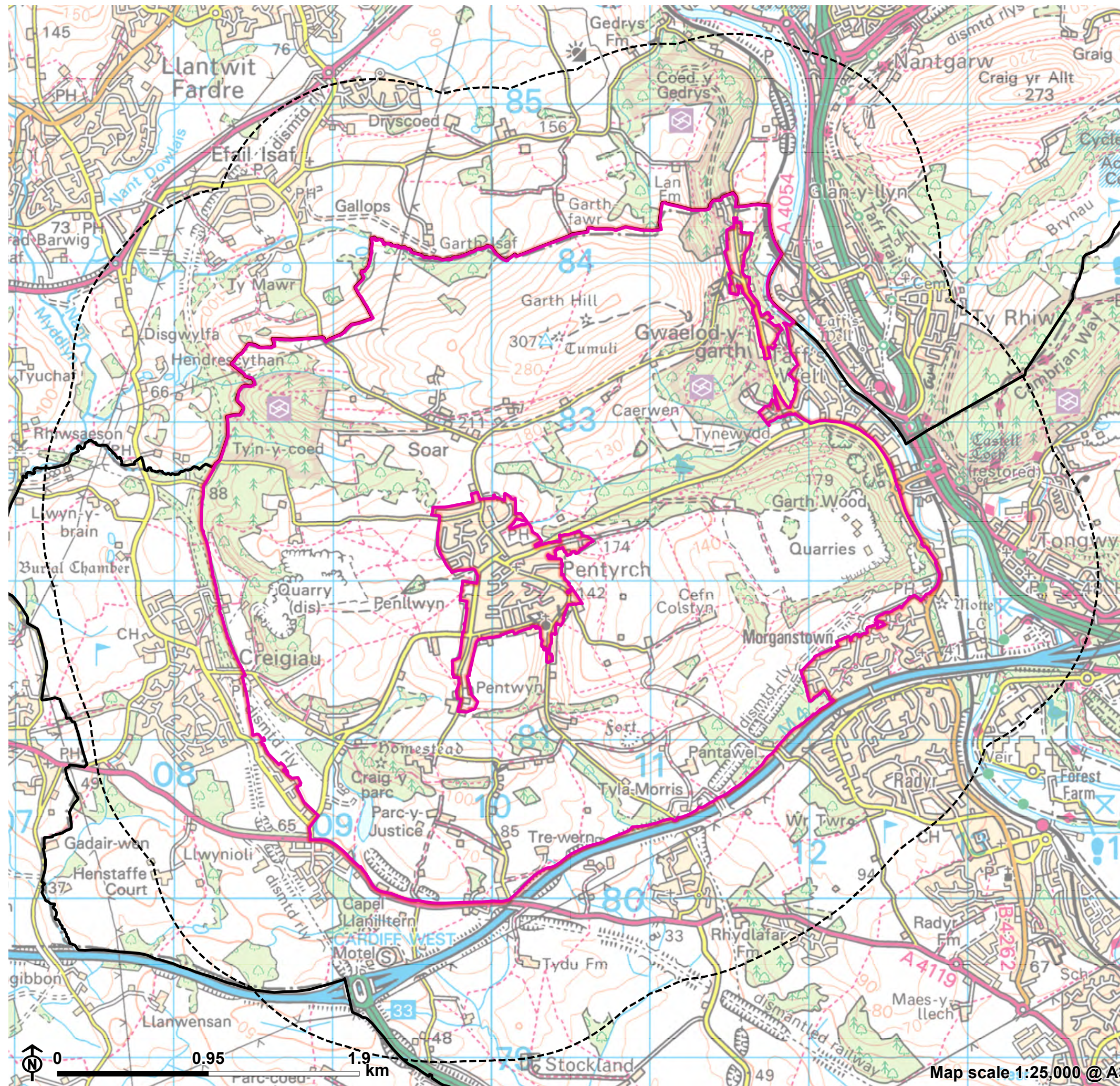
4.4 The proposed boundary of this SLA is defined to encompass the existing SLA boundary but excluding developed areas, resulting in two small areas removed to the western SLA boundary at Creigiau and one small area removed on the southern boundary on the edge of Morganstown. Based on ground truthing, no boundaries were altered further.

Figure 1.1: Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges Landscape Character Context



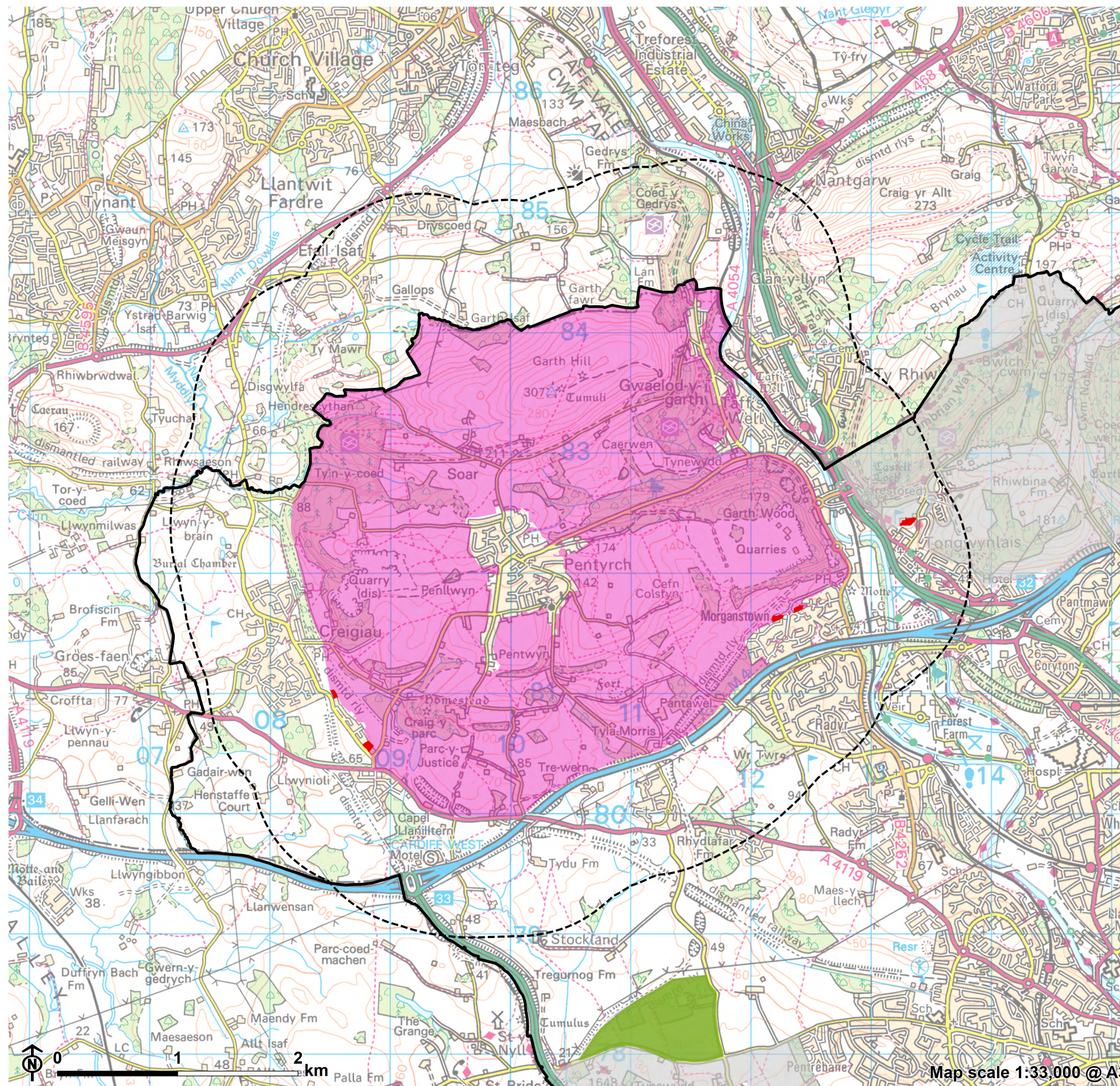
- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Landscape Character Area**
- 1: Garth hill uplands
- 2: Pentyrch ridges & valleys
- 3: Creigiau & Llaniltern lowlands
- 4: Tydu & Stockland lowlands
- 5: Radyr & Morganstown lowlands
- 6: St Fagans lowlands & Ely Valley
- 7: River Taff corridor
- 8: Fforest Fawr & Caerphilly ridge
- 9: Caerphilly ridge foothills
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building**
- # Grade I
- # Grade II*
- # Grade II

**Figure 1.2: Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges
Proposed Extent**



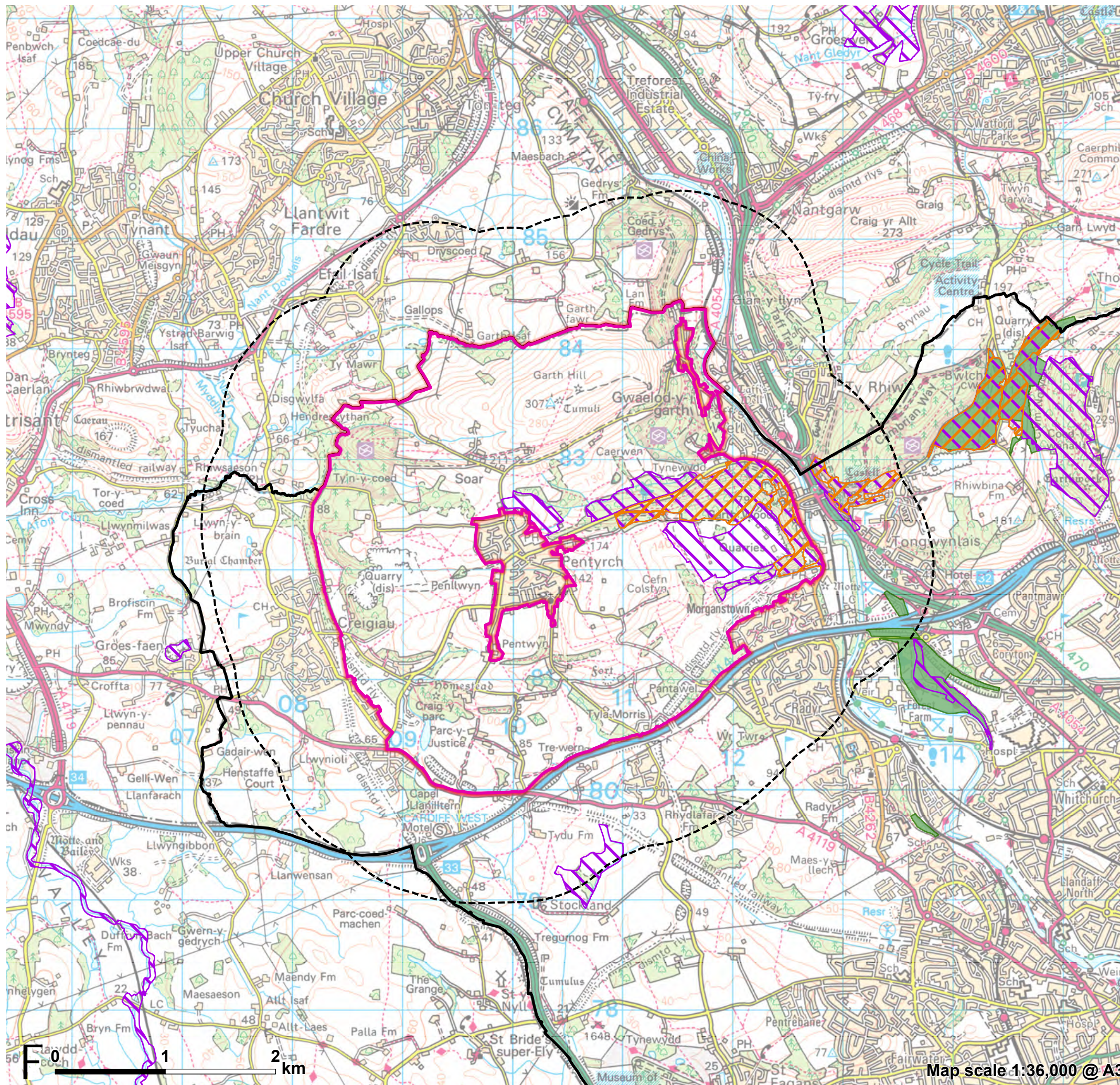
- 1km buffer
- Special Landscape Area
- Cardiff Council boundary

Figure 1.3: Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges Recommendations



- Cardiff Council boundary
- 1km buffer
- Special Landscape Area
- Other Special Landscape Area
- Areas added to Special Landscape Area
- Areas removed from Special Landscape Area

Map scale 1:33,000 @ A3



**Figure 1.4: Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges
Natural Heritage Designations**

- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

Full Evaluation

Practical criteria

Need

4.5 The area is under pressure from employment development and ongoing and planned mineral extraction. The SLA abuts industrial development on the fringes of Morgantown to the south-east and Taffs Well to the east. Its proximity to the M4 and these urban fringe areas make it especially susceptible to development pressure.

4.6 The area therefore meets the criterion.

Cohesiveness

4.7 The SLA comprises the unique and prominent Garth Hill (307 metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and Pentyrch Ridges, in the extreme north-west of the unitary authority area. The underlying geology which results in the landscape's elevation and consequent prominence over the surrounding area, is the main source of cohesion in this landscape. It is an upland landscape of open common and elevated fieldscapes interspersed with quarries that are surrounded by woodland blocks. The area is agricultural in character, with a sense of remoteness not common elsewhere in the local authority area.

4.8 The area therefore meets the criterion.

Landscape criteria

Landscape distinctiveness and sense of place

4.9 The Garth Hill area forms a prominent and distinctive upland escarpment and the Pentyrch Ridges contribute to the upland feel of the landscape. The landscape provides a dramatic backdrop and scenic setting to Cardiff and a contrast to the urban development on its southern fringes.

4.10 The area therefore meeting the criterion.

Landscape quality

4.11 Garth Hill is an intact and generally well-maintained landscape with a consistent pattern of medium-sized irregular post-medieval fieldscapes. Character is eroded by the presence of bracken and gorse, reducing heathland vegetation in this upland landscape.

4.12 The surrounding lower-lying areas comprise medium to large fields bound by gappy hedgerow. The landscape condition is eroded by deteriorating hedges and incremental development but is in fair condition. The post-medieval fieldscapes and settlement pattern of dispersed isolated farmsteads interspersed with extensive areas of woodland have survived partially intact, in spite of disturbance by 19th-20th century quarrying.

4.13 The area partially meets the criterion.

Scenic quality and perceptual aspects

4.14 There is strong intervisibility between the SLA and the surrounding landscape. Rising up to 307 metres AOD, Garth Hill is the highest point in Cardiff. Its open elevated character allows attractive long-distance views across the city, further afield to the Severn Estuary and also north to the lower-lying upper Ely valley.

4.15 The skyline has a distinctive profile being gently rounded with three tumuli at intervals. Garth Hill is widely visible from most directions, particularly from the Taff Vale. It is dominated by heathland vegetation of acid grassland with gorse and bracken on the more elevated areas on the open common, and medium to large scale fields.

4.16 This is an attractive rural landscape. The exposed character of Garth Hill result in a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. There are few detracting features within the SLA except for those areas closer to the M4 and views towards the Taff Vale quarry to the south.

4.17 The area partially meets the criteria.

Landscape rarity

4.18 The SLA is an example of an upland landscape which is a scarce resource in the local authority area. Lowland areas within the SLA rate lower for landscape rarity.

4.19 The area partially meets the criterion.

Natural or cultural associations

4.20 The area has a range of important habitat types including upland pasture, ancient broadleaved woodlands, grasslands and a strong pattern of hedgerows. This is reflected by the considerable coverage of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within this area, particularly around Garth Hill. There is a network of ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodlands on the eastern lower slopes of Garth Hill in the vicinity of the Afon Taf corridor. The southern edge of the area is characterised by a line of woodlands running westwards from Morganstown to Creigiau. The Afon Taf corridor also has several geological Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), (Cwarrau Ton Mawr a Ffynnon Taf - Ton Mawr and Taffs Well Quarries).

4.21 On Garth Hill (also called Garth Mountain, and colloquially called 'The Garth'), the distinctive skyline is rounded by five round barrows at intervals, four

of which are scheduled monuments. The hillfort, Llwynda-Ddu Camp, is located on the southern lower-lying areas of Garth Hill on a small hilltop.

4.22 Mineral workings are prevalent on the steep wooded escarpment to the south of Garth Hill. Quarrying is a feature of the Pentyrch Ridges area however the quarries are often surrounded by dense woodland belts which contribute to the quality of the area. The quarries have been included within the SLA as they reflect the underlying geology as well as cultural and economic associations with mining in the area. The history of mining is evident through the number of abandoned mine features including shafts, adits, and an abandoned post medieval mining village.

4.23 Numerous books and films have been written about the Garth Hill. These include the book and film: *The Englishman Who Went up A Hill but Came Down a Mountain* (1995), written by Christopher Monger. There is also the book: *The House of Abraham Phillips* (2012), written by Norma Procter.

4.24 This landscape is rich in natural and cultural associations and therefore strongly meets the criteria.

Recreational value

4.25 Garth Hill is a largely unspoilt area of unenclosed upland common (Countryside and Rights of Way - CROW access land), forming a landscape of considerable value as a public amenity. The round barrows and ridge of Garth Hill are crossed by the Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk national trail, which runs east to west through the area. The lower-lying areas have a dense network of public rights of way spanning in all directions to the wider landscape, with more connections to the south around Pentyrch. However, further connections into the city are somewhat restricted by the M4 motorway and the Afon Taf corridor.

4.26 The area strongly meets the criterion.

Photograph 4.1: The open panoramic views over Penttyrch ridges



Photograph 4.2: Garth Hill tumuli and trig point



Photograph 4.3: View south from Garth Hill with Penttyrch in the centre



Photograph 4.4: The view north from Garth Hill



Photograph 4.5: Steeply inclining settled hillside



Photograph 4.6: Steeply inclining open field system at the northern edge of the SLA



Special Qualities of the SLA

4.27 Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:

- The tranquil and rural character of the landscape, and particularly the unspoilt character of Garth Hill.
- Its elevated and open position – creating strong intervisibility across Cardiff, including long-distance views to the Severn Estuary.
- The intact landscape pattern of woodland, upland grasslands, irregular fieldscapes with a strong pattern of hedgerows.
- The array of archaeological features.
- The Pentyrch Ridges contribute to the upland feel of the area, rising up to 190 metres AOD; being underlaid by the Carboniferous limestone that forms the edge of the South Wales coalfield.
- The valued areas of semi-natural habitats including blocks of ancient woodland. The line of woodlands running westwards from Morganstown to Creigiau along the southern boundary of the SLA, and the dense woodland belts surrounding the quarries, both of which contribute to the quality of the area.

Candidate SLA 2 St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley



Candidate SLA 2 St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley

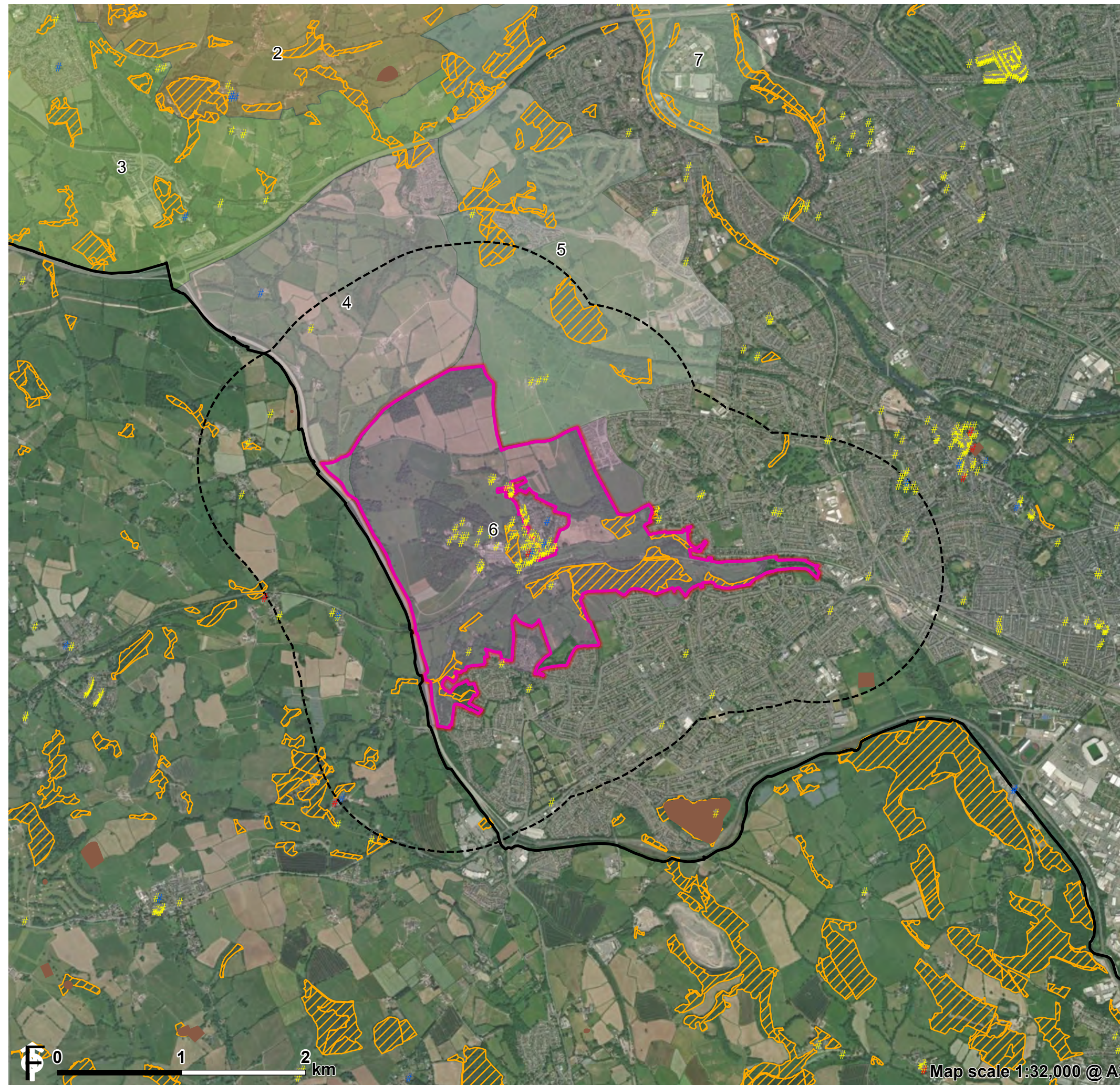
Summary and Recommendations

Relationship to existing local landscape designation

4.28 The area is largely covered by the existing SLA. Small areas to the south are proposed to be removed from the SLA due to development encroachment. An area of arable land and woodland (Slanney Woods) to the north has been proposed for inclusion north of St Bride's Road.

4.29 The majority of the candidate area falls within LCA 6 St Fagans lowlands & Ely Valley. It also includes a small area of LCA 4 Tydu & Stockland lowlands in the north-west corner to provide a clear defensible boundary along the intersection of St Bride's Road and A4232.

**Figure 2.1: St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley
Landscape Character Context**



Cardiff Council boundary

Special Landscape Area

1km buffer

Landscape Character Area

2: Pentyrch ridges & valleys

3: Creigiau & Llaniltern lowlands

4: Tydu & Stockland lowlands

5: Radyr & Morganstown lowlands

6: St Fagans lowlands & Ely Valley

7: River Taff corridor

Ancient Woodland Inventory

Scheduled Monument

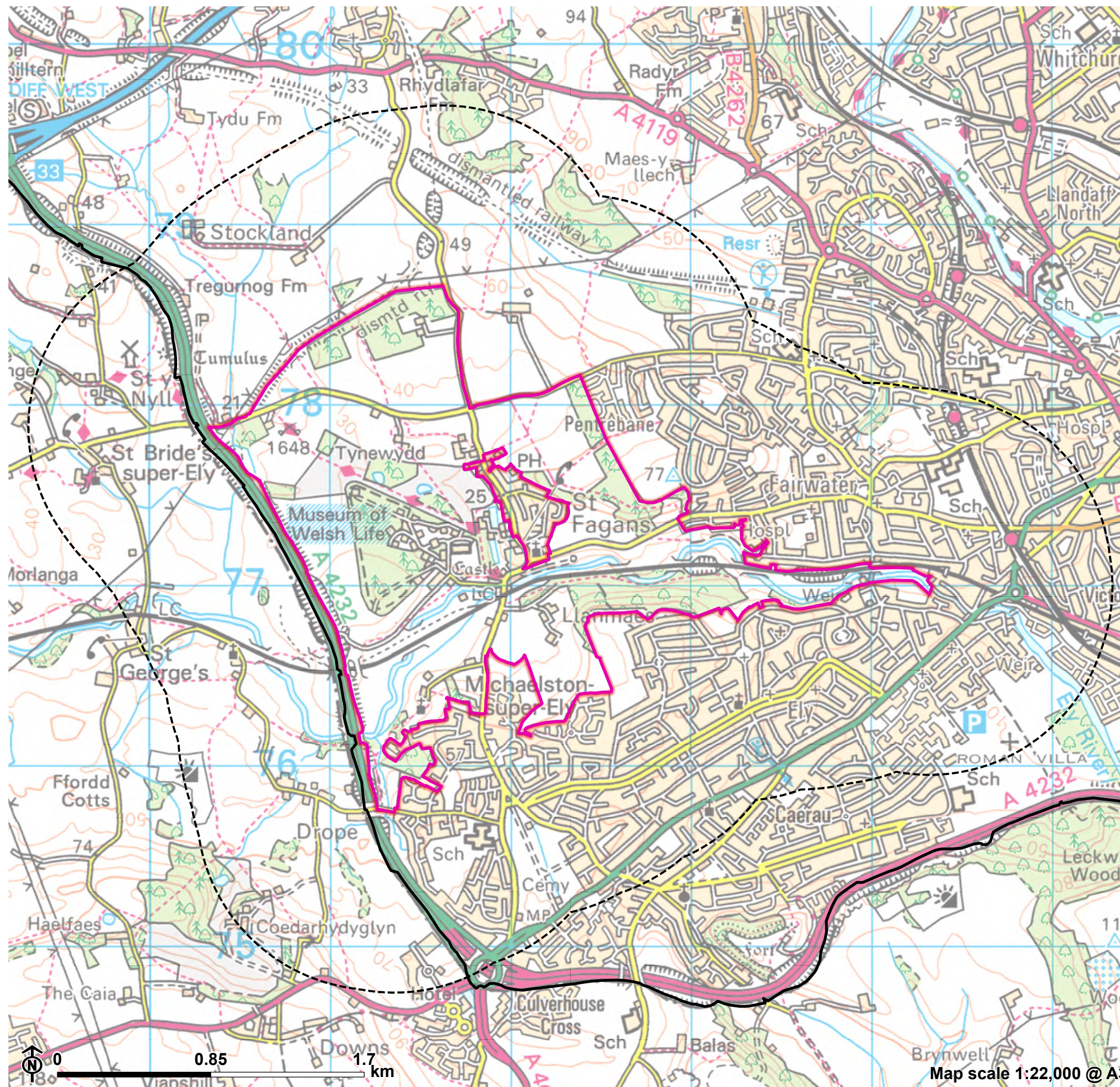
Listed Building

Grade I

Grade II*

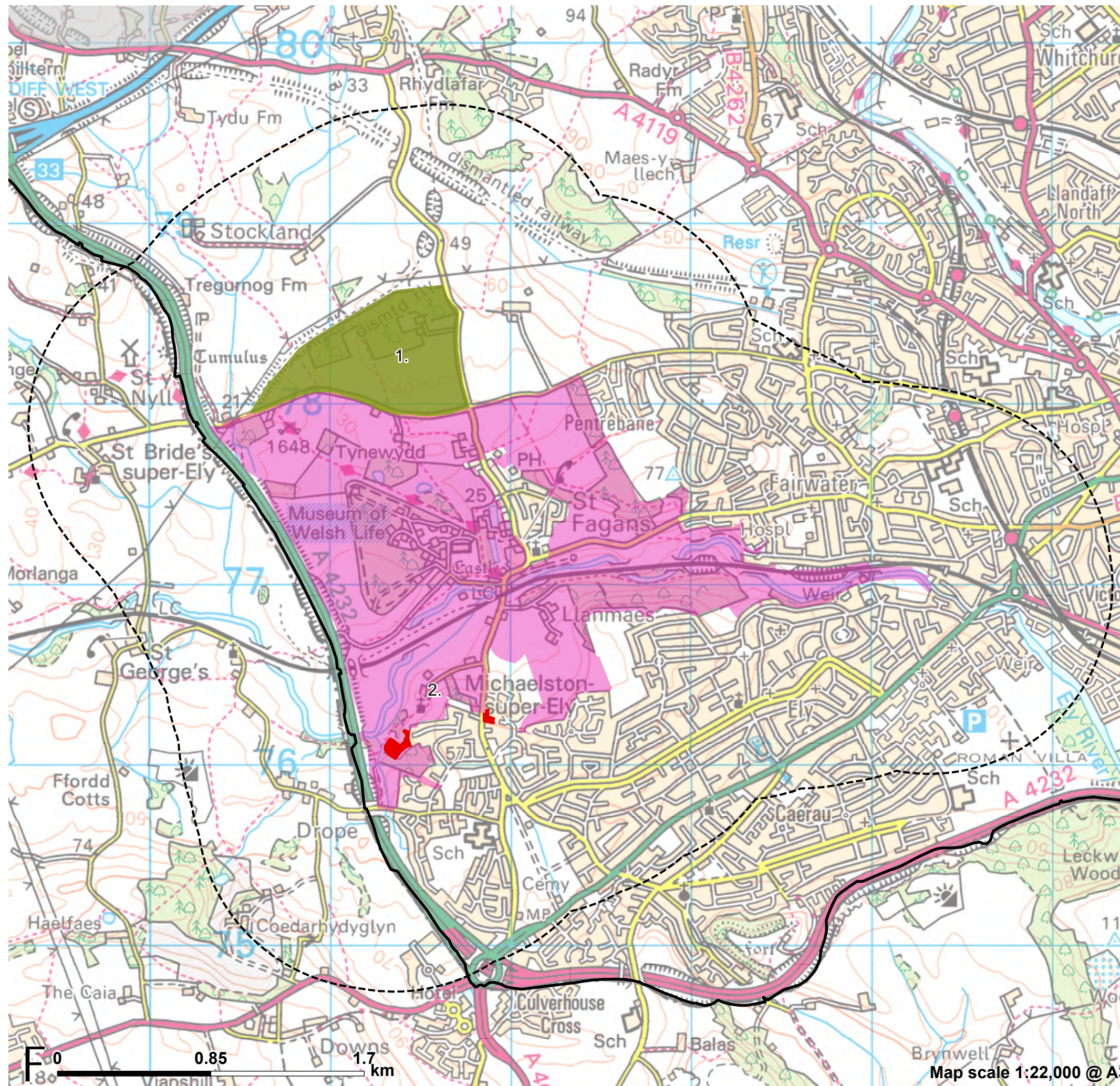
Grade II

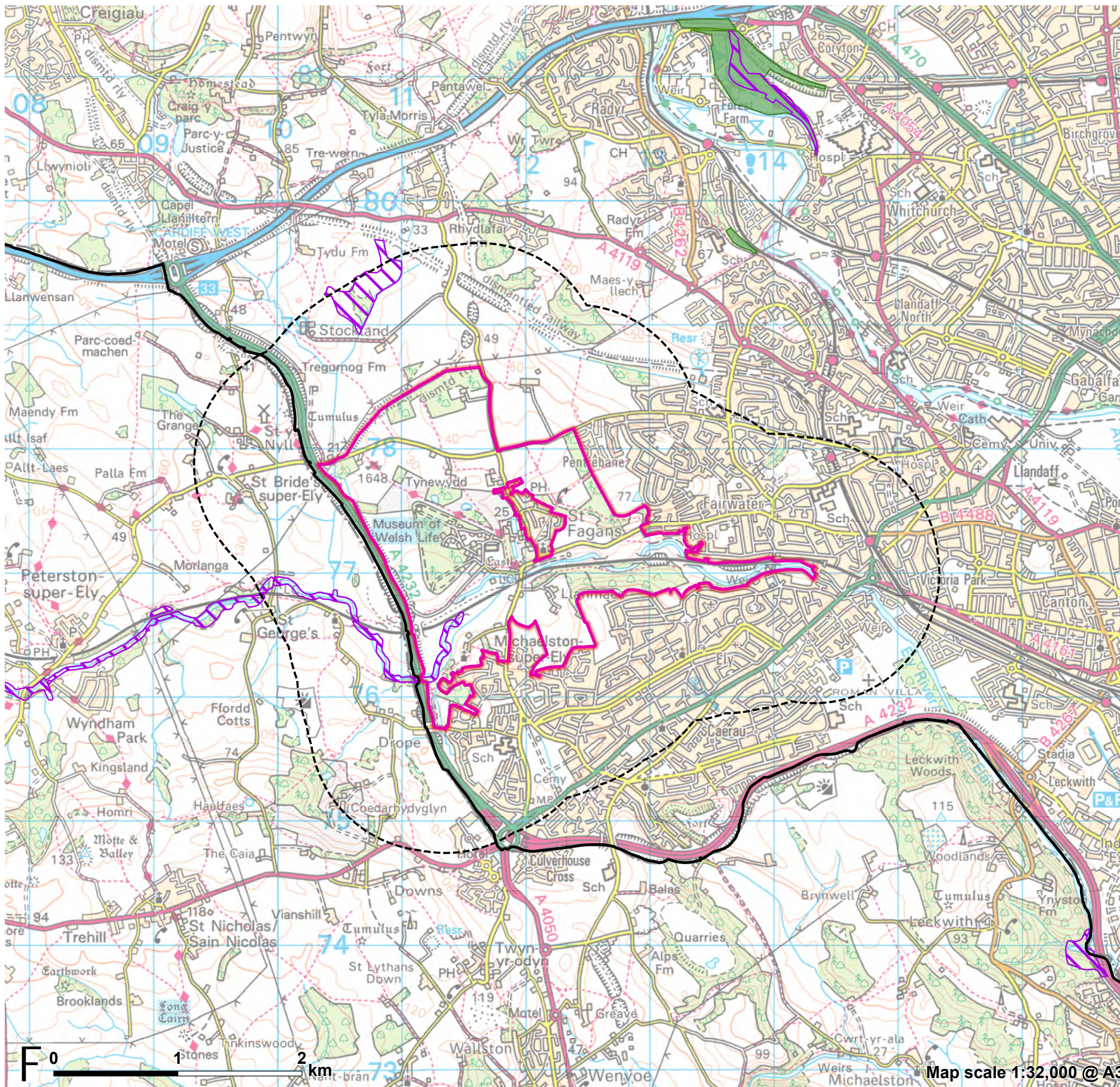
**Figure 2.2: St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley
Proposed Extent**



- 1km buffer
- Special Landscape Area
- Cardiff Council boundary

Figure 2.3: St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley Recommendations





**Figure 2.4: St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley
Natural Heritage Designations**

- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

Full Evaluation

Practical Criteria

Need

4.30 The area is under pressure from suburbanisation, more recently from the expansion of Michaelston-super-Ely, and intensification of farming, including conversion of grassland to arable, loss of woodlands and poor management of field boundaries.

4.31 The SLA abuts the western suburbs of Cardiff encompassing Pentrebane, Fairwater, Ely and Michaelston-Super-Ely. It is susceptible to future development pressures and challenges related to urban fringe management such as fly-tipping and the encroachment of horsiculture developments on existing farmland.

4.32 The distinct parkland character of St Fagans and the Welsh Folk Museum is under increasing recreational pressure.

4.33 The area meets the criterion.

Cohesiveness

4.34 This area forms part of the wider lowland landscape that extends westwards from Cardiff. However, it is distinguished from other areas by its mosaic of large-scale undulating farmland incised by a narrow river valley, a strong pattern of mature woodland, and a distinctive area of parkland around St Fagans. Its boundaries closely align with the extents of Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape LANDMAP boundaries while discounting developed areas.

4.35 The landscape is unified by a strong pattern of mature deciduous woodland, trees and hedgerows (including woodland along the River Ely and beech plantations associated with the estate landscape of St Fagans).

4.36 The area meets the criterion.

Landscape Criteria

Landscape Distinctiveness and sense of place

4.37 The SLA's distinct landscape character derives from the combination of farmland and estate parkland at its centre, as well as the rural valley landscape of the River Ely.

4.38 The estate at St Fagans includes strong tree belts, parkland trees, and distinctive historic buildings such as St Fagans Castle.

4.39 The steep sided Ely Valley is a distinctive landform feature. Its strong sense of place is derived from the narrow wooded river course, wet pasture and steep wooded valley sides.

4.40 The SLA provides a scenic rural setting to Cardiff and a contrast to the urban development on its eastern and southern fringe.

4.41 The area meets the criterion.

Landscape Quality

4.42 The estate elements of the area are well-managed, with the grounds including paddocks and park woodland in good condition. The gardens retain their Tudor structure, with Victorian and Edwardian influences. The woodland area maintains its original 1908 layout [\[See reference 3\]](#) with some parts of the woodland affected by development related to the Welsh Folk Museum.

4.43 The wider farmland contains a mix of medium to large rectilinear and rationalised irregular fields with straight edges. The fields are a mix of improved grassland and arable, enclosed by low-cut generally well-maintained hedgerows and post and wire fencing. There is a decline in the quality of hedgerows and pastures, particularly in the north-west of the SLA. The corridor of the River Ely, includes a mosaic of deciduous woodland, pasture, and strong hedgerows with

tree cover generally in good condition, although parts of the pasture are currently being invaded by bracken and weeds. The medieval irregular fieldscapes are still intact in places. Although the area has a consistent character and is well managed in some parts, it is declining in others due to minimal management and detractors including the A4232 and railway.

4.44 The area partially meets the criterion.

Scenic quality and perceptual aspects

4.45 The SLA is a rural landscape which provides a scenic setting to Cardiff. The parkland at St Fagans and the surrounding estate farmland, with its formal avenues, woodland blocks, parkland trees, and formal gardens, provide strong scenic qualities. The meandering river River Ely with strong riparian vegetation and seasonal wet pasture provide a sense of natural diversity in the area.

4.46 This is a generally enclosed landscape with restricting views in and out of the area. Mature tree cover along the settlement edge of Cardiff reduces the urban influence on the landscape. The Ely Valley is enclosed by steep and densely wooded valley sides. However, slopes to the west provide relatively open views across the valley, and there are views across Ely Valley to the woodlands around St Fagans.

4.47 The landscape has a relatively tranquil character. However, minor roads, a railway, and urban fringe elements on the valley floor and along the settlement edge, especially fallow fields left for informal recreation and minor vandalism in parts, detract from rural character in some parts.

4.48 The area partially meets the criterion.

Landscape Rarity

4.49 The SLA is a lowland landscape of undulating farmland that is common in the wider landscape.

4.50 However, the medieval field pattern, historic villages and features including buildings and gardens associated with St Fagans, along with the surrounding

wooded estate and the narrow valley landscape along the River Ely, represent a scarce resource in the local authority. This combination of an estate landscape abutting a narrow rural valley landscape is rare in the study area.

4.51 The area partially meets the criterion.

Natural or cultural associations

4.52 The area has a range of important habitats including broadleaved woodland, riparian habitats, semi-improved grasslands, and a strong pattern of hedgerows with hedgerow trees. This is reflected by the considerable coverage in SINCs within this area, particularly associated with River Ely and estate farmland around St Fagans.

4.53 The landscape is well-wooded with large blocks of beech plantations associated with the parkland and estate landscapes of St Fagans. Another beech plantation named Coedbychan bounds the urban edges of Pentrebane. The southern slopes of Ely Valley are dominated by Plymouth Great Wood, a large beech/ash woodland.

4.54 The Ely Valley supports a variety of riparian habitats, including marshes and ponds, areas of semi-improved grassland and populations of Monkshood (a rare species within the Cardiff context) mostly found alongside the riverbank.

4.55 The landscape is medieval in origin and medieval field systems survive in the present landscape. The field systems around Michaelston-super-Ely are partly incorporated in the present fields to the south of the village, while those around St Fagans are visible west of the museum.

4.56 The villages of St Fagans and Michaelston-Super-Ely are both medieval. St Fagans developed around a 12th-13th century castle, which was later replaced by a grand Elizabethan mansion (St Fagan's Castle) with formal gardens (both Grade I listed). These historic features along with Bronze Age cairns near Tregochas and Tynewydd, and well-preserved earthworks at Michaelston-super-Ely provide time-depth to the landscape.

4.57 The major modern intervention is the St Fagans National Museum of History, featuring relocated historic buildings west of the castle. The museum is a valued source of information and education on Welsh culture.

4.58 This landscape is rich in natural and cultural associations and therefore strongly meets the criterion.

Recreational Value

4.59 The Museum at St Fagans and its Grade I listed gardens, attract a large number of tourists and provides various recreational opportunities. The SLA is crossed by a well-connected network of Public Rights of Ways (PRoWs) around St Fagans and the southern valley side of River Ely. The parkland at St Fagans and the surrounding estate farmland is crossed by Valeways Millenium Heritage Trail, which runs north-west to south-east ending at St Fagans. Additionally, PRoWs pass around the earthworks of Michaelston-super-Ely and through Plymouth Great Wood on the southern valley side of River Ely. The SLA provides a green corridor around the edge of Cardiff.

4.60 The area strongly meets the criterion.

Photograph 4.7: Dense riparian corridor of the River Ely



Photograph 4.8: Pasture and parkland north of St Fagans



Photograph 4.9: The dense and steep valley sides of the River Ely



Photograph 4.10: The proposed extension area to the north



Special Qualities of the SLA

4.61 Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:

- The rural character of the landscape and the relatively tranquil nature of the estate farmland and the Ely Valley.
- The strong pattern of hedgerows, trees, and woodlands.
- Distinctive character of the Ely Valley with steep, wooded valley sides falling into a narrow floodplain.
- The estate character at St Fagans with its regular pattern of woodlands and roadside avenues of mature trees.
- Valued pockets of semi-natural habitats including beech plantations, mature beech/ash woodlands, riparian habitats along the Ely River.
- The historic character of parts of the landscape, including medieval field patterns and settlements, and an array of historic features, including locally listed buildings and earthworks of Michaelston-super-Ely.
- The landscape's role as a rural setting to Cardiff, softening the transition between development and open countryside.
- The popularity of the area for informal and formal recreation.

A photograph of a forest path. The path is made of reddish-brown earth and is flanked by numerous trees. The tree trunks are covered in green moss. The foliage is young and green, suggesting a spring or early summer setting. The path leads into the distance, where more trees are visible.

Candidate SLA 3 Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge

Candidate SLA 3 Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge

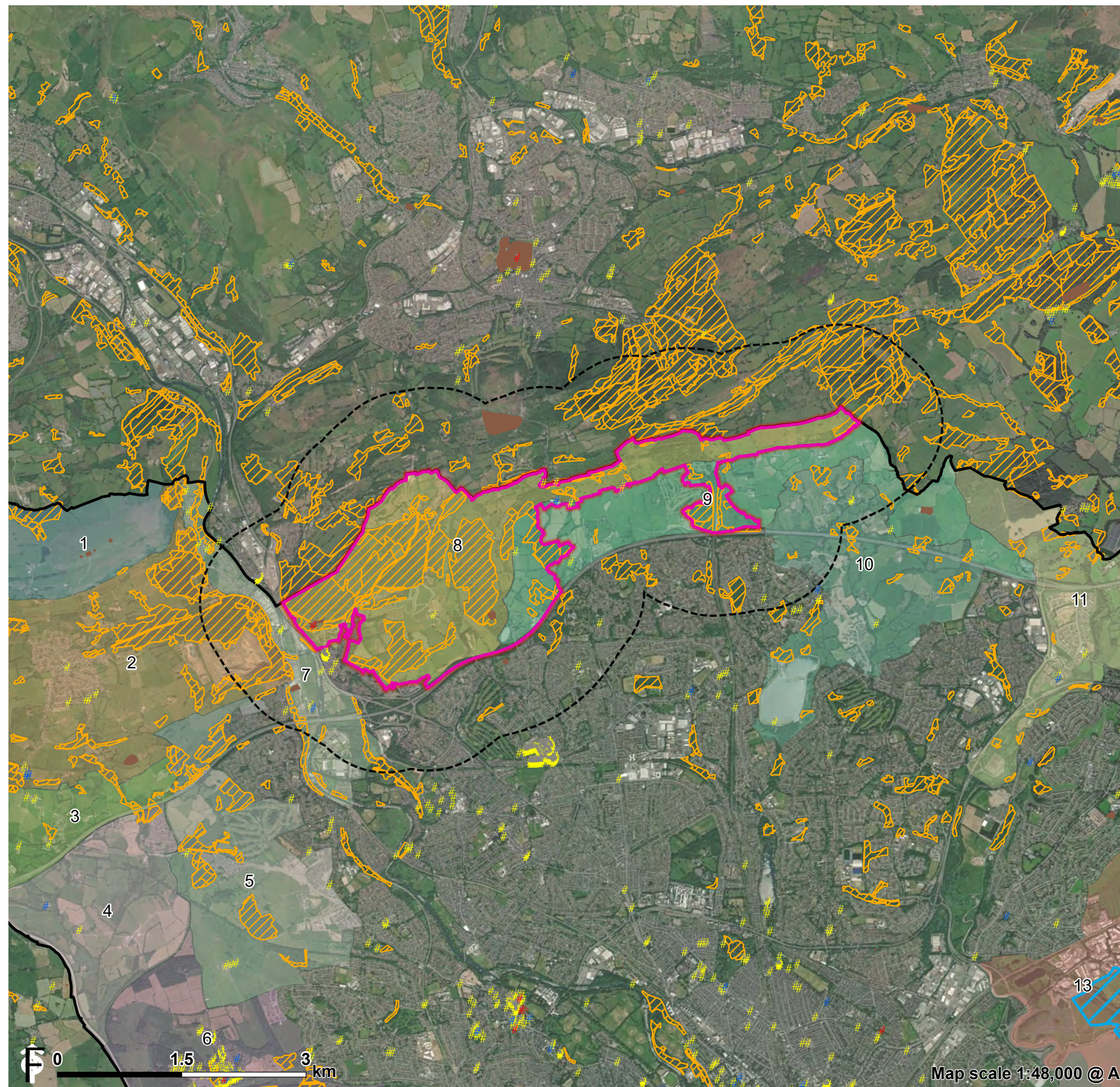
Summary and Recommendations

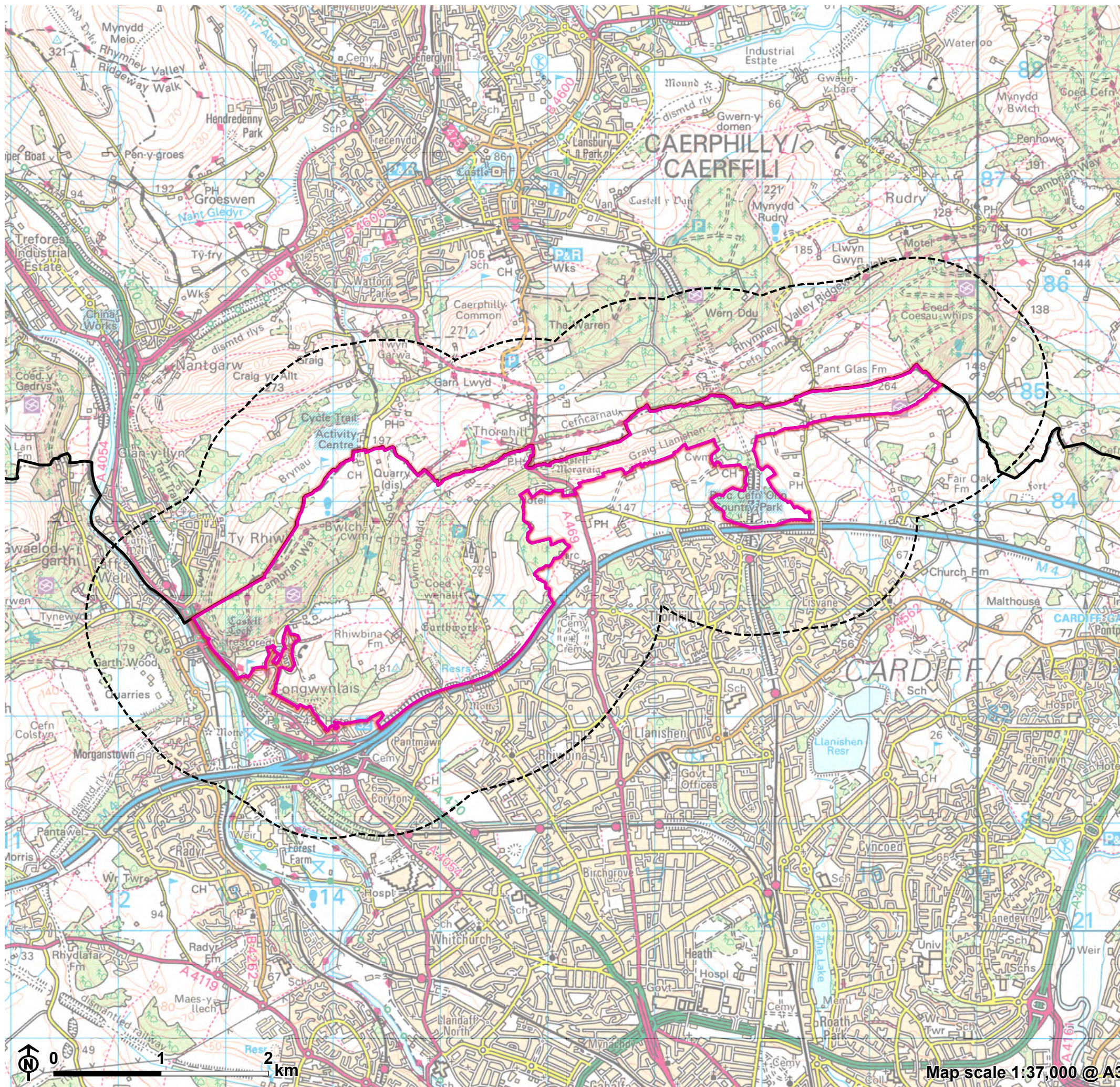
Relationship to existing local landscape designation

4.62 The area is largely covered by the existing SLA. One minor change is proposed to the adopted SLA boundary due to the increased footprint of settlement of Tongwynlais.

4.63 The majority of the candidate area falls within LCA 8 Fforest Fawr & Caerphilly ridge and LCA 9 Caerphilly ridge foothills.

Figure 3.1: Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge Landscape Character Context

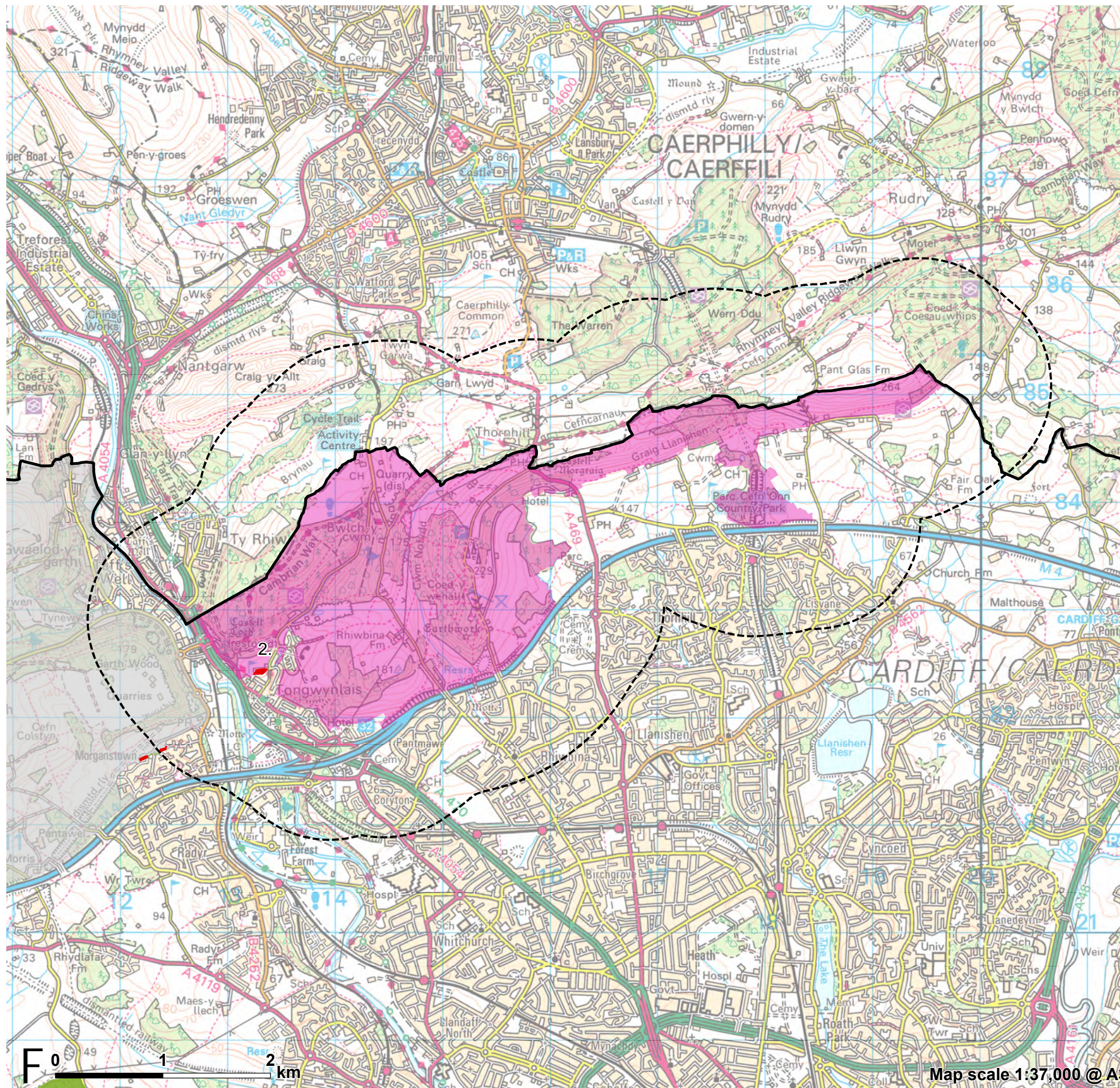




**Figure 3.2: Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge
Proposed Extent**

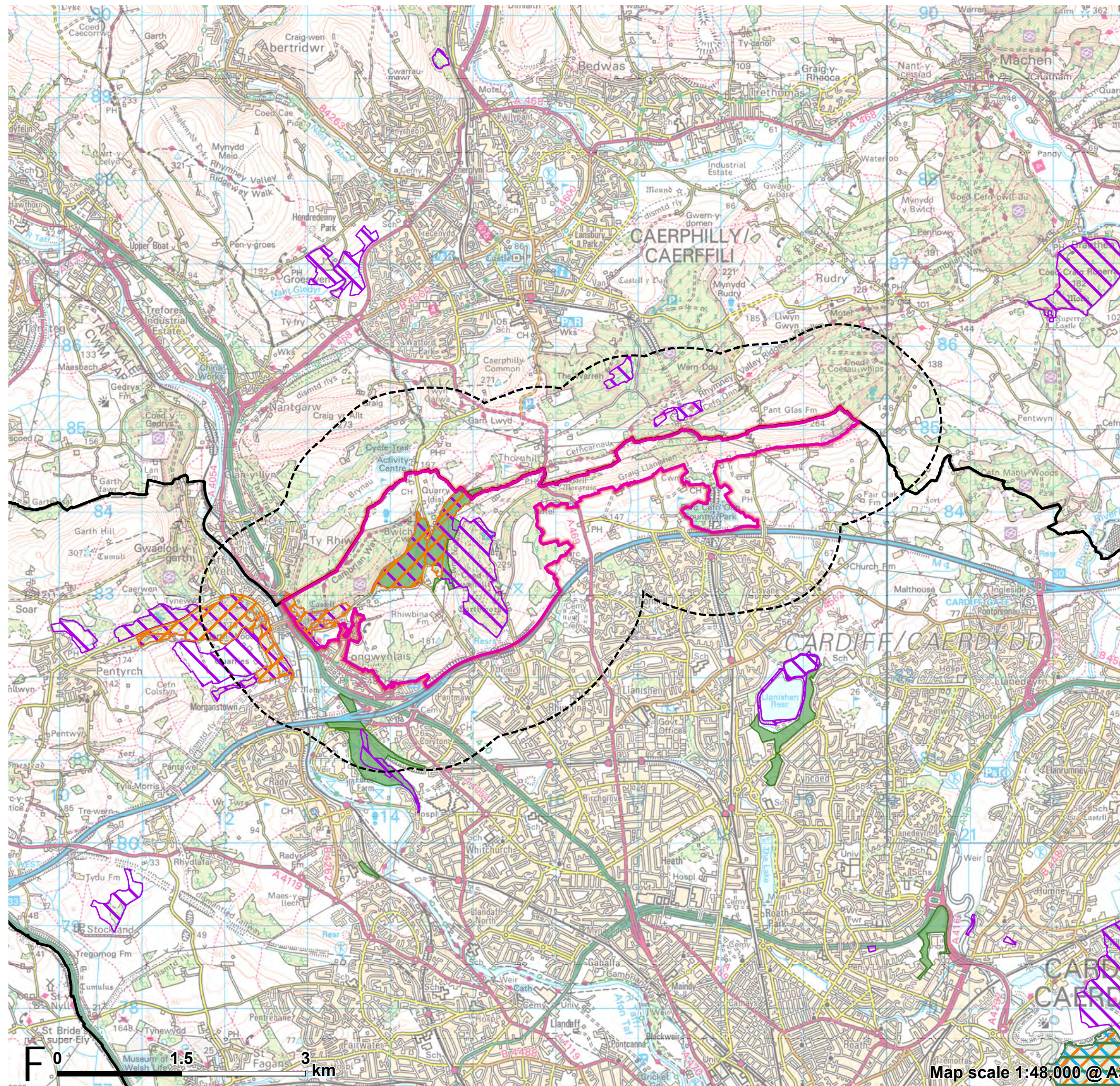
- 1km buffer
- Special Landscape Area
- Cardiff Council boundary

Figure 3.3: Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge Recommendations



2. Exclude area now within urban area

**Figure 3.4: Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge
Natural Heritage Designations**



- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

Full Evaluation

Practical Criteria

Need

4.64 The proximity of the landscape to the M4 and Cardiff makes it especially susceptible to development pressures. The area is also under pressure from recreational activities, including golf courses. The agricultural landscape is under threat due to poor management, resulting in the invasion of bracken and scrub, and fragmentation of field boundaries. The expansion of commercial forestry continues to impact landscape pattern.

4.65 The area meets the criterion.

Cohesiveness

4.66 The SLA comprises prominent wooded hills and the Caerphilly Ridge interspersed with small quarries and incised by intimate valleys. The steep hills and dramatic landform of east-west running ridges and south-facing scarps result from the underlying geology of Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone and this topographical variety is the main source of cohesion in this landscape, giving rise to its form and character.

4.67 The area therefore meets the criterion.

Landscape Criteria

Landscape distinctiveness and sense of place

4.68 The landscape is characterized by steep scarp slopes and extensive woodland, especially in the west which provides a dramatic and distinct

backdrop to the northern edge of Cardiff. The well-preserved evidence of settlement from prehistoric and medieval times, including an Iron Age hillfort and a Victorian Gothic revival castle and the prominent castle on the scarp, all contribute to its sense of place.

4.69 The area partially meets the criteria.

Landscape Quality

4.70 The area is an intact and generally well-maintained rural landscape with a consistent pattern of medium-sized medieval/post-medieval irregular fieldscapes. Well-maintained woodland blocks dominate the area however there is limited replanting.

4.71 The character of the landscape is being eroded due to small scale suburban development and a gradual decline in the quality of hedgerows and pasture due to intensification of horsiculture and settlement edge amenity landscapes. It contains two active quarries, but surrounding woodland reduces their presence in the landscape. Although the M4 is in close proximity, its location in a deep cut, means that it has little visual and noise impact on the area.

4.72 The area partially meets the criterion.

Scenic Quality and perceptual aspects

4.73 There is strong intervisibility between the SLA and the surrounding landscape and seascapes. The escarpment rises up to 254 AOD and forms a striking backdrop to the north of Cardiff and is visually prominent from many areas of the city.

4.74 The differing vegetation patterns of the area affect the scope and range of views. The open landscape in the east, and the ridge offers expansive scenic views southwards across Cardiff, with distant views to the Bristol Channel and Exmoor. In the west, dense woodland on the Caerphilly Ridge creates a sense of enclosure and remoteness, with some views over Cardiff from pockets of

open farmland nestled between the forests, which might become far reaching in winter.

4.75 This is a dramatic and largely undeveloped landscape. The extensive woodland provides a sense of remoteness and seclusion despite its proximity to major roads and settlements.

4.76 There are few detracting features within the SLA except for those areas closer to the M4 and A4054, which include Blaengwynlais Quarry and Cefgarw Quarry and a number of golf courses.

4.77 The area strongly meets the criteria.

Landscape Rarity

4.78 The SLA is an example of an upland landscape of densely wooded hills, steep scarps and intimate valleys which are scarce resources in the local authority area. Although the scarp slope is common in the wider landscape, the combination of the substantial woodlands on the steep slopes and enclosed Caerphilly ridge in the SLA is a unique feature.

4.79 The area meets the criterion.

Natural or cultural associations

4.80 Important semi-natural habitats are scattered throughout the landscape, particularly beech woodlands. This is reflected by the number of international and national designations, including Cardiff Beech Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (which includes the Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd SSSI, Castell Coch Woodlands and Road Section SSSI). This densely wooded landscape includes restored ancient woodland, both semi-natural and planted, at Fforest Fawr, Greenmeadow Wood, Wenallt and Coeyd-y-Briwnant. There are a number of LNR and considerable coverage of SINC's including grassland habitats, broadleaved woodland, and a dense network of hedgerows.

4.81 The area has an array of historic associations, including the Iron Age hillfort enclosure of Coed-y-Wenallt (designated as a Scheduled Monument),

and Castell Coch (Grade I listed building) which overlooks the Taff Gorge and forms a key landmark in the landscape. Along the northern boundary along the ridge top is the 13th Century ruins of Castell Morgraig. The area is known nationally as a route to Caerphilly Mountain. The landscape has (and continues to be) shaped by industrial activity (including limestone and sandstone quarries and historic iron workings) with some small quarries dating to Roman times. Fforest-Fawr woodland is a popular filming location for Welsh historical dramas and children's TV programmes such as Merlin and Sherlock [\[See reference 4\]](#).

4.82 This landscape is rich in natural and cultural associations and therefore strongly meets the criteria.

Recreational Value

4.83 The expanse of woodland on the outskirts of Cardiff, holds value as a public amenity, as does Fforest-fawr woodland (CROW access land) near the village of Tongwylais. Castell Coch and Cefn Onn Park are popular tourist attractions in the region.

4.84 The area is crossed by a number of public footpaths and bridleways, including the promoted routes Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and Cambrian Way. Further connections into the city are somewhat restricted by the M4 motorway.

4.85 The area meets the criterion.

Photograph 4.11: Views of Coed-y-wenallt from Rhiwbina Hill



Photograph 4.12: View towards Castell Coch from Pugh's Garden Village



Photograph 4.13: View from Rhiwbina Hill



Photograph 4.14: Far reaching views from Wenallt Road



Photograph 4.15: View from the top of Graig Road



Photograph 4.16: View into Fforest Fawr from Heol y Fforest



Special Qualities of the SLA

4.86 Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:

- The impressive topography of wooded hills and ridges which provides a dramatic backdrop to Cardiff.
- The remote unspoilt character of the wooded hills and the Caerphilly Ridge which provide a sense of remoteness close to Cardiff.
- The steep upland character offers extensive views southwards across Cardiff and the Bristol Channel and contributes to a strong visual character.
- The array of archaeological and historic features, such as Castle Coch, which contribute to the cultural identity of the landscape.
- Internationally and nationally valued beech woodlands, including blocks of ancient woodland and other semi-natural habitats which provide ecological interest and contribute to green infrastructure.
- The landscape pattern of woodland, upland grasslands, and irregular fieldscapes bound by intact hedgerows, which provides a strong landscape structure.

Candidate SLA 4 Wentloog Levels



DAVIDES
Grouper
1921-1995

Candidate SLA 4 Wentloog Levels

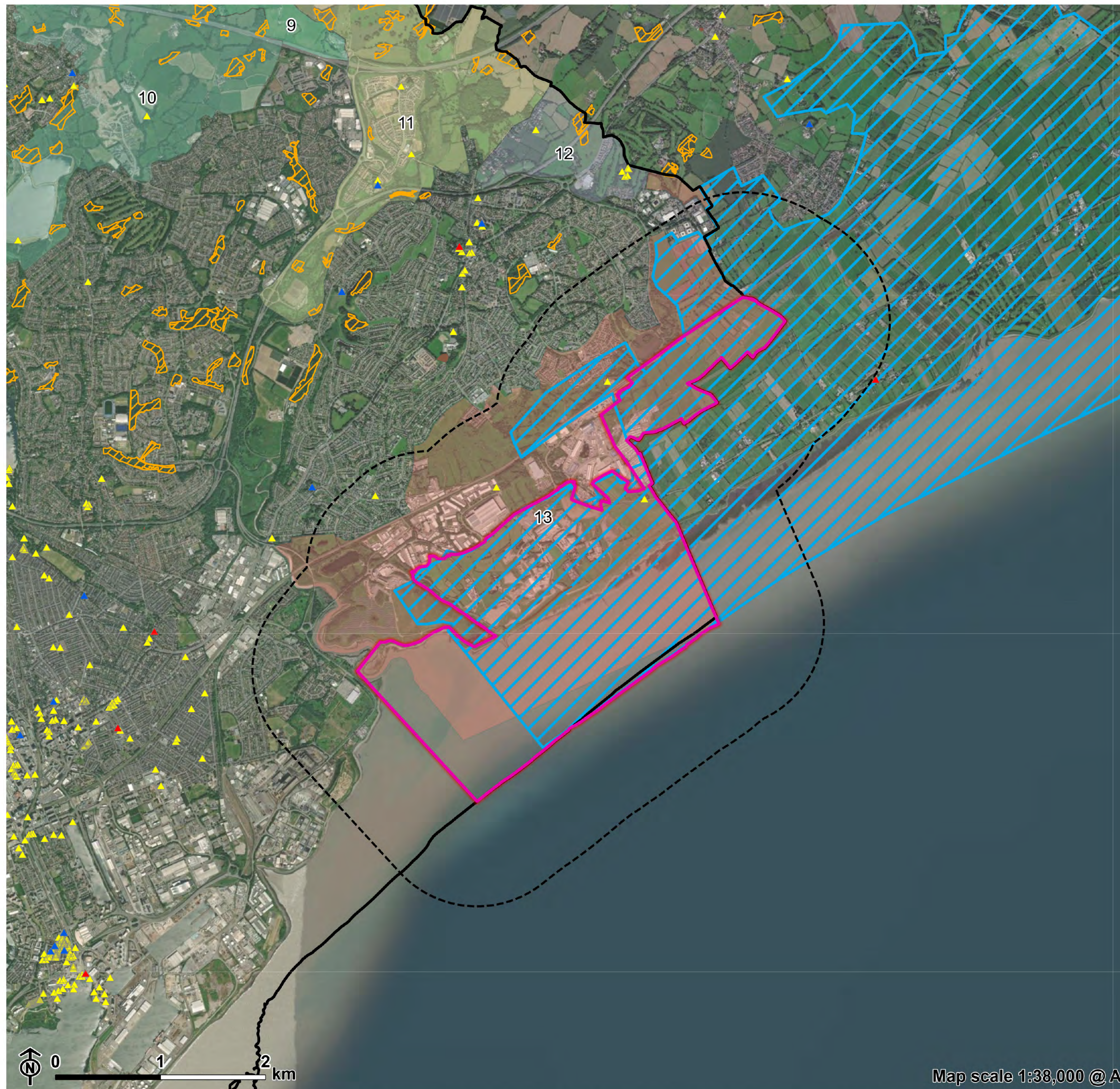
Summary and recommendations

Relationship to existing local landscape designation

4.87 Some of the candidate area is not covered by the existing SLA. This in part is due to the extents of the high ratings in LANDMAP following the southern coastline and areas below the mean tide level, and recent changes to development resulting in areas such as Cardiff Parkway near St Mellons being removed from the candidate area. The boundaries around St Mellons were refined to omit part of the proposed site at Cardiff Parkway north of the railway, but include areas south of the railway, which are proposed for landscape mitigation.

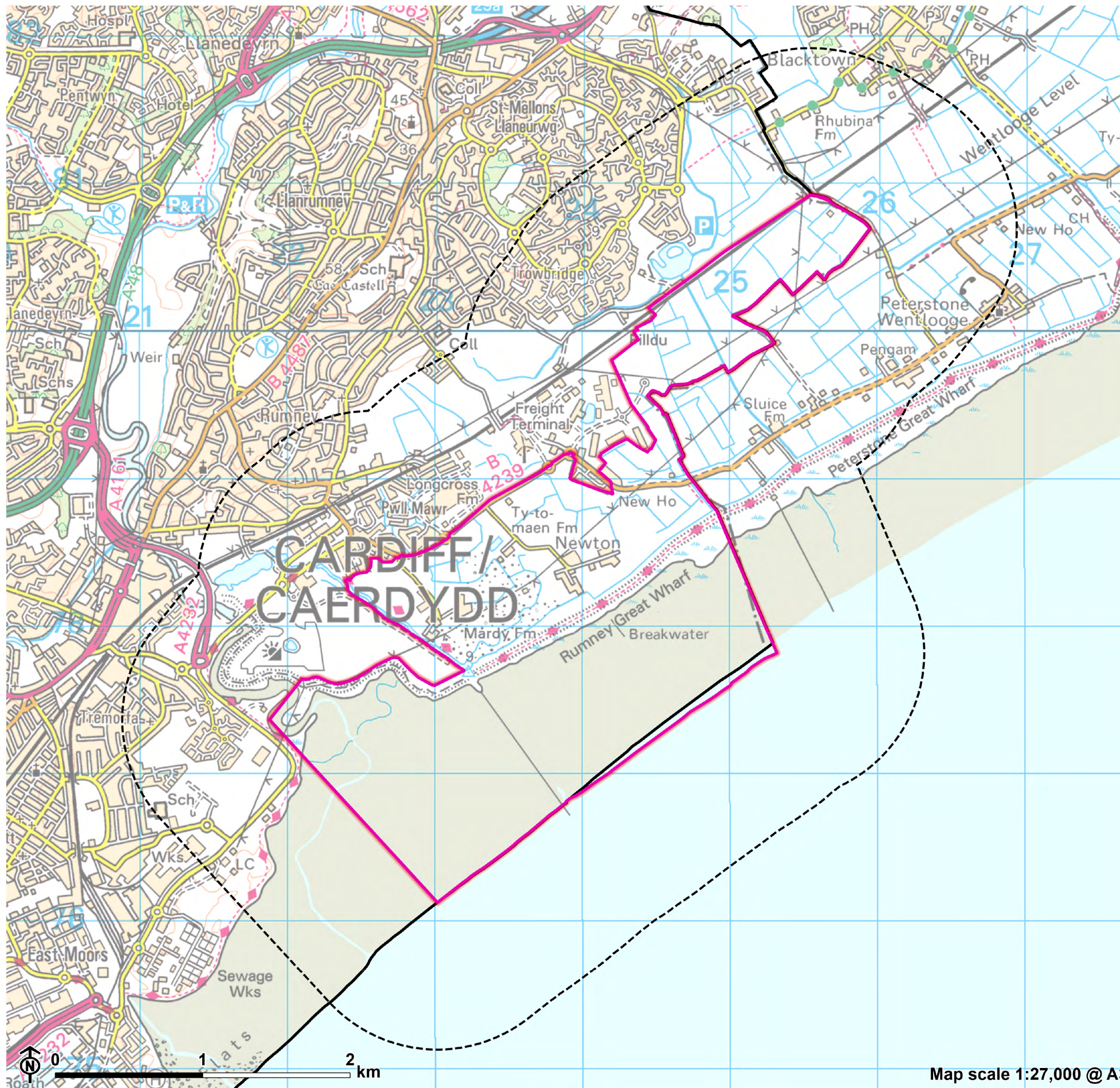
4.88 No change to the boundary is proposed along the south-eastern edge of the SLA that coincides with the southern Cardiff local authority boundary and is contiguous with the Wentlooge Levels SLA which is locally designated by Newport Council. The proposed boundary of this SLA is defined to encompass the small-scale fields and reed system south of the railway from the edge of the Cardiff authority boundary in the east to the remnant fieldscapes abutting the Rhymney River mouth in the west. Although the high LANDMAP ratings extends along the length of the water's edge to Cardiff Bay, based on ground truthing, the boundary is defined as the edge of the Rhymney River mouth. The boundary discounts the areas of urban encroachment and industrial areas. The extents to the north terminate at the urban edge.

Figure 4.1: Wentloog Levels Landscape Character Context



- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Landscape Character Area**
- 9: Caerphilly ridge foothills
- 10: Nant Glandulas lowlands
- 11: River Rhymney corridor
- 12: Northern St Mellons lowlands
- 13: Wentloog levels
- Historic Landscape
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building**
- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*
- ▲ Grade II

Figure 4.2: Wentlooge Levels Proposed Extent

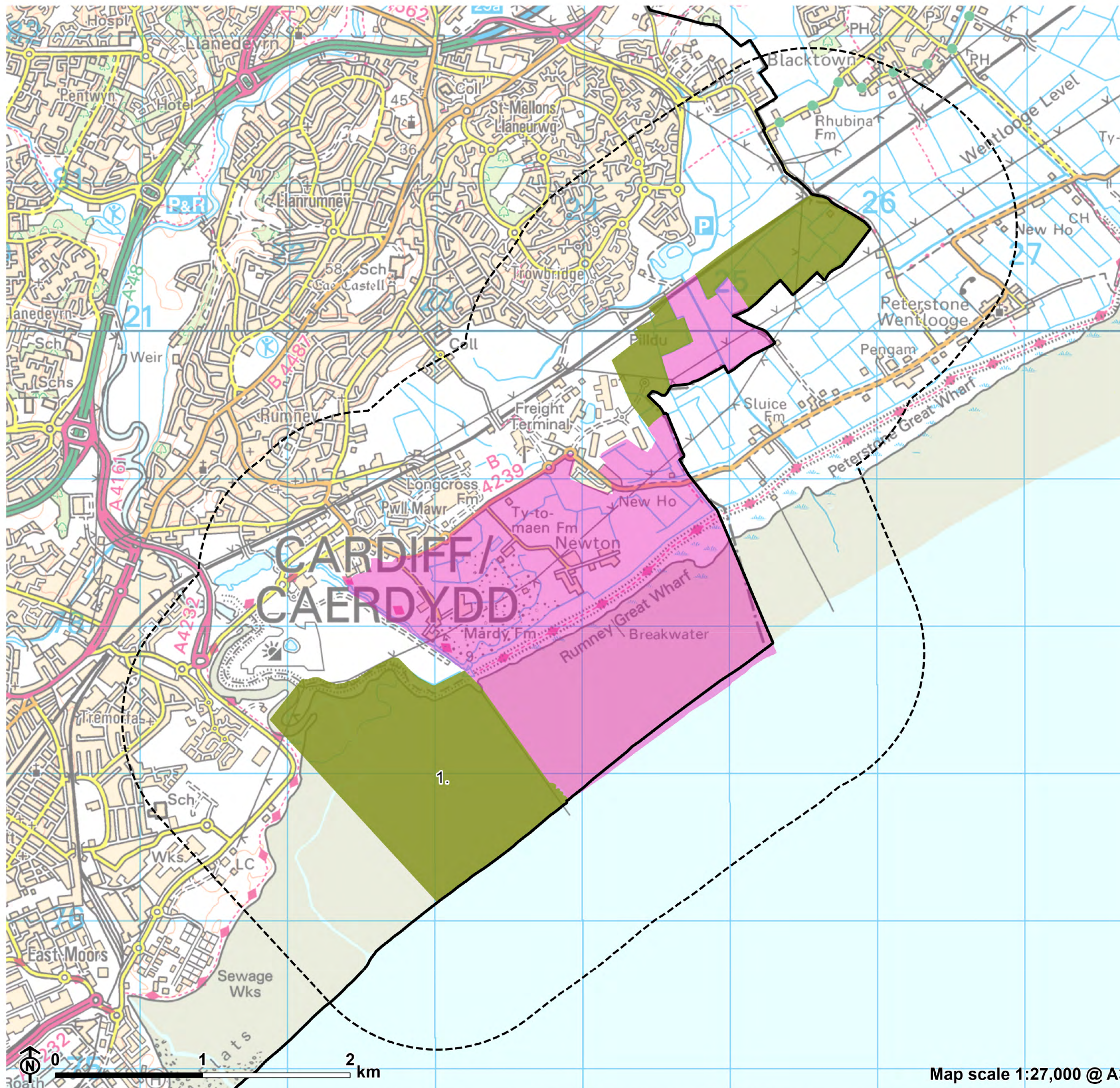


- 1km buffer
- Special Landscape Area
- Cardiff Council boundary

Figure 4.3: Wentloog Levels Recommendations

-  Cardiff Council boundary
-  1km buffer
-  Special Landscape Area
-  Other Special Landscape Area
-  Areas added to Special Landscape Area
-  Areas removed from Special Landscape Area

1. Extend to include Rhymney River mouth and mudflats



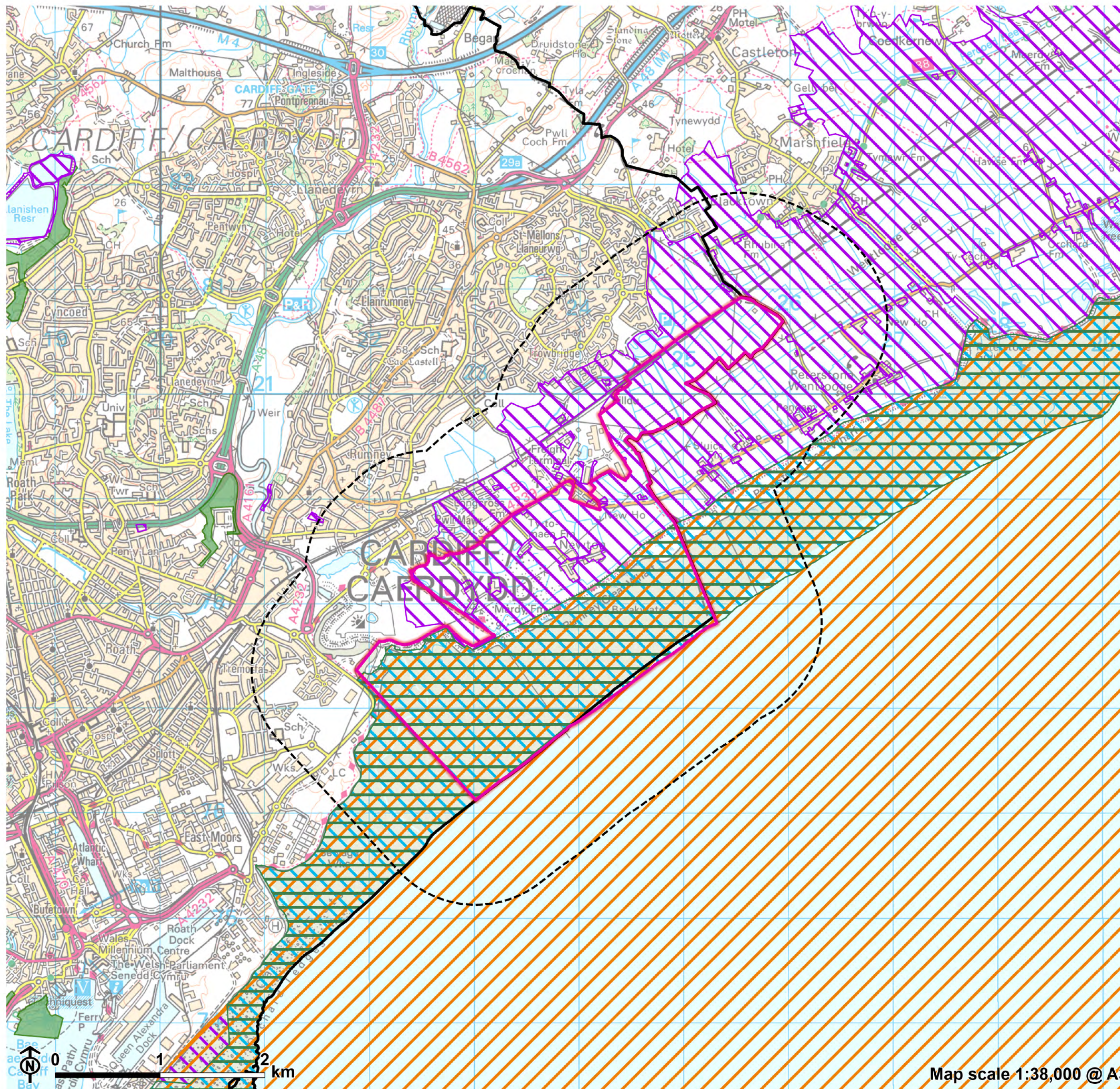


Figure 4.4: Wentloog Levels Natural Heritage Designations

- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

Full Evaluation

Practical criteria

Need

4.89 The area is under intense pressure from employment and residential development to the north and west. The SLA abuts residential development on the fringes of Rhumney and St. Mellons to the north-west. Its proximity to the urban fringe and industrial port areas of Cardiff make it susceptible to development pressure.

4.90 The area meets the criterion.

Cohesiveness

4.91 The candidate area is a part of the unique and prominent Severn Estuary in the south-east of the unitary authority boundary. This area has a cohesive lowland character due to its mudstone, sandstone and siltstone geology **[See reference 5]**.

4.92 The area meets the criterion.

Landscape criteria

Landscape distinctiveness and sense of place

4.93 The Wentloog Levels forms a wide strip of tidal flats (also known as the Cardiff flats) on the shores of the Severn Estuary, which has the second highest tidal range in the world. The intertidal mudflats provide a lowland setting to Cardiff's eastern fringes and a contrast to the urban development within the city

centre. The Taff-Ely estuary forms a tidal confluence which is crossed by Cardiff Bay Barrage.

4.94 The northern extents of the SLA are a distinctively flat levels landscape, around 6 metres AOD, creating a strong sense of place. The mosaic field pattern is made up of reens, ditches and draining fields creating angular lines with an organised, highly rectilinear pattern to the east and an irregular pattern to the west.

4.95 This landscape is distinctive with a strong sense of place and therefore strongly meets the criteria.

Landscape quality

4.96 The condition of the fieldscapes within the candidate area are mostly poor. The fields range from small pastures to the south, which are largely in poor condition, and large arable fields to the north where boundaries have been removed. The coastal zone is of fair condition and outstanding quality.

4.97 The area partially meets the criterion.

Scenic quality and perceptual aspects

4.98 The flat, open coastline affords expansive views across the SLA and the Severn Estuary to Bristol, Portishead, Clevedon and Weston-Super-Mare, Hinkley Nuclear Power Station as well as the uplands of the Quantock Hills Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) and Exmoor National Park.

4.99 The vastness of the wild and exposed coastal range as well as the sinuous and random nature of the watercourses that run throughout the fenland increases the perception of the area being more remote than it is. The expansive wetlands of the Gwent and Wentlooge Levels and the intertidal zone of saltmarshes, mudflats, sands, and shore of the Severn Estuary within the SLA create a sense of tranquillity. The low horizon, flat landscape, and big skies (often enhanced by dramatic cloudscapes, sunrises and sunsets) give the Levels a unique ethereal quality. This is contrasted by the influence of the

industrial and urban coastal development along the northern and north-western edge of the candidate area.

4.100 The reens are occasionally connected with the existing hedgerow where there is a strong contrast between the outgrown hedge with mature willows and field trees and the gappy, less robust hedgerow.

4.101 The area partially meets the criteria.

Landscape rarity

4.102 The proposed SLA is a very distinctive levels landscape with reens and orthogonal field pattern which together is nationally rare. It scores a moderate rarity geologically as an inland part of the reclaimed marshland of the Severn estuarine terrace.

4.103 The area strongly meets the criterion.

Natural or cultural associations

4.104 The large sections of the intertidal zone in the east of the proposed SLA is exposed to the unique conditions of the Severn Estuary which contains internationally important habitats. This is recognised through international and national designation including the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

4.105 The eastern area of the SLA is of international importance for its uniquely rich archaeological and historical resource. As such, the Gwent Levels is registered as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. The strategic role of the estuary as a key entry point into Britain by sea has long been recognised with both Roman and Viking fleets approaching via the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary. The artificial Gwent and Wentlooge Levels started taking shape in Roman times. The historic fenland watercourses are known locally as 'reens', with bankside vegetation managers known as 'brinkers' [See [reference 6](#)]. Historic records include the 16th century relict seawall scheduled ancient monument, and a high number of National Monument Record of Wales

(NMRW) sites. There is a locally designated archaeologically sensitive area which coincides with the eastern extents of the candidate area.

4.106 This landscape is rich in natural and cultural associations and therefore strongly meets the criteria.

Recreational value

4.107 Wentloog Levels is an area of enclosed lowland forming a landscape of considerable significance and value for public amenity. The Wales Coastal Path runs north-east to south-west through varying landscape typologies and connects the candidate area to the Cardiff Bay Barrage (itself a National Cycle Network Trail), and Cardiff city centre [\[See reference 7\]](#).

4.108 The area meets the criterion.

Photograph 4.17: Elevated view from the Heol Las railway overbridge



Photograph 4.18: View inland from the Wales Coast Path



Photograph 4.19: View from Wentlloog Road



Photograph 4.20: View from the Wales Coast Path



Photograph 4.21: View of the flat field systems and reen network



Photograph 4.22: View of the River Rhymney mouth



Special Qualities of the SLA

4.109 Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:

- Vast, exposed and open coastline character affording expansive views with open, empty vistas characterising the Gwent Levels and strong intervisibility with the Somerset coastline, including the summits of the Quantock Hills AONB and Exmoor National Park.
- Internationally important habitats (including tidal flats, saltmarshes and wet grassland) for wintering waterfowl and migratory birds.
- Sense of tranquillity created through expansive wetlands of the Gwent and Wentlooge Levels and the intertidal zone of saltmarshes, mudflats, and sands.
- Historic artificial drainage channels known as reens.

Candidate SLA 5

Flat Holm Island



Candidate SLA 5 Flat Holm

Summary and recommendations

Relationship to existing local landscape designation

4.110 The area is contiguous with the existing SLA.

4.111 The proposed area does not fall within a Landscape Character Area but does fall within the National Marine Character Area 29 – Severn Estuary. **[See reference 8]**

4.112 The boundaries of the SLA are defined by the coastline of the island of Flat Holm. Therefore, the boundaries remain unchanged from the former SLA 1.

Figure 5.1: Flat Holm Landscape Character Context

-  Cardiff Council boundary
-  Special Landscape Area
-  1km buffer
-  Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building**
 -  Grade II



Figure 5.2: Flat Holm Proposed Extent

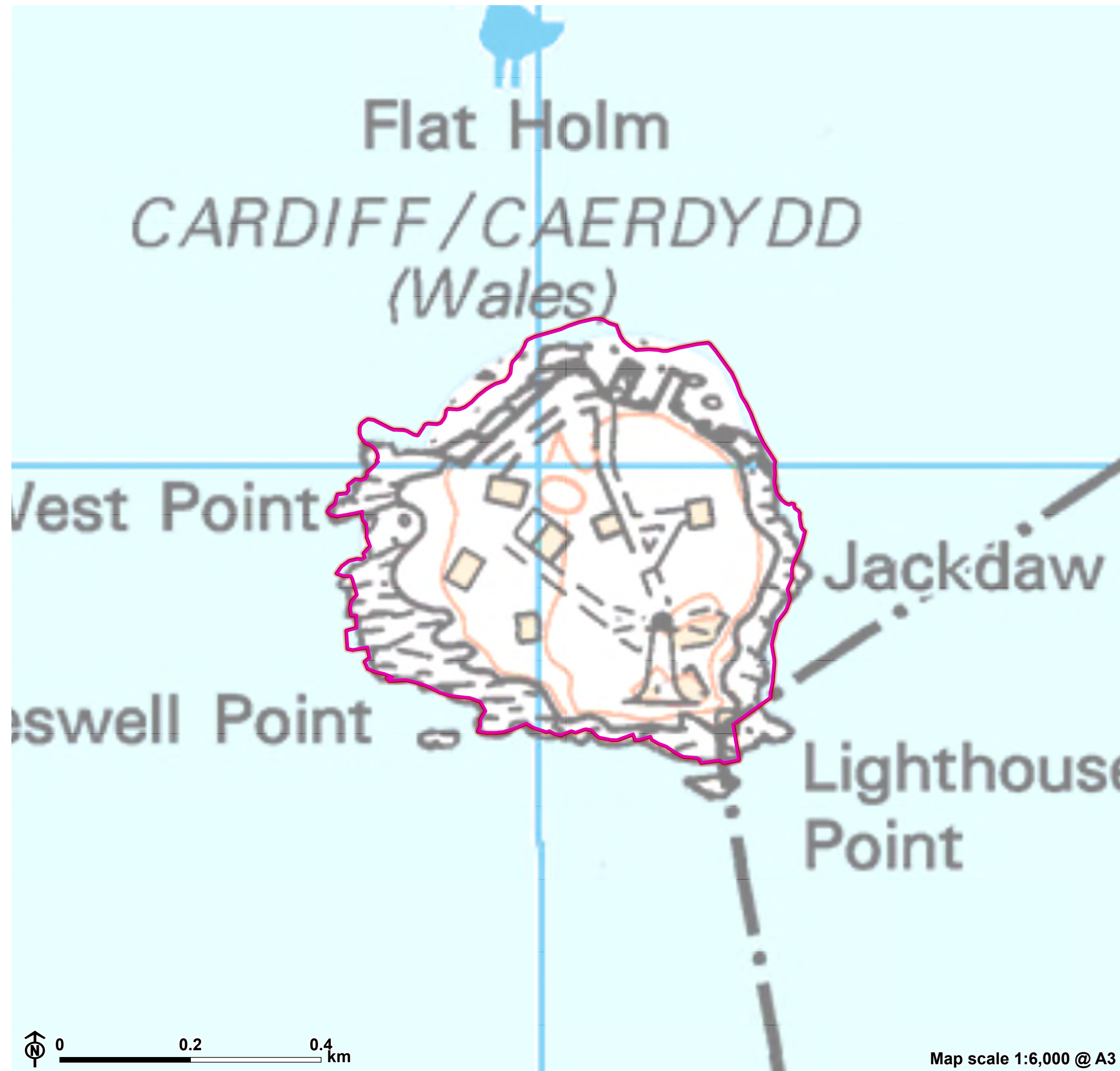


Figure 5.3: Flat Holm Recommendations

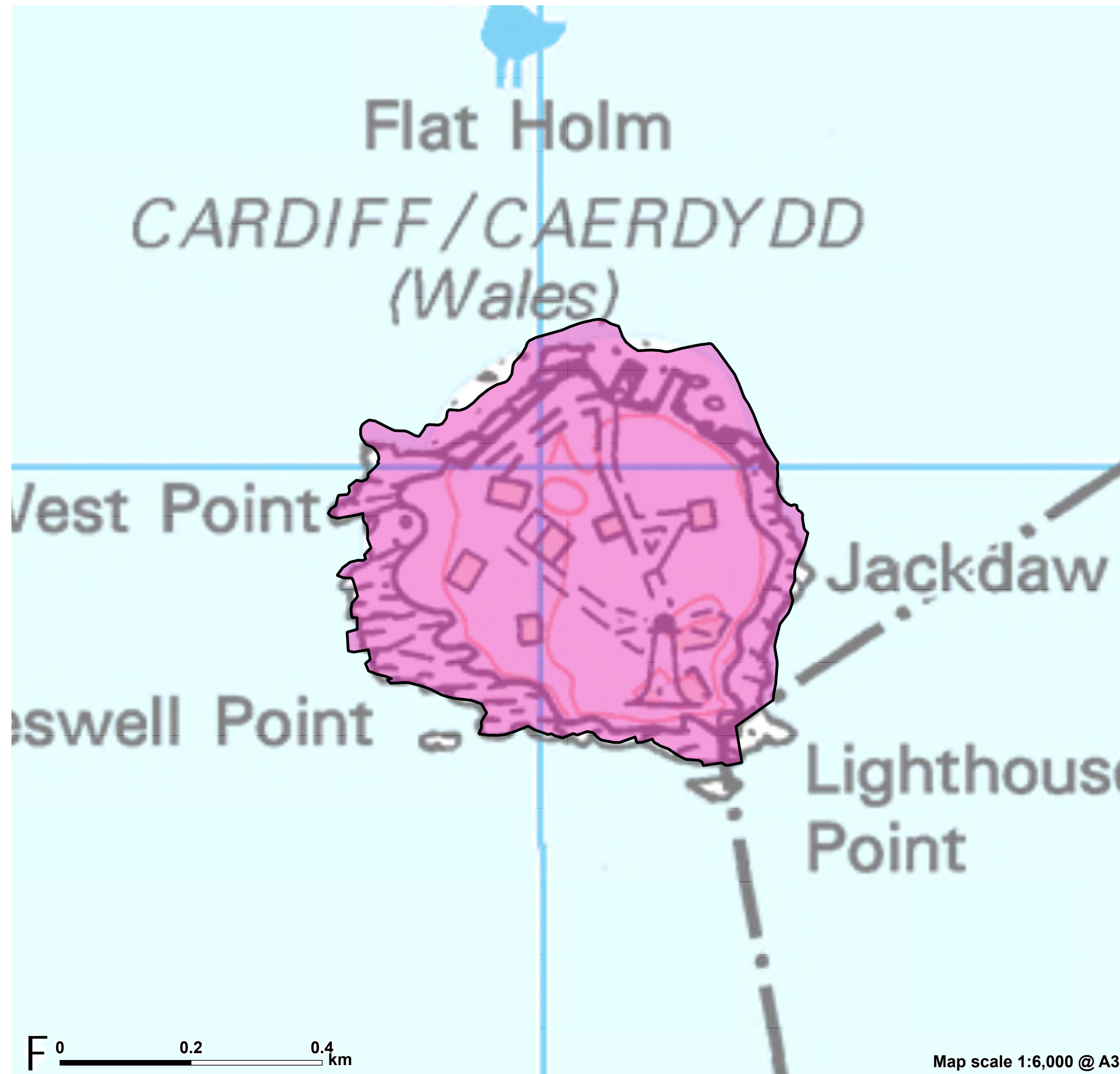
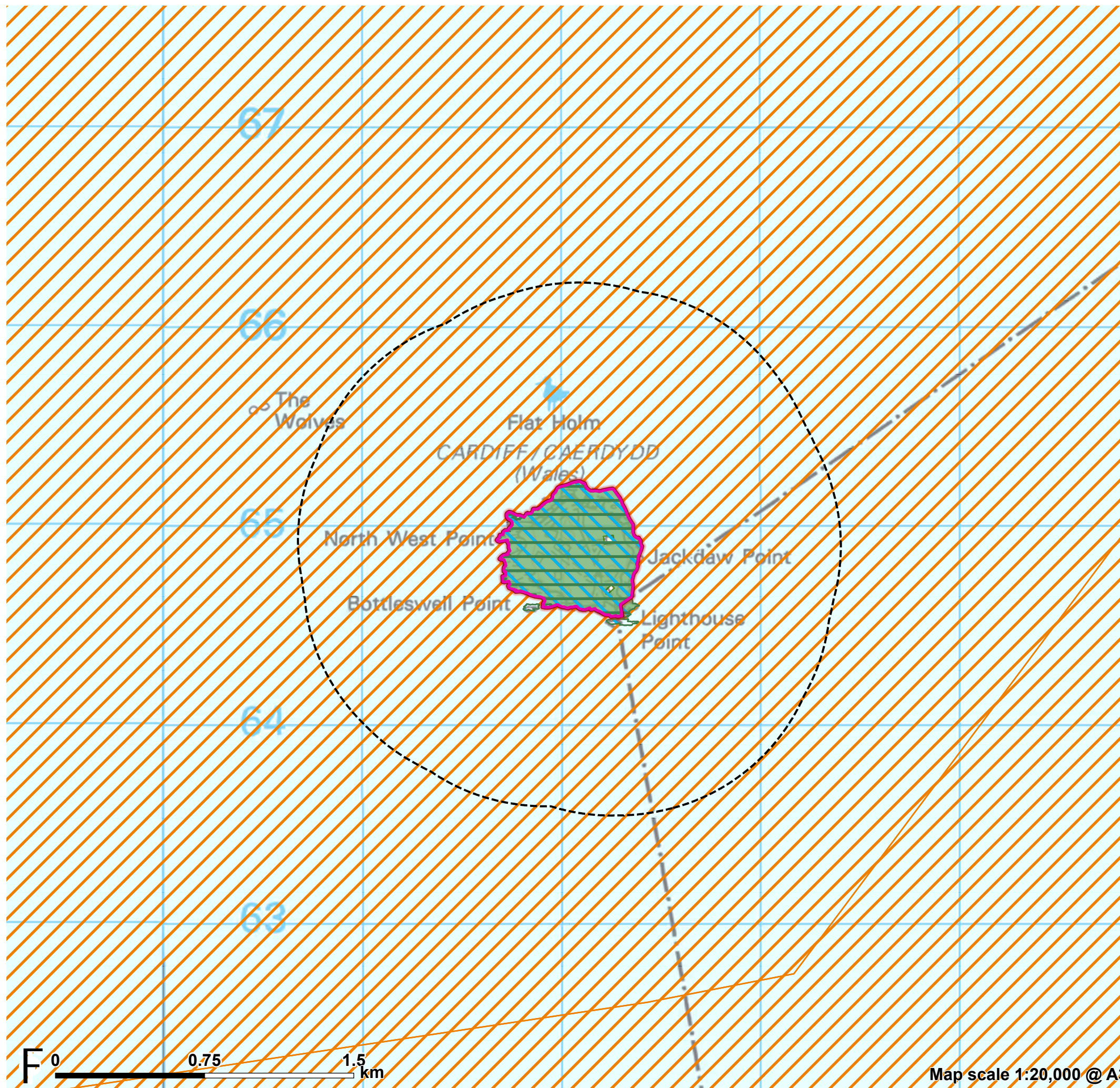


Figure 5.4: Flat Holm Natural Heritage Designations



- Cardiff Council boundary
- Special Landscape Area
- 1km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Site of Special Scientific Interest

Full Evaluation

Practical criteria

Need

4.113 Although areas surrounding the island are internationally designated as part of the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation, this does not extend to include Flat Holm Island. The candidate area is a protected Local Nature Reserve and forms part of the wider Severn Estuary SSSI.

4.114 The island has a unique visual, ecological, geological, historical and cultural value and is of unique character in the local authority area, which justifies the need for the additional protection provided by local landscape designation.

4.115 The area meets the criterion.

Cohesiveness

4.116 The prominent island of Steep Holm in its entirety forms the candidate area, with boundaries defined by the mean tide level. Its cohesiveness is further emphasised by multiple international designations (Special Protection Area, SSSI, Ramsar, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas) which cover the island in its entirety.

4.117 The area strongly meets the criterion.

Landscape criteria

Landscape distinctiveness and sense of place

4.118 Flat Holm Island, a small circular island with low cliffs and shingle beaches, forms a gateway feature into the Severn Estuary from the Bristol Channel and is the most southerly point of Wales. An outcrop of hard limestone rising 30 metres AOD, part of the island is registered as a Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site, which is nationally important for its geology and geomorphology. Its long and unique history as the site of a monastery, a cholera hospital and fortified defences and its prominent lighthouse, provide a rich historical context contributing to the sense of place of the island.

4.119 Together with its neighbouring island, Steep Holm (which lies in English waters to the south), the uninhabited islands known as The Wolves, create a characteristic outline in the Estuary.

4.120 The area meets the criteria.

Landscape quality

4.121 The island shoreline is characterised by striking, folded, and faulted limestone cliffs and shingle beaches. On the islands' mostly flat land surface stone walls enclose two pastures surrounded by tall herb vegetation and scrub habitats. The island is in moderate condition as it is no longer grazed regularly and some buildings are derelict, although there are no intrusive detractors.

4.122 The area partially meets the criterion.

Scenic quality and perceptual aspects

4.123 Flat Holm Island, and its neighbouring island Steep Holm Island, are landmark features in the Bristol Estuary, visible from viewpoints along the coast and from towns such as Penarth.

4.124 Panoramic views are available from the island across the Severn Estuary, north to Cardiff and Cardiff Bay, Penarth and Barry and south and east to Bristol, Portishead, Clevedon and Weston-Super-Mare, Hinkley Nuclear Power Station and further to the uplands of the Quantock Hills AONB and Exmoor National Park.

4.125 Open, exposed and windswept, the character of the island changes with the weather, from a tranquil coastal landscape to a wild outpost in the middle of the Severn Estuary swept by wind and sea. Treacherous conditions for ships around the island led a history of shipwrecks.

4.126 There are few detracting features within the SLA with prominent features such as the lighthouse and the visual relationship with the island of Steep Holm adding to its scenic qualities.

4.127 The area strongly meets the criteria.

Landscape rarity

4.128 The rarity of the island is rated outstanding for both geological and visual and sensory aspects. This is largely due to its characteristic flat profile which is visually prominent within the Severn Estuary, and for sections of Carboniferous Limestone. The island also supports rare wild leek and bird's foot clover, both of restricted distribution in Britain. Flat Holm is one of only two islands in the Severn Estuary and is viewed as a gateway into the Bristol channel.

4.129 The area strongly meets the criterion.

Natural or cultural associations

4.130 The island is noted for its ecological value including coastal grassland, tall herb vegetation, scrub, intertidal chalk, reefs, and habitat for black-backed gulls. This is reflected in its designation as a Local Nature Reserve and SSSI. The surrounding waters are internationally designated as the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, and Ramsar and supports a wealth of wildlife including birds, fish and invertebrates due to its subtidal sandbanks, intertidal mudflats and sandflats.

4.131 Flat Holm has a long history of human occupation, dating back to the Bronze age. It became a sanctuary for hermits in the 5th and 6th centuries, a refuge for Vikings, silver miners, 18th century smugglers, and in the 19th century for cholera victims [\[See reference 9\]](#). Due to its strategic geographical position the island was fortified in Victorian times and again in World War II. Alongside Steep Holm the islands formed part of a line of defences known as Palmerston Forts. Many of these features are now scheduled monuments and there are several Grade II listed buildings.

4.132 Flat Holm alongside Lavernock Point are acknowledged for transmitting the first ever radio message across water to by Guglielmo Marconi and George Kemp in 1897. [\[See reference 10\]](#)

4.133 This landscape is rich in natural and cultural associations and therefore strongly meets the criteria.

Recreational value

4.134 Flat Holm is a largely unspoilt island with considerable ecological, strategic, and historic significance. Boat day trips to the island run from the start of Spring and allows season access and recreation.

4.135 The area meets the criterion.

Photograph 4.23: Remnant hospital buildings on the island
(Source: geograph 3078781 by Gareth James)



Photograph 4.24: The open coast with minimal development
(Source geograph 3078645 by Gareth James)



Special Qualities of the SLA

4.136 Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:

- Flat Holm forms a gateway feature in the Bristol Channel with its outcrop of harder limestone rising out of the surrounding sediments. The island's relationship with its surrounding context (Steep Holm, the designated Severn Estuary, and the panoramic backdrop of Welsh and English landscapes) further adds to its local distinctiveness.
- The island is noted for its ecological value including coastal grassland, and habitat for black-backed gulls forming its Local Nature Reserve and SSSI status.
- Focal point for views from the wider area north and south of the Severn Estuary.
- Flat Holm's striking geological formation and profile makes it visually distinctive within the wider seascape.
- Recreational value.

Table 4.1: SLA Summary table

LLD area of search	Need	Cohesiveness	Landscape distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Landscape rarity	Natural or cultural associations	Recreational value
SLA 1 Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges	Meets	Meets	Meets	Partially meets	Partially meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
SLA 2 St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley	Meets	Meets	Meets	Partially meets	Partially meets	Partially meets	Meets	Meets
SLA 3 Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge	Meets	Meets	Partially meets	Partially meets	Strongly meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
SLA 4 Wentloog Levels	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	Partially meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
SLA 5 Flat Hom	Meets	Meets	Meets	Partially meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets

Appendix A

Landscape scores

Geological Landscape

Table A.1: Geological Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
CRDFFGL001	Newton	3
CRDFFGL002	Pilldu	2
CRDFFGL003	Rhymney river valley	3
CRDFFGL004	Began	1
CRDFFGL005	Roath Park valley	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
CRDFFGL006	Twyn Harris	2
CRDFFGL007	Graig Llanishen	3
CRDFFGL008	Tongwynlais	2
CRDFFGL009	Castell Coch	3
CRDFFGL010	Lisvane	2
CRDFFGL011	Fforest Fawr	3
CRDFFGL012	Llanishen reservoir	1
CRDFFGL013	Cyncoed golf course	2
CRDFFGL014	Bute Park-Hailey Park	2
CRDFFGL015	Taff made ground	1
CRDFFGL016	Forest Farm	2
CRDFFGL017	Taff Gorge	4

Appendix A Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
CRDFFGL018	Coryton	1
CRDFFGL019	Radyr	2
CRDFFGL020	Waterhall plantation	2
CRDFFGL021	St Fagans	2
CRDFFGL022	Michaelston super Ely	2
CRDFFGL023	Ely valley	2
CRDFFGL024	Tawel fan	3
CRDFFGL025	Pentwyn	3
CRDFFGL026	Pentyrch	3
CRDFFGL027	Caerwen	2
CRDFFGL028	Garth Hill	2
CRDFFGL029	Creigiau valley	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
CRDFFGL030	Capel Llanilltern	2
CRDFFGL031	Creigiau	3
CRDFFGL032	Llwyn y brain	2
CRDFFGL033	Flatholm	4
CRDFFGL034	Taff's Well	2
CRDFFGL035	Taff-Ely Estuary	1
CRDFFGL036	Docks, East and Pengam Moors	1
CRDFFGL037	Rhymney river	2
CRDFFGL038	N Pengam	1
CRDFFGL039	Cardiff Flats	2
CRDFFGL040	Cathays - Roath	3
CRDFFGL041	S Pen-y-lan	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
CRDFFGL042	Pen-y-lan	4
CRDFFGL043	Cyncoed	2
CRDFFGL044	Cyncoed Village	1
CRDFFGL045	Lisvane	2
CRDFFGL046	Thornhill	3
CRDFFGL047	Ty Glas	2
CRDFFGL048	Birchgrove	1
CRDFFGL049	Heath Park	2
CRDFFGL050	Whitchurch golf course	2
CRDFFGL051	Heath stations	1
CRDFFGL052	Llandaff North	1
CRDFFGL053	Canton	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
CRDFFGL054	Fairwater	1
CRDFFGL055	Ely	3
CRDFFGL056	Lower Ely valley	1
CRDFFGL057	Trelai Park	1
CRDFFGL058	Leckwith	1
CRDFFGL059	Mynachdy	1
CYNONGL006	Risca - Ruperra	2
CYNONGL013	L Taff L Rhymney Ridgeway	2
CYNONGL015	Taff valley	2
CYNONGL032	Upper Ely	2
CYNONGL049	Llanharry-Pontyclun	2
NWPRTGL034	Wentlooge Level	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Geological Landscape UID	Aspect name	Classic example
NWPRTGL040	Michaelstone-y-Fedw	2
NWPRTGL043	Rhymney	1
VLFGGLGL238	Penarth	1
VLFGGLGL523	Penarth Flats	1
VLFGGLGL532	Pendoylan	2
VLFGGLGL749	Wenvoe	1
VLFGGLGL947	Peterston	1

Landscape Habitats

Table A.2: Landscape Habitat Scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH001	Rhymney Mudflats	4	3
CRDFFLH002	Wentlooge Levels (S. of Rhymney)	4	4
CRDFFLH003	Rhymney Great Wharf	3	3
CRDFFLH004	Lamby Tip	0	3
CRDFFLH005	Rhymney Estuary	4	3
CRDFFLH006	West of Rhymney Estuary	0	1
CRDFFLH007	Lamby Lake & surrounds	2	0
CRDFFLH008	Wentlooge Levels (S. of St. Mellons)	0	4

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH009	Llanrumney Sports Fields	0	2
CRDFFLH010	River Rhymney & surrounds	0	2
CRDFFLH011	N. of Old St.Mellons	1	1
CRDFFLH012	Cardiff Golfcourse	0	2
CRDFFLH013	Between Lisvane & Pontprennau	0	1
CRDFFLH014	Llanishen & Lisvane Reservoirs	4	3
CRDFFLH015	Roath Park Lake	0	3
CRDFFLH016	Roath Park	0	0
CRDFFLH017	Cefn Mably Woods	0	1
CRDFFLH018	Between M4 and Cefn Mably	1	1
CRDFFLH019	Farmland N. of Lisvane	0	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH020	Llanishen Golfcourse/Parc Cefn Onn	0	2
CRDFFLH021	Farmland N. of Thornhill	0	1
CRDFFLH022	Forest Fawr & Ganol and Wenallt	3	3
CRDFFLH023	Mountain Lakes Golfcourse	0	2
CRDFFLH024	M4 Motorway	0	0
CRDFFLH025	Farmland at Tongwynlais	0	1
CRDFFLH026	River Taff & surrounds N. of M.4	0	2
CRDFFLH027	Coed Rhiw'r Ceiliog	0	2
CRDFFLH028	Garth Wood	4	3
CRDFFLH029	Taff's Well Quarry	0	0
CRDFFLH030	Farmland between Penturk & Morganstown	0	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH031	Woodlands from Morganstown - Creigau	0	2
CRDFFLH032	Garth Hill (Bracken)	0	1
CRDFFLH033	Garth Hill	0	1
CRDFFLH034	Craid Gwilym	2	2
CRDFFLH035	Farmland N. of Creigau	0	1
CRDFFLH036	Creigau	1	1
CRDFFLH037	Farmland S.of Creigau, N. of M.4	2	2
CRDFFLH038	Pentyrch	1	1
CRDFFLH039	Farmland N., S. & W. of Pentyrch	0	1
CRDFFLH040	Forest Farm and surrounds	2	2
CRDFFLH041	Radyr Golfcourse	1	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH042	Western Rural Cardiff	0	1
CRDFFLH043	St. Fagans	0	1
CRDFFLH044	River Taff & surrounds S. of M.4	0	2
CRDFFLH045	Flatholm Island	2	4
CRDFFLH046	Ty Du Moor & Marsh	4	4
CRDFFLH047	Ely Valley	3	2
CRDFFLH048	Avenue Retail Park	2	1
CRDFFLH049	Capital and Ferry Road Retail Parks	1	2
CRDFFLH050	Cardiff Bay	2	3
CRDFFLH051	Cardiff Docks and Atlantic Wharf	1	1
CRDFFLH052	Cardiff Met Uni Sports Grounds	1	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH053	Cardiff Urban North	1	2
CRDFFLH054	Cathays Cemetery and Allotments	2	3
CRDFFLH055	Cerau to Saltmead	1	2
CRDFFLH056	Heath Park	2	2
CRDFFLH057	Llandaff West	1	1
CRDFFLH058	Maindy to Splott	1	1
CRDFFLH059	Parc Ty Glas	1	1
CRDFFLH060	Pengam Green and Tremorfa Park	1	2
CRDFFLH061	Pentwyn and Cyncoed	2	2
CRDFFLH062	Sanatorium and Trelai Parks	2	2
CRDFFLH063	Thornhill Cemetery	2	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CRDFFLH064	Whitchurch Golf Club and Pantmawr Cemetery	1	2
CRDFFLH070	Rhumney and St Mellons	0	0
CRDFFLH071	Morganstown	0	0
CRDFFLH072	Morganstown adjacent	0	0
CRDFFLH073	Tongwynlais	0	0
CRDFFLH074	Part of GWENT LEVELS	3	4
CYNONLH090	No name	1	1
CYNONLH096	No name	2	3
CYNONLH101	No name	2	2
CYNONLH106	No name	3	3
CYNONLH162	No name	3	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
CYNONLH163	No name	2	2
CYNONLH165	No name	3	3
CYNONLH166	No name	2	2
CYNONLH167	No name	2	2
NWPRTLH042	No name	2	2
NWPRTLH056	No name	1	1
NWPRTLH057	No name	3	4
VLFGLLH176	No name	1	0
VLFGLLH403	Ely Valley	3	3
VLFGLLH634	Penarth Coastline	4	3
VLFGLLH814	Penarth	1	0

Appendix A Landscape scores

Landscape Habitats UID	Aspect name	Priority habitats	Significance
VLFGLLH853	Peterstone-super-Ely	2	2
VLFGLLH958	Barry North	3	4
VLFGLLH988	Leckwith-Dinas Powys Woodlands	3	3

Visual and Sensory

Table A.3: Visual and Sensory LANDMAP scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS001	Creigiau- north west	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS002	Tyn-y-Coed	3	3	3	2
CRDFFVS003	Garth- west	3	2	3	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS004	Garth Hill	3	3	3	3
CRDFFVS005	Taff Valley sides- west	3	2	3	2
CRDFFVS006	Pentyrch- north	3	2	3	3
CRDFFVS007	Pentyrch- south	3	2	3	2
CRDFFVS008	Creigiau- south east lowlands	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS009	Upper Stockland lowlands	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS010	Rhydlafr lowlands	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS011	Maes-y-llech	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS012	Pentrebane- west	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS013	St Fagans farmland	3	3	2	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS014	River Ely valley floor	3	2	3	3
CRDFFVS015	River Ely valley sides	3	2	3	3
CRDFFVS016	Fforest Fawr	3	2	3	4
CRDFFVS017	Tongwynlais Scarp slopes	3	2	3	2
CRDFFVS018	Wenallt farmlands	3	2	2	3
CRDFFVS019	Briwnant	3	2	3	2
CRDFFVS020	Capel Gwilym slopes	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS021	Craig Llanishen and Craig Llysfaen	3	2	3	2
CRDFFVS022	Nant Fawr slopes	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS023	Nant Ty-draw	2	2	2	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS024	Nant Glandulas	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS025	Cefn Mably lowlands	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS026	Llanedeyrn lowlands	2	1	2	1
CRDFFVS027	Rhymney valley floor	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS028	Pwll Coch ridge	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS029	Wentlooge Levels north west	2	2	4	4
CRDFFVS030	Wentlooge Levels south west	1	1	4	4
CRDFFVS031	Rumney Great Wharf	4	3	4	4
CRDFFVS032	Severn Estuary	3	2	4	4
CRDFFVS033	Taff Vale farmland	2	2	2	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS034	Whitchurch fields	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS035	Taff farmland- Radyr	2	1	3	2
CRDFFVS036	Flatholm	4	2	4	4
CRDFFVS037	Cardiff East	0	0	0	0
CRDFFVS038	Cardiff West	0	0	0	0
CRDFFVS039	Cardiff Flats	4	3	4	3
CRDFFVS040	Cardiff Castle	4	4	4	4
CRDFFVS041	Bute Park	4	3	3	4
CRDFFVS042	Pontcanna Fields and Blackweir corridor	3	3	3	3
CRDFFVS043	Hailey & Lydstep Parks/ Taff corridor	2	2	2	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS044	Forest Farm and environs	2	2	2	3
CRDFFVS045	Roath Park and open space corridor	2	2	2	3
CRDFFVS046	Roath Lake	3	3	3	3
CRDFFVS047	Nant Fawr open space	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS048	Llanishen Reservoir	2	2	2	3
CRDFFVS049	Pentwyn Parklands	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS050	Howardian Nature Reserve	1	1	2	2
CRDFFVS051	Rhymney Valley floor and sides	2	1	2	2
CRDFFVS052	Rhymney valley floor playing fields	2	2	1	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS053	River Rhymney	2	1	2	2
CRDFFVS054	Rhymney playing fields	2	1	2	2
CRDFFVS055	Lamby Way Park	2	1	2	2
CRDFFVS056	Rhymney valley floor urban fringe	1	1	2	2
CRDFFVS057	Hendre Lake Park	2	2	2	3
CRDFFVS058	Cefn Onn	3	3	3	3
CRDFFVS059	St Fagans FolkMuseum	4	3	4	4
CRDFFVS060	Creigiau Golf Course	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS061	Radyr Golf Club	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS062	Tongwynlais Golf Course	2	3	1	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS063	Castell View Golf Course	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS064	Llanishen Golf Club	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS065	Cardiff Golf Club	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS066	St Mellons Golf Course	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS067	Creigiau Quarry	1	1	1	1
CRDFFVS068	Taff's Well Quarry	1	1	1	1
CRDFFVS069	Cefngarw Quarry	1	1	1	1
CRDFFVS070	Blaengwnlais Quarry	1	1	1	1
CRDFFVS071	River Taff	3	3	3	3
CRDFFVS072	River Rhymney	2	1	2	2
CRDFFVS073	Creigiau	2	1	2	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS074	Penttyrch	2	1	2	1
CRDFFVS075	Rhydlafr new village	2	2	1	1
CRDFFVS076	St Fagans	3	2	3	3
CRDFFVS077	Gwaelod-y-Garth old village	3	2	3	2
CRDFFVS078	Gwaelod-y-Garth new development	1	1	1	1
CRDFFVS079	Amersham laboratories	1	2	1	1
CRDFFVS080	M4 motorway	1	2	1	1
CRDFFVS081	A48 and spur roads	1	2	1	1
CRDFFVS082	A4232	1	2	1	1
CRDFFVS083	Lamby Way Tip	1	1	1	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS084	Cardiff barrage and docks approaches	4	3	4	4
CRDFFVS085	Cardiff Bay	4	3	4	4
CRDFFVS086	River Taff	3	2	3	3
CRDFFVS087	River Ely	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS088	Grangemoor Park	2	1	2	3
CRDFFVS089	Leckwith playing fields	2	2	1	1
CRDFFVS090	Trelai Park	2	2	2	1
CRDFFVS091	Fairwater Park	2	2	3	2
CRDFFVS092	Heath Park	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS093	Coed Cochwyn Park	2	2	2	1

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CRDFFVS094	Cathays Cemetery South	3	3	3	2
CRDFFVS095	Cathays Cemetery North	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS096	Thornhill Cemetery	2	2	3	2
CRDFFVS097	Western Cemetery	2	2	2	2
CRDFFVS098	Whitchurch golf course	2	3	1	1
CRDFFVS099	Caerau Hill	3	2	3	3
CRDFFVS100	Cardiff Bay Barrage	4	3	4	4
CYNONVS271	Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly	2	2	2	2
CYNONVS572	hendre	2	2	2	2
CYNONVS596	A470	1	1	2	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
CYNONVS709	pontypridd	1	1	1	1
CYNONVS740	Area surrounding Cefn Mably lakes	2	2	2	2
NWPRTVS001	Wentlooge Level	3	2	3	4
NWPRTVS002	Michaelston-y-Fedw	2	2	2	2
NWPRTVS003	Rhymney Valley	2	2	2	2
NWPRTVS004	Castleton Environs	2	2	2	2
NWPRTVS007	Estuary Mudflats	4	4	4	4
NWPRTVS012	M4 and A4232	1	1	1	1
VLFGGLVS152	Penarth	2	2	3	2
VLFGGLVS213	Southern Eley Valley	3	3	3	3
VLFGGLVS389	Ely Valley north	2	3	2	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Visual and Sensory UID	Aspect area name	Scenic quality	Integrity	Character	Rarity
VLFGGLVS406	Ely Valley Flood Plain	3	2	3	2
VLFGGLVS596	Cwrt yr Ala Valley	3	3	3	3
VLFGGLVS620	Wenvoe Environs	2	2	2	2
VLFGGLVS683	Ely Valley	3	3	2	2
VLFGGLVS765	Bristol Channel	4	4	4	1
VLFGGLVS909	M4 motorway	1	2	1	1

Historic Landscape

Table A.4: Historic Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CRDFFHL001	St Fagans and River Ely Corridor	3	4
CRDFFHL002	Capel Llanilltern and southwest Pentyrch	4	3
CRDFFHL003	River Taff Corridor	3	2
CRDFFHL004	Pentyrch Plateau	3	2
CRDFFHL005	Garth Upland	4	3
CRDFFHL006	Fforest Fawr and Coed y Wenallt	3	3
CRDFFHL007	Creigiau Llanishen and Llysfaen	3	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CRDFFHL008	River Rhymney Corridor	3	2
CRDFFHL009	Cefn Mably (southwest extention)	3	2
CRDFFHL010	Northwest Wentloog Level	3	3
CRDFFHL011	Southwest Wentloog Level	3	3
CRDFFHL012	Rumney Intertidal Zone	3	4
CRDFFHL013	Flat Holm	4	2
CRDFFHL014	Llanishen Reservoirs	3	3
CRDFFHL015	Roath Valley Parks and Gardens	4	3
CRDFFHL016	Parc Cefn Onn	3	3
CRDFFHL017	Llandaff Historic Core	3	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CRDFFHL018	Bute Park and River Taff Parklands	4	4
CRDFFHL019	Garth Wood and Quarries	3	2
CRDFFHL020	Gwaelod y Garth	3	2
CRDFFHL021	Pentyrch and Penygarn	2	2
CRDFFHL022	Craig y Parc	4	3
CRDFFHL023	Creigiau	2	2
CRDFFHL024	Creigiau Golf Course	3	2
CRDFFHL025	Northeastern Vale (extention)	3	3
CRDFFHL026	Llysfaen and Pontpennau Rural	3	2
CRDFFHL027	Cardiff Golf Club	3	2
CRDFFHL028	Goitre	2	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CRDFFHL029	Pwll Coch	2	2
CRDFFHL030	Radyr Golf Club	3	2
CRDFFHL032	Cardiff Flats	4	4
CRDFFHL033	Leckwith Moors	4	4
CRDFFHL034	Trelai Park	3	3
CRDFFHL035	Ely	4	4
CRDFFHL036	Northwest Cardiff	4	4
CRDFFHL037	Rhiwbina Garden Village	4	4
CRDFFHL038	Llanishen Business Park	4	4
CRDFFHL039	Whitchurch Golf Club	4	4
CRDFFHL040	North Cardiff	4	4
CRDFFHL041	Thornhill Cemetery	4	4

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CRDFFHL042	Llanishen Village	2	3
CRDFFHL043	Cyncoed and Penylan	2	3
CRDFFHL044	Pengam Commercial Estate	3	3
CRDFFHL045	Cardiff Cemetery	4	4
CRDFFHL046	Heath Hospital	3	3
CRDFFHL047	Heath Parkland	3	3
CRDFFHL048	Cathays Park	0	0
CRDFFHL049	Cardiff City Centre	3	3
CRDFFHL050	Cardiff Docks	3	2
CRDFFHL051	Cardiff Bay	2	3
CRDFFHL052	East Moors	3	3
CRDFFHL053	Tredegaville	3	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CRDFFHL054	Newport Road	2	3
CRDFFHL055	Whitchurch Hospital	3	3
CRDFFHL056	Canton and Grangetown	3	3
CRDFFHL057	West Llandaff and South Fairwater	3	3
CRDFFHL058	Tremorfa	3	3
CRDFFHL059	Pengam Moor	3	3
CRDFFHL060	Cardiff Flats Reclaimed Land	3	2
CRDFFHL061	Cathays, Maindy and South Gabalfa	2	2
CRDFFHL062	Adamsdown, Splott, Roath and Cathays Residential Area	3	3
CRDFFHL063	Whitchurch, Gabalfa	3	3

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
CYNONHL187	Coedcaerau-bach & Garthfawr	4	2
CYNONHL596	Rudry	3	2
CYNONHL720	Cefn Mably House	3	3
CYNONHL977	Pontypridd and the Afon Taff	4	2
CYNONHL994	Garth-fawr	3	2
CYNONHL995	Meisgyn	2	2
NWPRTHL001	Michaelston le Fedw Rolling Hills	3	3
NWPRTHL002	Castletown Fen Edge	3	2
NWPRTHL021	Wentlooge Level	4	3
NWPRTHL024	M4 Communication Corridor	3	2
NWPRTHL040	Druidstone	3	2

Appendix A Landscape scores

Historic landscape UID	Aspect area name	Integrity	Condition
NWPRTHL047	Peterstone and the Portland Grounds	3	4
VLFGHLHL001	Vale of Glamorgan coastal littoral	3	3
VLFGHLHL012	Llandough Trading Estate	2	1
VLFGHLHL013	Penarth and Dinas Powys Urban	3	2
VLFGHLHL023	Wenvoe	2	2
VLFGHLHL024	Michaelston-le-Pit and St Andrews Major	3	2
VLFGHLHL025	Leckwith and Cwm Cydfin	3	2
VLFGHLHL043	Ely Valley	3	2
VLFGHLHL054	Llangan Welsh St Donats and Pendoylan	3	2
VLFGHLHL055	St Bride's-super-Ely	3	2

Appendix B

Additional information

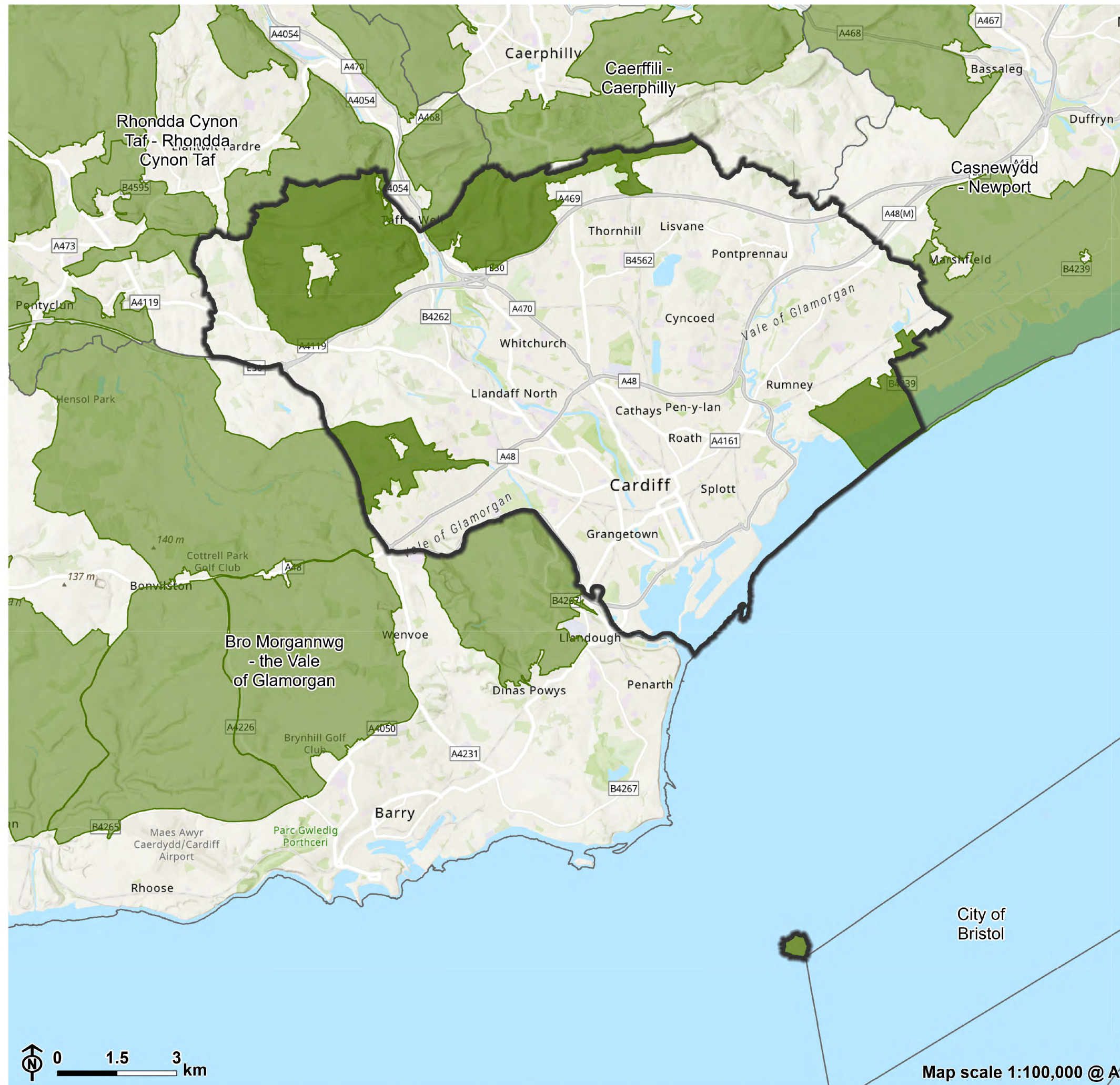
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services

B.1 The Cultural Landscape layer has been superseded by Cultural Landscape Services. The new Cultural Landscape Services (CLS) aspect layer directly references fields from the other aspect layers. The boundaries are the same as the Visual and Sensory layer. Due to the level of data overlap with the other aspect layers, there would be a duplication if this layer was used in the study. Unique information in the CLS layer includes 'mosaic classes'. These 'mosaic classes' show percentages of other aspect layers' overall evaluations which intersect with the CLS boundary (a form of the 'unioning' GIS exercise referenced in NRW's GN1). This data is presented in text form instead of shown spatially, therefore it would not inform SLA boundary definition at a smaller scale than aspect area boundaries. It was therefore unsuitable to be used in this study. At the time of this study, the other unique fields in NRW's LANDMAP survey form (noted by 'to be populated through survey form only' in Report Number 336 LANDMAP Cultural Services (LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services. Available at <https://naturalresources.wales/media/689510/eng-evidence-report-336-landmap-cultural-landscape-services.pdf> [Accessed 13.02.2024]) have not yet been populated since the dataset's creation. It was therefore decided to discount this layer and proceed with the other four LANDMAP aspect layers and the superseded cultural landscape layer as advised in NRW's GN1.

Appendix C

Report-wide Figures

Figure 1: Adopted Special Landscape Areas



- Cardiff Council boundary
- Cardiff Special Landscape Area
- Neighbouring Special Landscape Area

0 1.5 3 km

Map scale 1:100,000 @ A3

12769_Cardiff_LLD_Figures/Figure 1: ASLA
29/10/2024EB:Horton_K

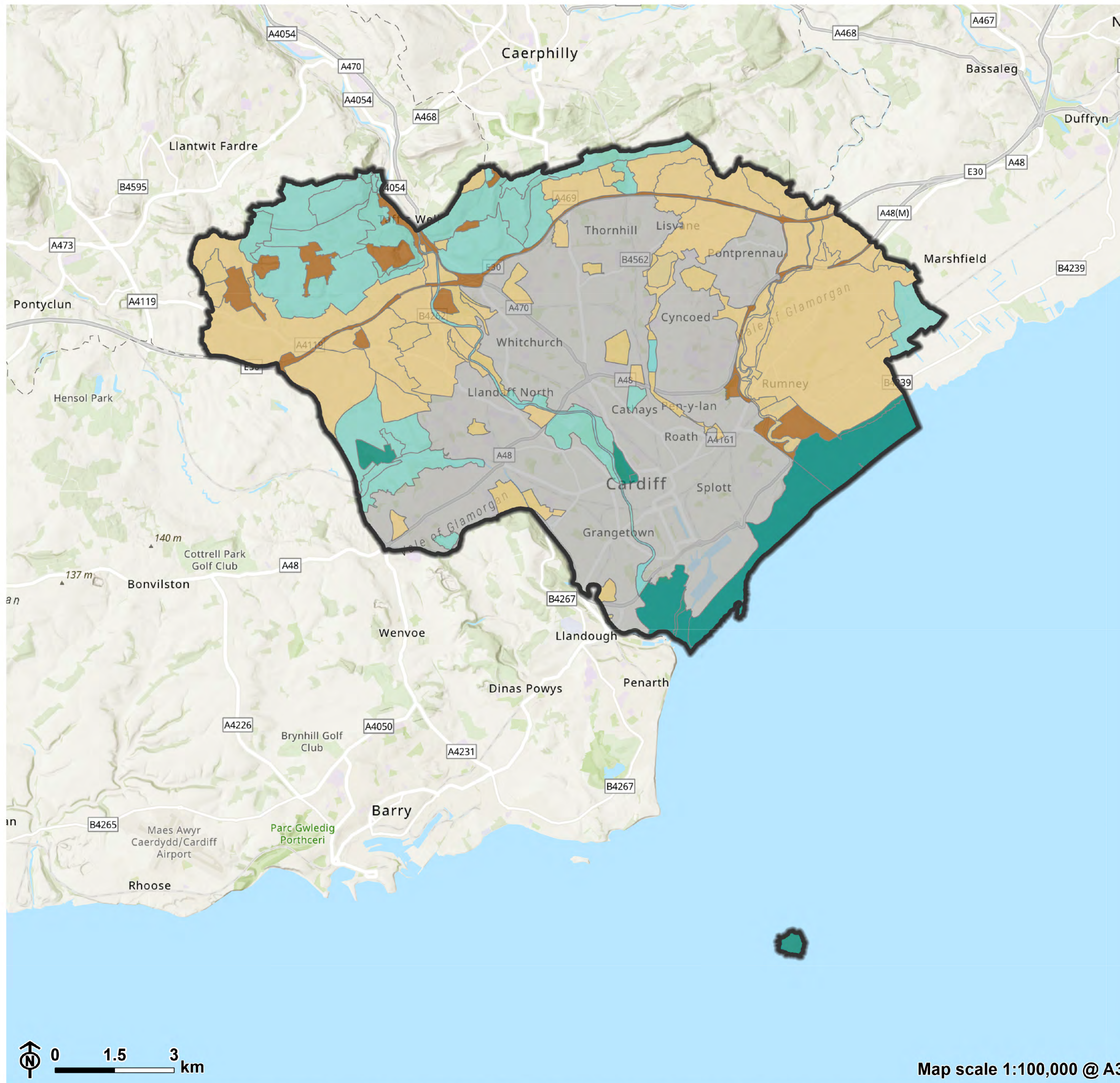


Figure 2: LANDMAP Visual Sensory Overall Evaluation

- Cardiff Council boundary
- LANDMAP Visual Sensory Overall Evaluation**
- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- N/A

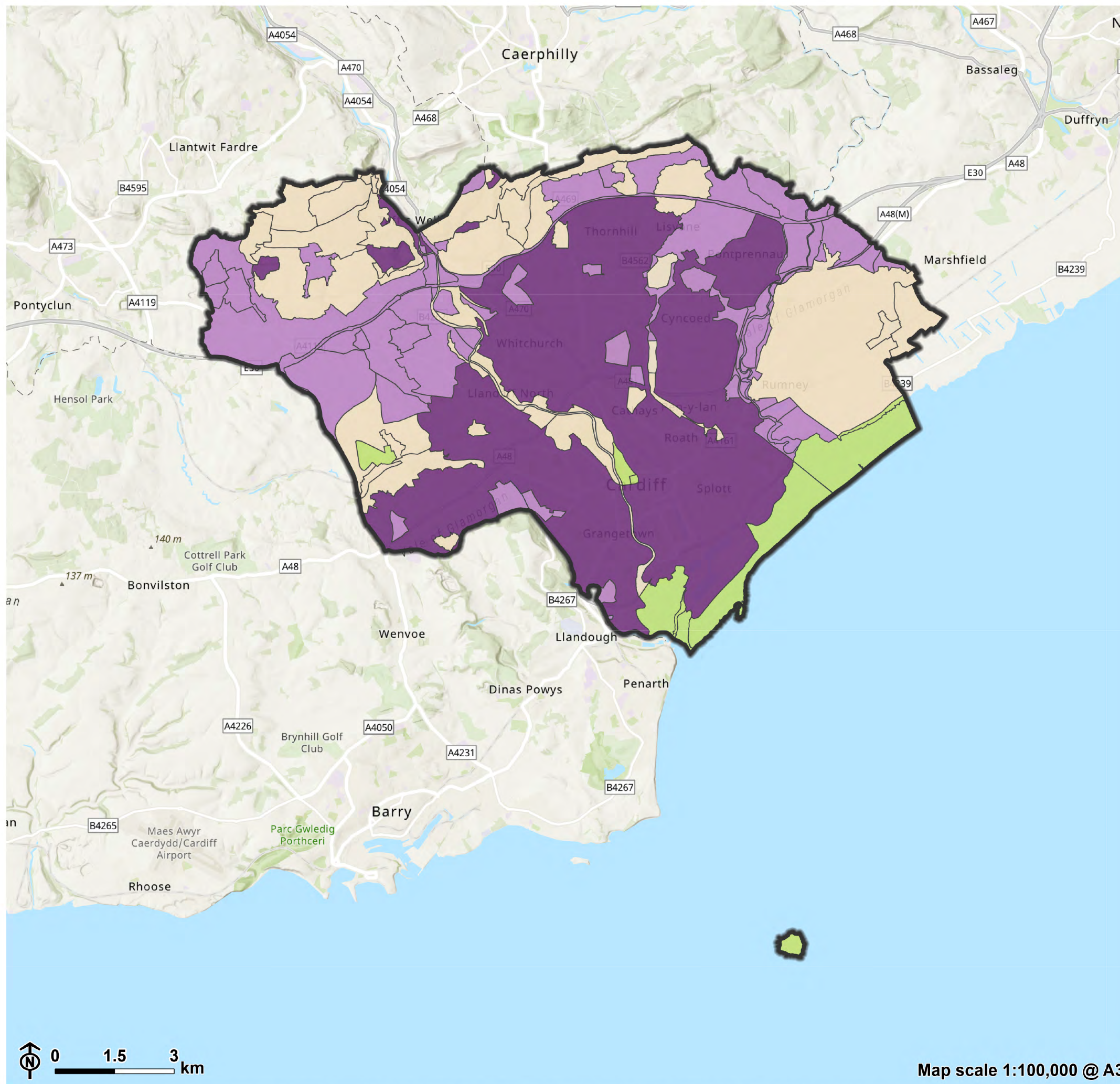

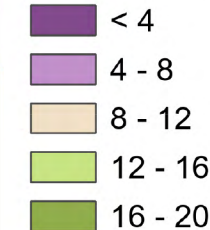


Figure 3: LANDMAP Visual Sensory Combined Score

-  Cardiff Council boundary
LANDMAP Visual Sensory Combined Score

- < 4
 - 4 - 8
 - 8 - 12
 - 12 - 16
 - 16 - 20

Map scale 1:100,000 @ A3

12769_Cardiff_LLD_Figures/Figure 3: VS Combined
29/10/2024EB:Horton_K

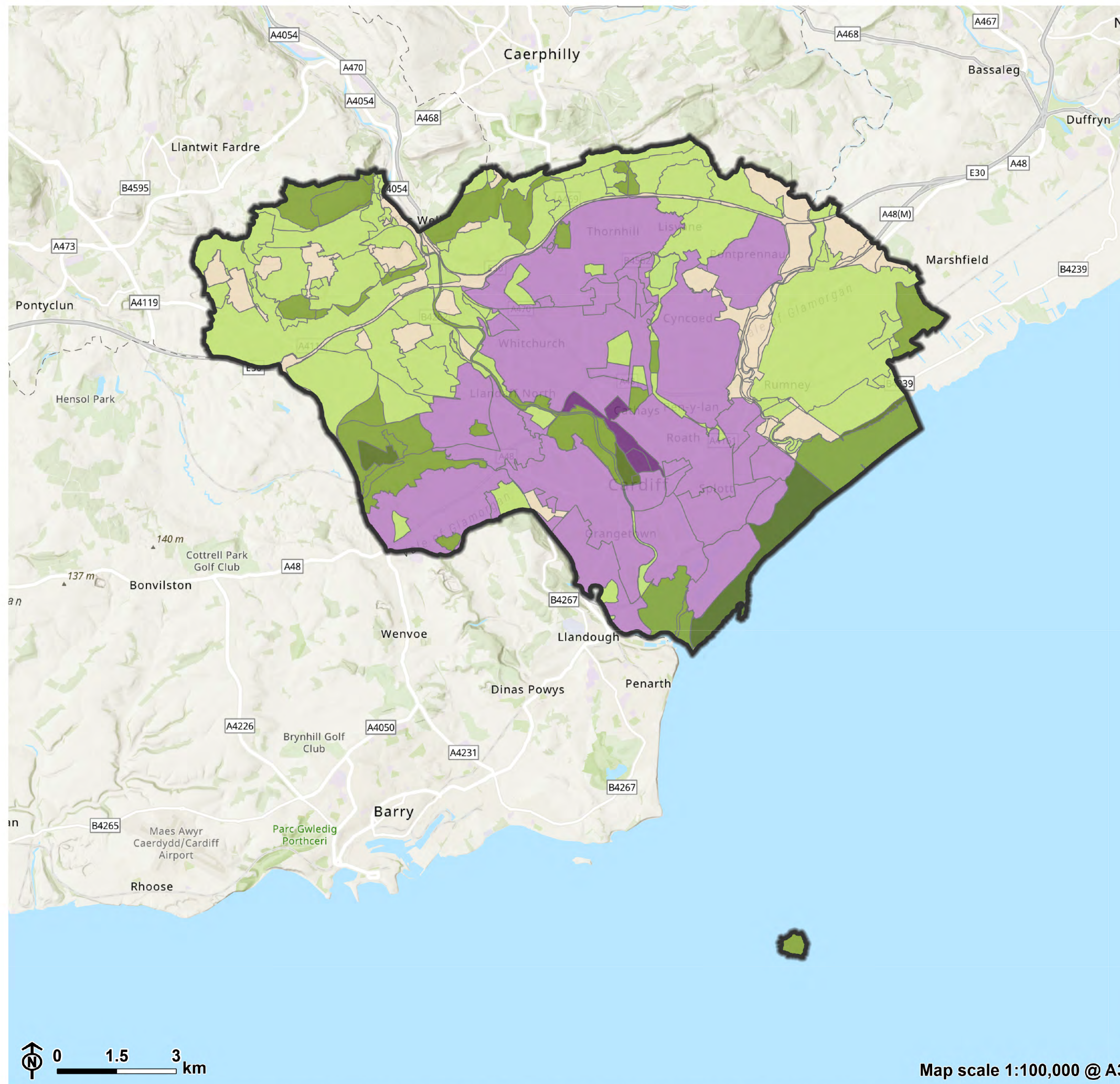


Figure 4: LANDMAP Visual Sensory and Historic Landscape Overlay

- Cardiff Council boundary
- LANDMAP Visual Sensory and Historic Landscape union**
- < 4
 - 4 - 8
 - 8 - 12
 - 12 - 16
 - 16 - 20
 - 20 - 24

Map scale 1:100,000 @ A3

12769_Cardiff_LLD_Figures/Figure 4: VS His Union
29/10/2024EB:Horton_K

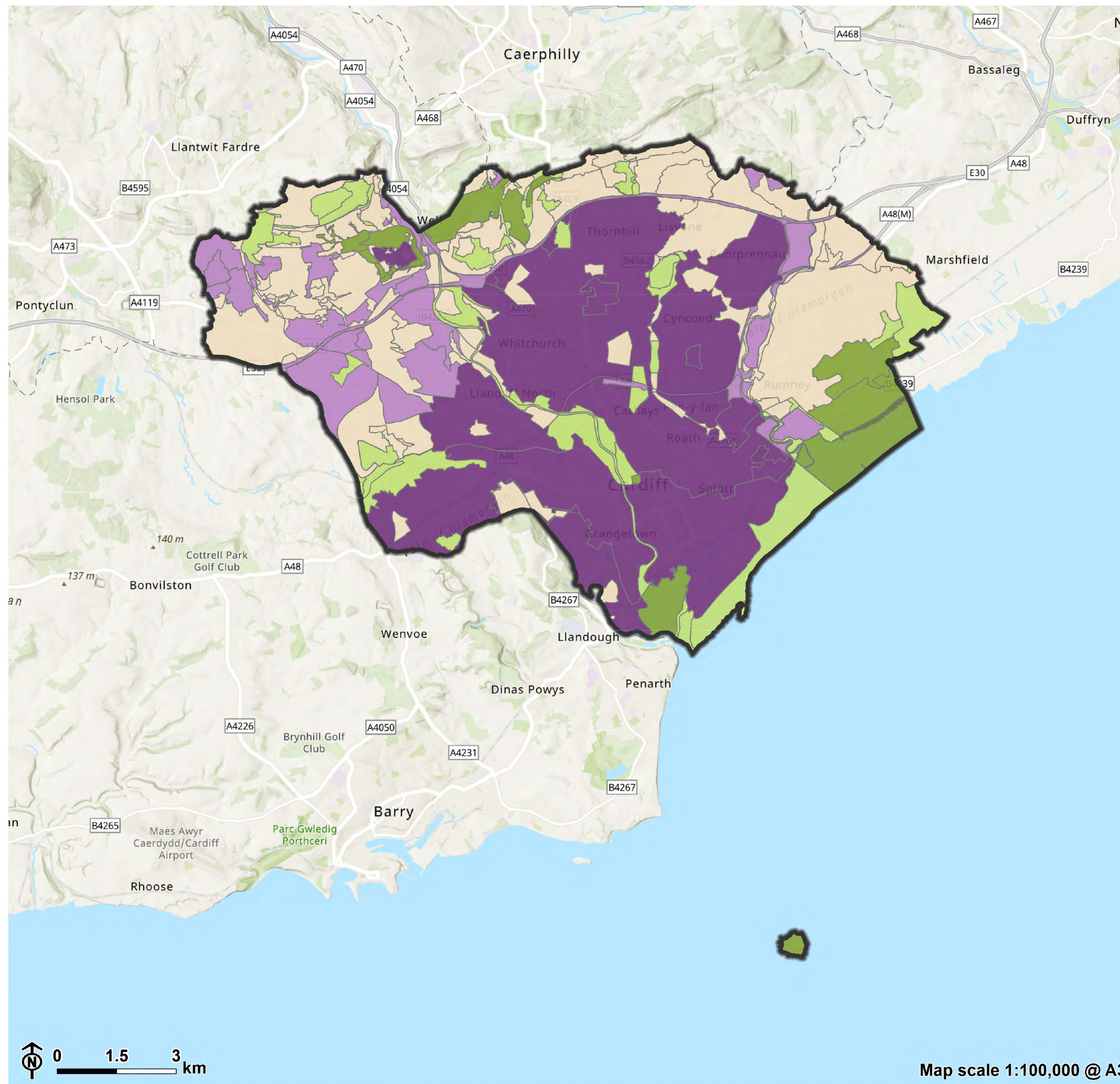


Figure 5: LANDMAP Visual Sensory and Landscape Habitat Overlay

- Cardiff Council boundary
- LANDMAP Visual Sensory and Landscape Habitat union**
- < 4
 - 4 - 8
 - 8 - 12
 - 12 - 16
 - 16 - 20
 - 20 - 24

Map scale 1:100,000 @ A3

12769_Cardiff_LLD_Figures/Figure 5: VS Hab Union
29/10/2024EB:Horton_K

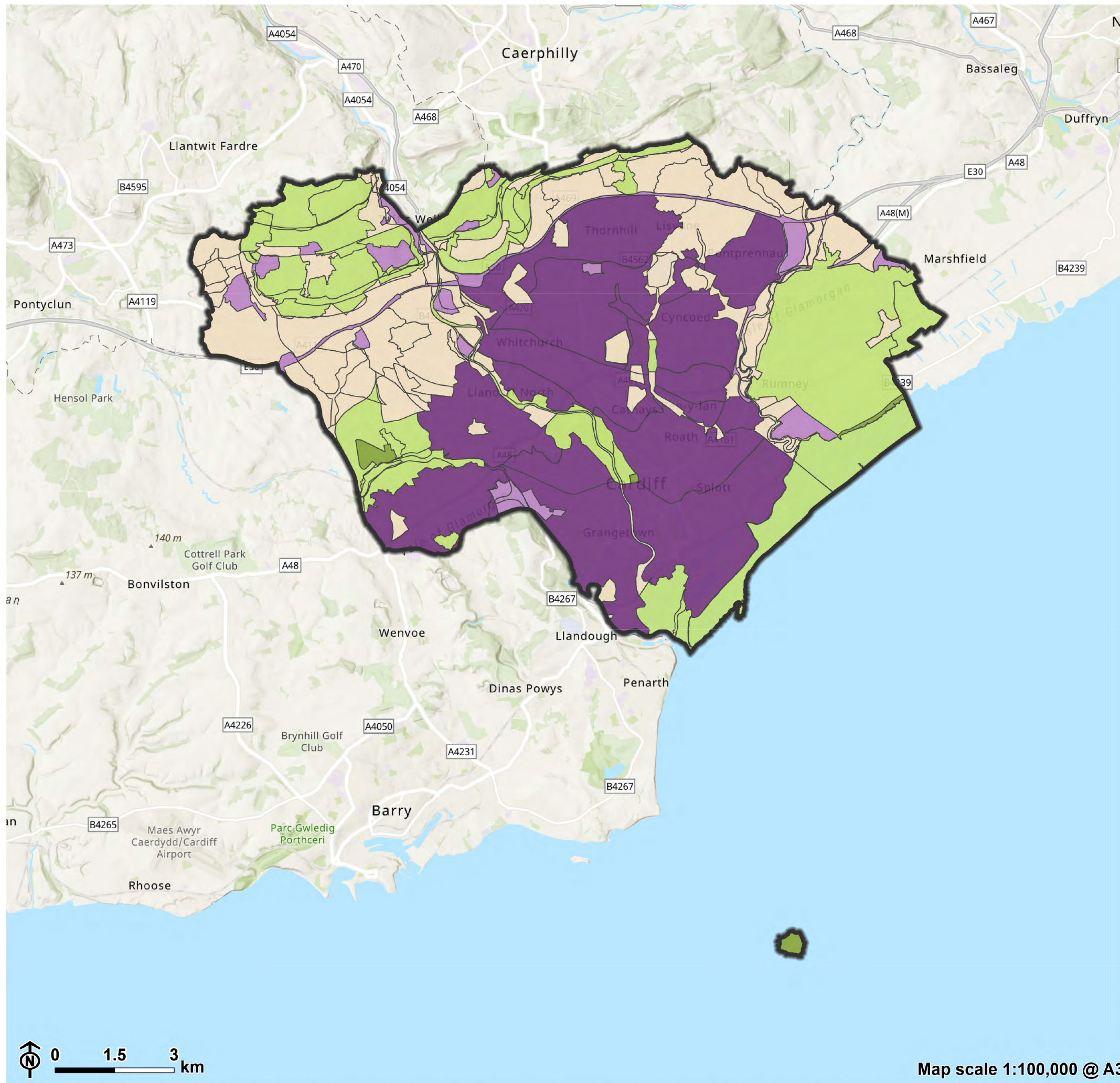
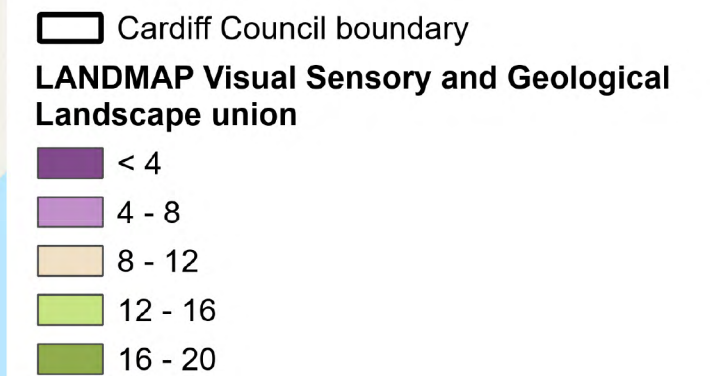



Figure 6: LANDMAP Visual Sensory and Geological Landscape Overlay



Map scale 1:100,000 @ A3

12769_Cardiff_LLD_Figures/Figure 6: VS G Union
29/10/2024EB:Horton_K

 Cardiff Council boundary

**LANDMAP Visual Sensory, Geological
Landscape, Landscape Habitat and Historic
Landscape union**

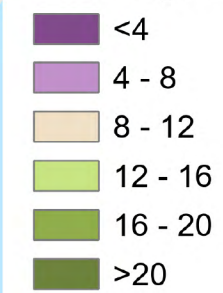
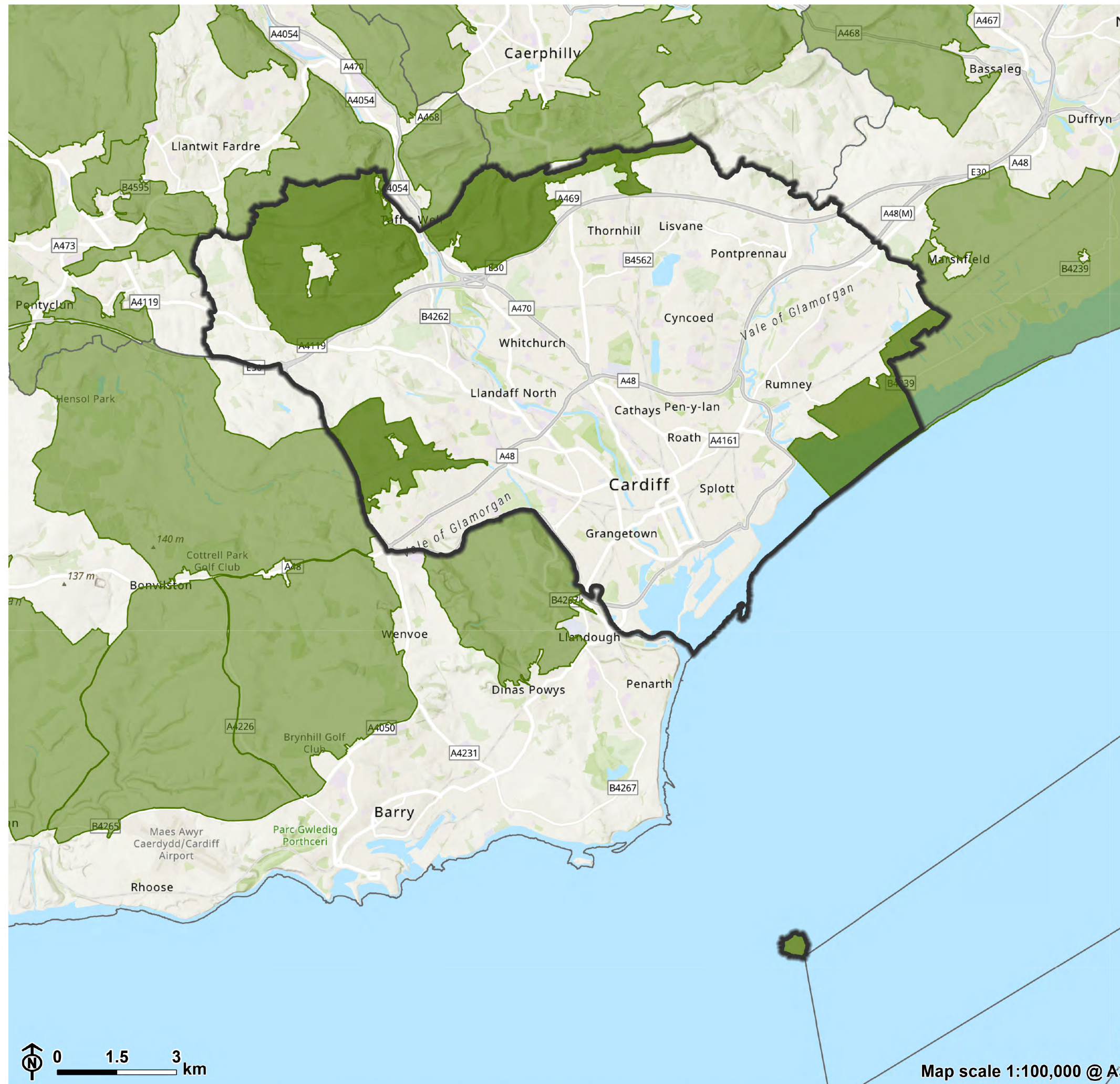


Figure 8: Proposed Special Landscape Areas



- Cardiff Council boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Proposed Special Landscape Area
- Neighbouring Special Landscape Area

Map scale 1:100,000 @ A3

12769_Cardiff_LLD_Figures/Figure 8: PSLA
29/10/2024EB:Horton_K

References

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- 4 Natural Resources Wales 2024; Fforest Fawr, near Caerphilly. Available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Fforest Fawr, near Caerphilly](#) [Accessed 01.05.2024]
- 5 Information for geology. Available at https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html?_ga=2.80384660.2035547106.1712665140-1598307890.1712665140 [Accessed 09.04.24]
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- 7 Information on National Cycle Network. Available at <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/cardiff-bay-trail/> [Accessed 28.03.24]
- 8 Information on Marine Character Areas. Available at <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/marine-character-areas/?lang=en> [Accessed 28.03.24]
- 9 Information about the former uses and history of Flat Holm island. Available at <https://www.visitwales.com/attraction/nature-or-wildlife/flat-holm-island-1843251> [Accessed 28.03.24]
- 10 Information about the radio message transmission on Flat Holm island. Available at <https://www.visitwales.com/attraction/nature-or-wildlife/flat-holm-island-1843251> [Accessed 28.03.24]

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