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1 Methodoleg Weledol a Synhwyrdd LANDMAP

Proses o fapio'r hyn a gaiff ei amgyffred trwy gyfrwng ein synhwyrdd, yn weledol yn bennaf, o briodoleddau tiffurf a gorchudd tir i'w patrymau dosbarthu gweledol a'u perthnasau cyson mewn ardaloedd arbennig, yw'r agwedd Weledol a Synhwyrdd. Ystyrir hefyd synnwyr y clyw, synnwyr arogleuo a synnwyr y cyffwrdd fel rhan o nodweddion canfyddedig y dirwedd. Yn rhannol seiliedig ar feini prawf esthetig a chanfyddiadol, mae'r agwedd hon yn defnyddio nifer o dermau disgrifiadol a ddeallir yn gyffredin ym mhroffesiwn y dirwedd i sicrhau adnabyddiaeth fanwl ohoni ac i sicrhau y'i rhoddir ar waith mewn modd cyson. Diffinnir termau pwysig yn yr eirfa ar ddiwedd y bennod. Gan y gallai'r agwedd hon gynnwys unrhyw elfen weledol a/neu ganfyddiadol o fewn y dirwedd, yn anochel mae'n ymdrin ag elfennau a nodweddion yr ymdrinnir â hwy hefyd gan Agweddau eraill. O'r herwydd, er enghraifft, mae'r Agwedd Weledol a Synhwyrdd yn debygol o gynnwys cyfeiriadau at ffurf y llystyfiant a'r math o llystyfiant o fewn ardal, y bydd yr Agwedd Cynefinoedd Tirwedd hefyd yn ymdrin â hwy yn ei ffordd ei hun. Y gwahaniaeth pwysig yw bod yr Agwedd Weledol a Synhwyrdd yn ymwneud â'r effaith a gaiff y llystyfiant ar y modd y caiff yr ardal ei hamgyffred. Gall y rhan fwyaf o bobl wneud sylwadau goddrychol ynghylch sut y mae'r dirwedd yn ymddangos ac yn teimlo. Fodd bynnag, yn Agwedd Weledol a Synhwyrdd LANDMAP, llwyddir i gael gwell gwrthrychedd trwy ddefnyddio diffiniadau, dull asesu a geiriad cyson ar gyfer pob ardal. Mae hyn yn gwneud yr asesiad yn fwy cadarn ac yn gyfiawnadwy gan yr Arbenigwr Agwedd, a fydd yn arbenigwr yn y maes.

2 Summary

The Visual and Sensory aspect is a process of mapping what is perceived through our senses, primarily visually, from the physical attributes of landform and land cover to their visible patterns of distribution and their consistent relationships in particular areas. The senses of hearing, smell and touch are also considered as part of the perceived characteristics of the landscape. Partly based on aesthetic and perceptual criteria, this aspect uses many descriptive terms that are commonly understood in the landscape profession to ensure familiarity and consistency of application. Important terms are defined in the glossary at the end of the chapter. Since this aspect may include any visible and/or perceived element within the landscape, it inevitably covers elements and features that are also covered by other Aspects. Thus, for example, the Visual and Sensory Aspect is likely to include references to both the form and type of vegetation within an area, which the Landscape Habitats Aspect will also cover in its own way. The important difference is that the Visual and Sensory Aspect is concerned with the effect the vegetation has on how the area is perceived. Most people can make subjective comment on what a landscape looks and feels like. However in the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect, greater objectivity is achieved by using consistent definitions, method of assessment and wording for each area. This makes the assessment more robust and justifiable by the Aspect Specialist who will be an expert in this field.

3 Overview of procedure

The process for carrying out the Visual and Sensory aspect is similar to the other evaluated aspects. Initially the study area is classified into different landscape types. These are mapped and survey forms filled out for each. As with all landscape assessments, this is likely to be an iterative process. Desk study derived Aspect Areas will be refined by field assessment which will form the basis for data recording. When the assessment is completed, a technical report is prepared to explain judgements and any deviations from the method. A Quality Assurance procedure is carried out on all assessments to ensure consistency and quality control. In order to maintain the effectiveness and confidence in LANDMAP as the key landscape information resource in Wales, the mapping and survey information is periodically updated. The methodology is described in full in the LANDMAP Guidance for Wales Monitoring Methodology (2016).

The compilation of the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect therefore involves five main processes:

1. Classifying and mapping Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas
2. Aspect Area data capture
3. Compilation of a Technical Report
4. Quality Assurance
5. Monitoring and updating
6. Quality Assurance of updates

Visual & Sensory Aspect Specialists are responsible for 1, 2, 3 and 5 in this process. To maintain nationally consistent standards, LANDMAP datasets are quality assured before they are made available as verified LANDMAP Information. The Quality Assurance assessor is therefore responsible for 4 and 6.

4 Classification and Mapping

The LANDMAP methodology relies on good information sources and so the gathering of relevant data is essential.

4.1 Sources of information

The Visual & Sensory aspect is less reliant on published data and more reliant on field appraisal/field survey than other aspects. The basic information used is as follows:

- 1:25,000 and 1:10,000 OS maps
- Aerial Photographs at 1:10,000 preferably orthographically corrected and available as continuous digital coverage for a study area (not as individual tiles)
- Local Development Plans, and Unitary Development Plans if these are still valid
- Previous studies and landscape related documentation e.g. landscape assessments, countryside strategies, supplementary planning guidance related to landscape, management plans and tranquillity studies.

While the Visual & Sensory assessment is essentially derived from primary data, it is nevertheless useful for the assessor to understand the background of previous assessments. Other information such as geological maps may be helpful in developing an understanding of the broad structure of the landscape although this information is explored in considerably more detail in the Geological Landscapes aspect.

It is important to be as comprehensive as possible and to compile a record of any consultations and data sources used as part of the Quality Assurance procedure. This is required as a standard component of LANDMAP Technical Reports.

4.2 Visual & Sensory classification

The Visual & Sensory aspect is organised according to a hierarchical classification system. This typology aims to classify the landscape into areas of distinct Visual & Sensory character, and is based on a hierarchy of four levels.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Broad landform and land cover	Landform	Land cover	Detail - location / scale / exposure / settlement

The classification is initially carried out as a desk study exercise. It relates to mapping of the study area and allocating a classification to each Aspect Area. The classification may be refined by field appraisal. LANDMAP Aspect Areas must be identified to Level 3. Level 4 Aspect Areas are identified only when specifically required, usually on more detailed study areas.

Careful collation and storage by Aspect Specialists of all research information is required. This is because the Aspect Specialist's reasoning in reaching classification decisions and the evidence leading to those decisions, may be required to be submitted to, or challenged at, a Public Inquiry.

The classification system should be adhered to. Any required deviations, further subdivisions or problems should be resolved in discussion with NRW to promote consistency

and be reported as part of the Technical Report. NRW agreement is required for any Level 4 classification.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Broad landform and land cover	Landform	Landcover	
Upland	Exposed upland/plateau	Barren/rocky upland	
		Upland moorland	
		Upland grazing	
		Wooded upland & plateaux	
		Mosaic upland & plateaux	
	Upland valleys	Open upland valleys	
		Open/wooded mosaic upland valleys	
		Wooded upland valleys	
	Hills, lower plateau & scarp slopes	Hillside & scarp slopes moorland	
		Hillside & scarp slopes grazing	
		Wooded hillside & scarp slopes	
		Hillside & scarp slopes mosaic	
		Open hillside and scarp slopes	
		Hill and lower plateau moorland	
		Hill and lower plateau grazing	
		Wooded hill and lower plateau	
		Hill and lower plateau mosaic	
		Open hill and lower plateau	
Lowland	Lowland valleys	Open lowland valleys	
		Mosaic lowland valleys	
		Wooded lowland valleys	
	Rolling lowland	Open rolling lowland	
		Mosaic rolling lowland	
		Wooded rolling lowland	
	Flat lowland / levels	Flat open lowland farmland	
		Flat wooded lowland	
		Flat lowland mosaic	
		Lowland wetland	
	Coastal	Intertidal	
		Dunes and dune slack	
		Cliffs & cliff tops	
		Other coastal wild land	
		Small island	
	Development	Built land	Village
			Dispersed settlement
			Urban
		Developed unbuilt land	Amenity land
			Informal open space
Excavation			
Derelict / waste ground			
Road corridor			

Water	Coastal waters	Sea
		Estuary
	Inland water (including associated edge)	River
		Lake
		Ria

4.3 Definitions of classification categories

Definitions of these classes to Level 3 of the hierarchical classification system are shown in the table below. This ensures compatibility between adjacent surveys and consistency across Wales. These definitions are used unless there is a particular local circumstance that necessitates an alternative definition, in which case these are defined in full in the Technical Report.

The terms and measurements set out below act as guidance for estimates of area, size, slope or density and are not necessarily intended to be treated as exact definitions.

Level 1: Upland definition		
<p>Areas <u>predominantly</u>, but not exclusively, rising to over 300m AOD (excluding <i>Development</i> and <i>Water</i> classes); also includes the lower slopes of higher areas rising from around 150m AOD. 150m AOD is treated as a broad distinction rather than used as a hard differentiation between <i>Upland</i> and <i>Lowland</i>. . The upland qualities of an area take precedence over the altitude of an area. <i>Upland</i> areas may extend below 150m AOD in some instances, they are more widespread above this altitude. See also the definition of Level 2 class <i>Hills, lower plateau & scarp slopes</i> which is considered in some cases as the intermediate class between <i>Upland</i> and <i>Lowland</i>. Further guidance is gained from looking at land use patterns in the area. <i>Upland</i> land use tends to be marginal grazing, with more diverse land use in <i>Lowland</i> areas.</p>		
Level 2 definition	Level 3	Level 3 definition
<p>Exposed upland/plateau areas that are predominantly exposed; exposed does not necessarily equate to a lack of tree cover; exposed relates more to landform than land cover in this instance, in that it excludes upland areas which are sheltered by landform such as valleys.</p>	Barren/rocky upland	Significantly (>25%) uncovered rock & scree
	Upland moorland	Predominantly moorland (>50%)
	Upland grazing	Predominantly grazed grassland (>50%)
	Wooded upland & plateaux	Significant woodland (>20% tree cover)
	Mosaic upland & plateaux	Display a patchwork of small (<10ha) pockets of woodland (20-50% density)
<p>Upland valleys Upland areas that are predominantly (>50%) valleyed (with a valley floor to ridge height >50m approx.)</p>	Open upland valleys	High valley areas that are predominantly unwooded (<20%)
	Open/wooded mosaic upland valleys	High valley areas that display a patchwork of small (<10ha) pockets of woodland (20-50% density)

	Wooded upland valleys	High valley areas that are significantly wooded (>20%)
<p>Hills, lower plateau & scarp slopes forms its own Level 2 class under the Level 1 Upland class. It is defined as the intermediate landform between Lowland and Upland, often forming an intermediate band between the two. This class is defined by the presence of lower landform than other Upland classes and will rarely extend much lower than about 100m AOD or much higher than about 300m AOD. It may also be defined by having more Upland-type land use patterns, yet at a relatively low altitude. It can either be a relatively level landform such as a plateau or gentle hills at a lower level than the exposed upland plateaux (Hills and lower plateau) <u>or</u> form the sloping sides of hills or scarps (Hillsides & scarp slopes). A scarp slope is defined as a slope linking lowland with a plateau, and having no significant or equivalent facing slope, although it may form one side of a broad valley.</p>	Hillside & scarp slopes moorland	Significantly sloped (>10°slope), insignificantly wooded (<20%), and predominantly (<50%) covered with open moorland
	Hillside & scarp slopes grazing	Significantly sloped (>10°slope), insignificantly wooded (<20%), and which is predominantly grazed grassland (>50%)
	Wooded hillside & scarp slopes	Significantly sloped (>10°slope) and predominantly wooded (>50%)
	Hillside & scarp slopes mosaic	Significantly sloped (>10°slope) and display a patchwork of woodland (20-50% density)
	Open hillside and scarp slopes	Significantly sloped (>10°slope) and predominantly unwooded
	Hill and lower plateau moorland	Insignificantly wooded (<20%), and predominantly (<50%) covered with open moorland
	Hill and lower plateau grazing	Insignificantly wooded (<20%), and which is predominantly grazed grassland (>50%)
	Wooded hill and lower plateau	Insignificantly sloped (<10°slope) and predominantly wooded (>50%)
	Hill and lower plateau mosaic	Insignificantly sloped (<10°slope) and display a patchwork of woodland (20-50% density)
	Open hill and lower plateau	Insignificantly sloped (<10°slope) and predominantly unwooded.

Level 1: Lowland

Areas predominantly below 100m AOD (excluding *Development* and *Water* classes); also includes the higher slopes of lower areas rising to around 150m AOD. 150m AOD is treated as a broad distinction rather than used as a hard differentiation between *Upland* and *Lowland*. The lowland qualities of an area take precedence over the altitude of an area. *Lowland* areas may extend above 150m AOD in some instances. See also the definition of Level 2 class *Hills, lower plateau & scarp slopes* which can be seen in special cases as the intermediate class between *Upland* and *Lowland*. Further guidance is gained from looking at land use patterns in the area. *Upland* land use tends to be marginal grazing, with more diverse land use in *Lowland* areas.

Level 2 definition	Level 3	Level 3 definition
Lowland valleys Lowland areas that are predominantly (<50%) valleyed (floor to ridge height >50m.)	Open lowland valleys	Insignificantly wooded (<20%) with a lack of hedgerow trees.
	Mosaic lowland valleys	Patchwork of small woodland (20-50% density) amongst farmland, may also have a high number of hedgerow trees. Pockets of other land uses such as small villages, excavations, leisure-related developments may also form part of the mosaic.
	Wooded lowland valleys	Predominantly wooded (>50%).
Rolling lowland Lowland Areas which are predominantly, rhythmically, gently sloped (3-10° slope), although less so than Lowland valleys. Rolling lowland generally differs from Hills, lower plateau & scarp slopes in that there is rarely a significant change in land use.	Open rolling lowland	Insignificantly wooded (<20%) with few individual or hedgerow trees.
	Mosaic rolling lowland	Patchwork of small or scattered woodland (20-50% density); may also have high presence of hedgerow trees. Pockets of other land uses such as small villages, excavations, leisure-related developments may also form part of the mosaic.
	Wooded rolling lowland	Predominantly wooded (>50%)
Flat lowland / levels Lowland areas that are predominantly flat (<3° slope); coastal and riverine levels, but also broad vales and valley bottoms.	Flat open lowland farmland	Insignificantly wooded (<20%) farmland
	Flat wooded lowland	Predominantly wooded (>50%)
	Flat lowland mosaic	Display a patchwork of woodland (20-50% density). Pockets of other land uses such as small villages, excavations, leisure-related developments may also form part of the mosaic.
	Lowland wetland	Predominantly wetland (>50%)

Coastal Lowland Areas absolutely associated with the coast (excludes open water and Flat lowland/levels)	Intertidal	Areas which are found between low and high water lines on OS maps and their associated elements, such as beaches, mud and rocks. Note that admiralty charts are more accurate and are used in Seascape assessments but this is not expected for LANDMAP studies.
	Dunes and dune slack	Areas which face open sea and are predominantly dunes or dune slacks.
	Cliffs & cliff tops	Predominantly steep (>70° slope) rocky or sandy cliffs (>10m), also includes associated cliff-top rough grazing, scrub, or woodland
	Other coastal wild land	Areas which are predominantly low rocky or sandy cliffs (<10m), also includes associated rough grazing, scrub, or woodland or rough or wild land not included in the categories above.
	Small island	An island distinctly separated from the coast at low tide less than 20ha which can be treated as one unit and not subdivided into the component parts above.

Level 1: Development

Predominantly built or developed areas and open areas primarily associated with these both visually and in land use terms (>10Ha). Over-rides other classes, so a coastal town will be *Development* and not *Coastal*.

Level 2 definition

Level 3

Level 3 definition

Built land Development areas which are predominantly (>50%) covered in manmade structures or hard-standing	Village	Predominantly consist of rural communities and their associated elements, e.g. shops, small-scale workplaces, churches, schools, gardens, roads etc. The types of villages include linear, nucleated around a focus such as village green or square, or with a looser structure. An upper size limit being defined by the presence of only a handful of commercial properties e.g. <5. A lower size limit being the presence of no commercial properties, church or school. It is unlikely to be less than 0.25 sq.km. in size.
	Dispersed settlement	Predominantly consist of rural communities which are spread out over a wide area such as squatter's settlements, interspersed with other land uses. These may or may not include shops, small scale work places, churches or schools. A lower size limit being 15 houses.
	Urban	Predominantly consists of larger, urban communities and their associated elements, e.g. extensive residential estates and streets, commercial, large-scale workplaces, institutions, gardens, open spaces, roads etc. A lower size limit being defined by the presence of only a handful of commercial properties e.g. >5.
Developed unbuilt land Development areas which is not Built land	Amenity land	Other developed land which is open space associated with the service of Built & developed Areas (>10Ha), such as formal parks, golf courses and playing fields

	Informal open space	Overwhelming visual evidence of use as informal open space (>100Ha) within a developed or built land context, such as urban river corridors, urban woodland
	Excavation	Overwhelming visual evidence of severe surface disruption (>100Ha), such as working quarries, mines & landfill and associated developments.
	Derelict / waste ground	Overwhelming visual evidence of neglect or disuse (>100Ha), such as disused industrial sites, mines and quarries, tips. This also includes restored post-industrial land awaiting development.
	Road corridor	Major road corridor, significant in the landscape, usually a dual carriageway and larger with associated land managed with the road such as embankments and cuttings and junctions.

Level 1: Water		
Areas of water (>10Ha) including open sea, lakes or flowing water (> 20m across)		
Level 2 definition	Level 3	Level 3 definition
Coastal waters Predominantly saltwater areas covering the sea and river mouths.	Sea	Open Water areas that are predominantly open sea beyond the OS map low water line.
	Estuary	Open water areas, beyond the OS map low water line that is predominantly river mouths. They may be defined as running from open sea, such as a sand bar at the river mouth, up the river. The cut-off with the latter being the lowest traditional bridge or comparable crossing point.

Inland water (including associated edge) Large expanses of generally freshwater with their edges/riparian strips.	River	Inland Water areas that is a large river approximately >20m across in total, including where the centre of the river forms the study area/county boundary.
	Lake	Inland Water areas that is predominantly a large lake or reservoir (>50ha)
	Ria	Inland Water areas that is predominantly a large inland extension to an estuary with tidal characteristics including mud flats and edges. (>50ha)

4.4 Mapping of Aspect Areas

Having reached a judgement on the Visual & Sensory character and qualities of an area maps are prepared defining the area, extent and boundary of each Aspect Area. The boundaries must be justified in the survey form for each Aspect Area. Aspect Area boundaries are digitised in a GIS using a 1:10,000 or 1:25,000 OS digital topographical base map. Each Aspect Area requires an appropriate geographical name and unique identifier. Mapping of areas is an iterative process. Generally, the best method is as follows:

Desk Study

- Study relevant information
- Define broad level 1 Aspect Areas at a small scale (1:25,000 or 1:50,000)
- Subdivide areas into Level 2 Aspect Areas and subsequently into level 3, refining boundaries as necessary. Some boundaries are clearly defined (e.g. moorland edge, coast) while others are more notional (e.g. subtle change in lowland agricultural landscapes)
- Define viewpoints to assess intrinsic qualities and boundaries (1 to 3 per Aspect Area dependent on size and character)

Site Survey

- Prepare LANDMAP survey form to ensure consistency
- Carry out site assessment of viewpoints, modifying locations if necessary to respond to site findings. Take photos from key and representative viewpoints.
- Complete a survey form for each Aspect Area. Modify draft boundaries as required.

Finalising boundaries

- Finalise and digitise boundaries, forming a separate polygon for each Aspect Area

Visual & Sensory Aspect Area map for Ynys Môn (Anglesey)



Produced by NRW on: 16 July 2013

Scale 1:202122

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Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

5 Surveys

The survey form provides a structured summary of the key characteristics of each identified Aspect Area, together with an evaluation of its significance and a summary of its management requirements.

The survey form includes information and judgements made on the basis of both desk study and site appraisal. Initially, the desk study produces preliminary classification and mapping of the study area. The site appraisal which follows then provides a significant amount of information for the survey form. The site appraisal is carried out in a structured and logical way using standard site assessment forms which use the same terms as the survey forms. This ensures a link between site information and the final product and gives confidence and clarity to any assessment.

While the Visual & Sensory Aspect Specialist is encouraged to record as much information about each area as possible, there may be insufficient information to distinguish one Aspect Area from another with the same classification. For instance, the if two Aspect Areas are classified as Open Lowland Valley, yet there is insufficient site information to be able to distinguish between these two places, a survey form is completed for each of these Aspect Areas as boundary justifications and relationship to other Aspect Areas will differ.

The general rule is to differentiate between Aspect Areas where possible, but only where possible.

The information is gathered from the point of view of an observer within the Aspect Area. The survey covers both visual and other sensory information. The Aspect Specialist's perception of characteristic noise, smell and other sensory perceptions are recorded. Monitoring questions are filled in only after monitoring has taken place.

5.1 Visual & Sensory Survey

Survey Number:	Generate
Aspect Area Name:	Insert
Local Authority or NPA:	Select
Aspect:	Select
Date Survey Conducted:	Insert

Classification

Level 1	Broad landform and land cover	Select
Level 2	Landform	Select
Level 3	Land cover	Select

Survey

Monitoring

1. Date of monitoring?

1a. Monitoring undertaken by

1b. Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

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

This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the Aspect Area

This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

1c. Change indicated by

OS Data, Aerial Photographs	Satellite Imagery Interpretation	Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps
Policies, plans & information resources	Fieldwork	

1d. What has changed?

Classification	Description	Evaluation
Condition & Trend	Recommendations	Boundaries

1e. Has the information been verified in the field? If yes, at what scale has this been verified?

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2. Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Which area and what is the nature of the link?

--

2a. During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?

--

Description

3. Summary description

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4. Physical form and Elements: Topographic Form?

Levels	High Hills/Mountains	Plateaux
Disturbed	Rolling/Undulating	Hills/ Valleys

5. Physical form and Elements: Landcover Pattern

Open Land	Field Pattern/ Mosaic	Development
Water	Woodland	Mixture

6. Physical form and Elements: Settlement pattern

Urban	Linear	Village
Scattered Rural/Farm	Clustered	Mixture
No Settlements		

7. Physical form and Elements: Boundary Type

Managed Hedge	Fences	Hedge with Trees
Slate Fences	Overgrown Hedges	Fences with trees
Clawdd: Hedgebanks	Stone walls	Mixture
None		

8. Aesthetic Qualities: Scale

Intimate	Large	Small
Vast	Medium	

9. Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure

Confined	Open	Enclosed
Exposed		

10. Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity

Uniform	Diverse	Simple
Complex		

11. Aesthetic Qualities: Texture

Smooth	Coarse	Medium
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Rock exposure	Mixture	
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12. Aesthetic Qualities: Lines

Straight	Angular	Curved
Sinuous		

13. Aesthetic Qualities: Colour

Muted	Colourful	Moderate Contrasts
Strong Contrasts	Garish	

14. Aesthetic Qualities: Balance

Harmonious	Discordant	Balanced
Chaotic		

15. Aesthetic Qualities: Unity

Unity	Neutral	Disunity
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16. Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern

Random	Regular	Organised
Formal		

17. Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest

Summer	Spring	Autumn
Mixed	Winter	None

18. Other Factors: Level of Human Access

Constant	Occasional	Frequent
Infrequent	Rare	

19. Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution

Negligible	Moderate	Slight
Substantial		

20. Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials

Appropriate	Generally Inappropriate	Generally Appropriate
Inappropriate		

21. What Materials? Give details

22. There are attractive views... Give details

.... within into out
.... both in and out neither in or out	

23. There are detractive views... Give details

.... within into out
.... both in and out neither in or out	

24. Perceptual and other Sensory Qualities

Attractive	Remote	Unattractive
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Settled	Tranquil	Wild
Noisy	Spiritual	Sheltered
Smell	Exposed	Other
Safe	Threatening	Other, give details

25. What is the sense of place/ local distinctiveness? Give details		
Strong	Weak	Moderate
None		Details...

26. Value		
Outstanding	High	Moderate
Low	Unassessed	Details...

27. Condition		
Good	Fair	Poor
Unassessed		Details...

28. Trend		
Improving	Constant	Declining
Unassessed		Details...

Recommendations

29. Existing management.	Generally appropriate	Generally inappropriate	Unassessed
30. Existing management remarks - Explain the management that is appropriate or inappropriate			
31. Principal management recommendations			
32. Guidelines (up to 10) and indicate timescale	Immediate	Medium Term	Long Term

33. Define the key qualities that should be conserved:	
34. Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:	
35. Define the key qualities that should be changed:	
36. Define the key elements that should be conserved:	
37. Define the key elements that should be enhanced:	
38. Define the key elements that should be changed:	

39. Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?		
Yes	No	Not Known

If yes, identify threats and identify an acceptability threshold for any resultant change:

--

Aspect Area Boundary

40. To what level was this information site-surveyed?

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Level 4	Individual Site	None

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

All	Some	Most
None	Explain	

42. What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

OS Raster	Aerial photographs	OS Landline
Other, specify		

43. If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

1:10,000	1:25,000	1:10,000 and 1:25,000
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44. What is the justification for the Aspect Area Boundaries?

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Bibliography

45. List the key sources used for this assessment.

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Evaluation Matrix

		Outstanding	High	Moderate	Low	Unassessed	Details (must be completed)
46.	Evaluation criteria: Scenic Quality						
47.	Evaluation criteria: Integrity						
48.	Evaluation criteria: Character						
49.	Evaluation criteria: Rarity						
50.	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation Give details						
51.	Justification of Overall Evaluation.						

Assessment

52. Additional Assessments.

53. Additional Comments

5.2 Definition of terms

Defining the terms used in the Visual & Sensory survey aids the Aspect Specialist. It is possible that the terms used (e.g. “levels”; “valleys”; “plateau”; etc.) for a particular theme (e.g. “dominant pattern”; “dominant scale”; etc.) are unsuitable for certain study areas. If so, the Aspect Specialist may, in special circumstances and in consultation with NRW, propose a change to the available terms for any survey. Those given below are suggested for a generic Welsh landscape. The terms are explained in the order in which they appear in the Visual & Sensory survey.

No	Field name	Guidance notes
1	Date of monitoring	The monitoring process may have been carried out over a period of time. Note the date of the initial change detection study (Stages 1 & 2) and date of updating the survey record (Stage 3) if significantly different. The Log section automatically notes any activity and revisions to questions/fields and therefore can be used to note changes made during monitoring.
1a	Monitoring undertaken by	This field should be filled in to record all involved in the updating work, e.g. those involved at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the monitoring work, who led on the final amendments and who was consulted. The Quality Assurance Panel assessor will also be recorded here.
1b	Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	The three available options are self-explanatory
1c	Change indicated by	The monitoring table, completed at Stage 2 of the monitoring process, will supply this information.
1d	What has changed?	This will allow users to refer to the relevant fields to find out what changes have been detected (classification, description, evaluation, condition & trend, recommendations, boundaries). Therefore cross-check to ensure that monitoring changes are clearly stated in the relevant fields.
1e	Has the information been verified in the field?	Has a site survey been carried out or not? For the Visual and Sensory aspect field visits are essential to ensure robustness of information and in order to accurately fill in some fields. The scale indicates the degree of accuracy. This may be updated following monitoring work.

2	Does the area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Which area and what is the nature of the link?	The relationship with adjacent areas can be important in the overall character of an area. For instance, the relationship between a flat valley bottom and steep valleys sides, which may be separate Aspect Areas, may be strong, the one acting as the backcloth for the other. The areas do not necessarily have to be adjacent.
2a	During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	The season can affect the perception of the assessor. For example, a popular viewpoint may be busy in summer and deserted in winter, affecting the quality of experience. Ideally, the work should be carried out over a number of seasons to ensure that the character of the area is fully reflected in the assessment.
	Summary Description	The Aspect Specialist will bring together a description of the most important qualities of the Aspect Area. Particular attention should be given to the qualities that can be managed or changed. The amount of text will be proportional to the complexity, size and importance of an area. For example an area of mixed farmland with variety of settlement will be accorded a more detailed description than a golf course, quarry or 20C settlement. For consistency it is suggested that the description includes brief reference to physical form, aesthetic qualities, perceptual qualities, views, sense of place and relationship with other areas. This is likely to include topography, land cover (e.g. size and pattern of fields and tree cover), land use, key elements, scale, openness, exposure, diversity, settlement pattern, circulation, management, views, features, detractors (without judgement in this section) and tranquillity. This list is not exhaustive as other qualities may be important to a place's character e.g. smell. For a complex area around 100-150 words may be appropriate. When monitoring has been carried out, general comments are made on the changes that have taken place.
Physical Form and Elements		
4	Topographic form?	The dominant, definitive physiological character of the Area. The physical form should be considered stripped of land cover.
	Levels	Low-lying level ground (<10m from low to highpoint), includes low dunes, mudflats, flat farmland etc
	Rolling/ undulating	Gently uneven (10-100m from low to highpoint), low lying ground - usually demonstrating rhythmic pattern
	Hills/valleys	Steeply uneven (>100m from low to highpoint) high ground with low valleys
	High hills/ mountains	High ground with distinct summits and peaks

	Plateau	Raised, level ground usually defined by a perimeter of sloping ground
	Disturbed	Land that has been predominantly altered so as to significantly alter the natural land form, such as quarries and landfill sites
5	... Land cover pattern?	The dominant, definitive land cover character of the Area. This does not refer to historical pattern.
	Open land	All broad-expanses of continuously open (unenclosed and treeless) land, such as marsh, bog, tidal mudflats, moorlands, grasslands
	Development	All developed land, includes built form, significant hard standing, and associated open space such as amenity land, playing fields, etc.
	Woodland	All significant wooded ground (>70% tree cover)
	Field pattern/mosaic	All land exhibiting a recognisable agricultural field system, with significant boundaries and/or tree cover
	Water	All significant water bodies (>70% water), such as estuaries, large lakes, or lake complexes, rivers
	Mixture	All areas characterised by a complex relationship that falls into none of the above categories
6	...Settlement pattern?	The predominant pattern of human development in the Area. This does not refer to historical settlement pattern.
	Urban	Substantial, large-scale development associated with a town or city; includes urban fringe development which may be geographically detached from the main body of the host city/town
	Village	Single, small-scale development associated with traditional rural settlement cores; likely to include other community features such as church, school, shops, market square, village green
	Clustered	Multiple small-scale developments gathered around individual community activities, such as hamlets or large farms with many residences and associated buildings, but also may be late 20 th c. Commercial development around major road junctions (excludes <i>linear</i> development)
	Scattered rural/farm	Individual, dispersed rural settlements such as isolated small farms and residences
	Linear	Individual, clustered developments typically following existing elements such as main roads; archetypally likely to be commercial or residential development on urban arterial transport corridors
	None	No significant settlement currently in use
7	...Boundary type?	The dominant, definitive character of the current boundaries in the Area. This does not mean historical boundary type.

	Managed hedge	Managed hedgerows only, i.e. those that are well-maintained to preserve a hedgerow form
	Hedge with trees	Managed hedgerows with occasional trees
	Overgrown hedges	Unmanaged hedgerows with or without trees
	Clawdd / hedgebanks	Presence of hedgebanks or clawdd as dominant base to hedges above.
	Stone wall	Stone boundary walls
	Fences	All wire or wooded fencing free of hedgerow
	Slate fences	Slate fences
	Fences with trees	All wire or wooded fencing free of hedgerow but with standard trees
	Mixture	Areas exhibiting no single dominant boundary type, but a variety of boundary types
	None	All areas with no significant boundaries (not the same as no <i>dominant</i> boundary type - see <i>mixture</i>)

Aesthetic Factors

8	...Scale?	Refers to relationship of key elements or spaces of the Aspect Area, such as woodland or open space, within the whole landscape. Does not refer merely to the size of the Aspect Area. May be that a small Aspect Area is of a vast scale as it is a small part of a continuous whole. Not to be confused with <i>enclosure</i> (see below).
	Intimate	Elements and spaces of a predominantly personal scale, such as private gardens and houses
	Small	Elements and spaces of a community scale, such as hamlets, woodland clearings, small field or woodland units
	Medium	Elements and spaces which are of a moderate scale, in that they are neither extensive nor small
	Large	Elements and spaces which extend to cause the observer to feel small, such as wide valleys or woodlands
	Vast	Elements and spaces which are of a regional continuity, such as mountain ranges, extensive forests, plains and large vales, etc.
9	...Sense of enclosure?	Refers to predominant spatial relationship of observer amongst key elements and spaces - including the horizon, landform and land cover. Relates to likely perception of an observer in the landscape. Considers the <i>likely position</i> of most observers within the Aspect Area.
	Confined	Presents the likely observer with close spaces such as in thick woodland, narrow corridors or gorges; likely to see relatively little sky
	Enclosed	Presents the likely observer with short distance views to a high horizon, such as from most valley bottoms
	Open	Presents the likely observer with predominantly eye level horizons, such as lowlands and cliff-less coastal areas

	Exposed	Presents the likely observer with far-distance horizons, such as on hill-tops, etc.
10	...Diversity?	Refers to the diversity of visual elements in the Aspect Area.
	Uniform	Unvarying in texture, form, colour, etc. With a single recognisable pattern of visual elements
	Simple	Little variation in texture, form, colour, etc. With only a narrow range of visual elements
	Diverse	Widespread variation in texture, form, colour, etc. With a broad range of visual elements
	Complex	Complete variation in texture, form, colour, etc. With little or no recognisable pattern of visual elements
11	...Texture?	Refers to the texture of visual elements in the Aspect Area. Texture can be determined by land cover such as scale and extent of tree cover, natural vegetation, presence of rock exposures, crops or size of fields.
	Smooth	Consistent cover with smooth appearance e.g. grassland without enclosure.
	Medium	Moderately textured land cover.
	Coarse	Land cover with coarse texture due to intrinsic nature of cover e.g. coniferous forestry or variation in land cover such as a mosaic of woodland/grassland
	Rock exposure	Land cover with significant rock exposures
12	...Lines?	Refers to the dominant arrangement of lines in the Aspect Area.
	Straight	Predominantly straight lines such as in a rectilinear field system e.g. levels.
	Angular	Predominantly straight lines at a variety of angles such as in field system or in a rugged landscape.
	Curved	Predominantly curved lines possibly dominated by gentle landform.
	Sinuous	Predominantly sinuous lines possibly defined by fluvial patterns.
13	...Colour?	The predominant nature of the colours and contrast between colours or shades within the Area (not just notable colours). Includes all elements in the landscape such as signage, building materials, vegetation. Assessed according to its most common state (if there are particularly relevant alternative states then a note is made under <i>Assessment (5)</i> or <i>in the Description (3)</i>). A judgement on both colour and contrast is possible.
	Muted	A predominance of neutral colours or monotones, such as found on hill sides or woodland for most of the year
	Colourful	A predominance of more bold colours and tones, such as building materials in rural locations

	Garish	A predominance of bold colours with little recognisable pattern, such as commercial signage amid bold natural colours
	Moderate contrasts	Moderate contrasts between vegetation types such as bracken, heather and pastures.
	Strong contrasts	A predominance of bold contrasts between just a few strong colours or tones, such as dark buildings materials against a pale background
14	...Balance?	Refers to the balance and interaction of different elements and characteristics of the Area.
	Harmonious	All the characteristics/elements visually contribute to a harmonious and concordant composition or unity
	Balanced	Most characteristics/elements visually contribute to a balanced and even composition or unity
	Discordant	Some characteristics/elements visually disrupt and detract from a balanced and even composition or unity
	Chaotic	Characteristics/elements visually compete and disrupt each other to create a chaotic or confused composition.
15	...Unity?	Refers to the repetition of similar elements or qualities, which give an area a sense of unity. For example the repetition of materials/detailing such as stonewalls.
	Unity	An area where there is strong sense of unity and consistency in form and detail
	Neutral	An area where this is not a significant unity or consistency in form and detail but where it is also not affected by disruptive elements.
	Disunity	An area where there is significant disruption of sense of unity and lack of consistency.
16	...Pattern?	Refers to the predominant patterns discernible in the Area.
	Random	Characteristics/elements do not appear to have a purposeful relationship with each other
	Organised	Characteristics/elements have a purposeful relationship with each other
	Regular	Characteristics/elements are ordered and regular.
	Formal	Characteristics/elements have a formal designed relationship with each other.
17	...Seasonal interest?	Relates to the question above in that this is primarily an issue of colour, although texture is also considered. This question relates to the presence of elements that might change colour or texture significantly or notably in any season. It requires assessment of significance or notability in that commonplace or unremarkable seasonal interest is not considered.

	Summer	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in summer
	Autumn	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in autumn
	Winter	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in winter
	Spring	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in spring
	Mix	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in more than one season
	None	Demonstrates no notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in any season
Other factors		
18	...Level of human access?	The effects of human presence in the Area, especially human movement/traffic. May relate strongly to <i>tranquillity</i>.
	Constant	A constant stream of human movement for most of the day, such as a town centre, motorway or busy main road
	Frequent	A frequent, but interrupted stream of human movement for most of the day, such as busy railway corridor or rural main road
	Infrequent	An infrequent flow of human movement for most of the day, such as quiet road or rail corridor, canal, park or footpath, small village or hamlet
	Occasional	An occasional presence of human activity of only a few times a week, such as most valley-bottom agricultural areas, or a very quiet rural back road or track
	Rare	Only the lightest of human traffic, such as remote hill/mountain tops or unvisited woodland
19	...Night time light pollution?	Refers to the estimated amount of light pollution in the Area based on extent of street lighting and other light sources. This is not a definitive judgement but identifies a concern of individual or cumulative effects of lighting.
	Negligible	Very few sources of light such as uninhabited or very sparsely settled areas
	Slight	Few sources of light such as sparsely settled areas such as scattered farms
	Moderate	Some sources of light such as villages and clustered settlements.
	Substantial	Many sources of light such as urban areas or lit roads or installations.
20	...Use of construction materials?	Refers to the Visual & Sensory appropriateness of the <u>most recent use</u> of construction materials, such as roofing, walls (including field boundaries where relevant), paving, agricultural development, etc. Based on appropriateness in relation to other local materials and to

		the creation of a sense of place or definitive <i>local</i> character.
	Appropriate	Materials used are overwhelmingly in keeping with or more appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
	Generally appropriate	Materials used are generally in keeping with or more appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
	Generally inappropriate	Materials used are generally in conflict with or less appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
	Inappropriate	Materials used are overwhelmingly in conflict with or less appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
21	What materials? Give Details.	List typical materials used in most recent developments.
22	There are attractive views...	Refers to the availability of attractive views from the <i>likely positions of most observers</i> within the Aspect Area. <i>Attractive</i> here is defined as being of a particularly high scenic quality; the judgement relates to the availability of the views to observers, i.e. a borderline view is considered more important if it is viewed by many observers.
	...Within	The views <i>within</i> the area from other areas meet the criteria set above. This option may be superseded by any of the following options.
	...Into	The views <i>into</i> the area from other areas meet the criteria set above
	...Out	The views <i>out from</i> the area to other areas meet the criteria set above
	...Both in & out	Both the views <i>into</i> & <i>within</i> and those <i>out from</i> the area meet the criteria set above
	...Neither in or out	Neither the views <i>into</i> & <i>within</i> nor those <i>out from</i> the area meet the criteria set above
23	There are detractive views...	Refers to the availability of detractive views from the <i>likely positions of most observers</i> within the Aspect Area. <i>Detractive</i> here is defined as being of a particularly low or degraded scenic quality; the judgement relates to the availability of the views to observers, i.e. a borderline view is to be considered more important if it is viewed by many observers.
	...Within	The views <i>within</i> the area from other areas meet the criteria set above
	...Into	The views <i>into</i> the area from other areas meet the criteria set above
	...Out	The views <i>out from</i> the area to other areas meet the criteria set above

	...Both in & out	Both the views <i>into</i> & <i>within</i> and those <i>out from</i> the area meet the criteria set above
	...Neither in nor out	Neither the views <i>into</i> & <i>within</i> nor those <i>out from</i> the area meet the criteria set above
24	Perceptual and other Sensory Qualities	Refers to other sensory and perceived qualities of the Aspect Area. These are more subjective than the qualities described above but can nevertheless be helpful in defining what is important in an Aspect Area.
	Tranquil	Is the area quiet giving a sense of tranquillity and peace? (This is a judgement on site and is not derived from a tranquil area map.)
	Noisy	Is the area noisy and affected by, for instance, busy roads or low flying aircraft?
	Sheltered	Is the area particularly sheltered?
	Exposed	Is the area particularly exposed?
	Safe	Do you feel particularly safe in this area?
	Threatening	Do you feel threatened in this area?
	Remote	Is the area perceived as remote?
	Settled	Is the area well settled and domestic in character?
	Wild	Is the area perceived as wild?
	Spiritual	Does the area stimulate a spiritual response?
	Smell	Is there a particularly distinctive smell in the area?
	Other	Tick if there are other significant qualities.
	...Give details:	Give details of the significant qualities giving reasons for your responses.
25	What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness?	Refers to the overall ability of the place to convey a character that is recognisable or distinct at a local level. This is based on the arrangement and relationship of particular elements or qualities discussed above. It is not necessary for that <i>sense of place/local distinctiveness</i> to be based on a positive aesthetic; for instance, a concrete factory in an idyllic valley may have a stronger sense of place than the other idyllic valleys nearby. The judgement is based on the most local context first. However, the sense of place may work at different scales- from regional (e.g. the Valleys) to very local. The former provides a context for the latter. Remember, this is a Visual & Sensory judgement only. If the Aspect Specialist is aware of, say, the contribution of a place name or myth to local distinctiveness then the Cultural Aspect Specialist is informed.
	Strong	Exhibits distinctive characteristics that are unique or specific to the study area
	Moderate	Exhibits common but distinctive characteristics which may be repeated throughout the locality
	Weak	Exhibits few distinctive characteristics which contribute to a 'sense of place'

	None	Exhibits no distinctive characteristics
	...Give details:	Give details of the characteristics. Do not describe the basis for your judgement, only the characteristics which you judged to be contributing to the local distinctiveness/sense of place.
26	Value	Overall evaluation score. This duplicates the overall evaluation and summary in Field 50. See evaluation fields 46-51 for further details.
27	Condition	The condition of the landscape is closely tied to management and the extent of care or neglect apparent, particularly in agricultural landscapes. Sometimes neglect is positive, for instance, in allowing natural regeneration. For larger Aspect Areas it is difficult to generalise on condition as this depends on various factors such as landownership. Where it is clear, however the condition is stated. This is most often easiest in smaller areas in single use/land ownership or in small settlements. Where condition is not easy to assess, this field is left as 'Unassessed'. If this is the case it may be noted in the 'Details' field where there is a difference in condition in parts of the Aspect Area if this is pertinent to subsequent recommendations. Where appropriate, the opportunity is taken to deal with specific issues of condition in the qualities and elements to be conserved, enhanced and changed sections (Fields 33-38 discussed below).
28	Trend	Trend is difficult to judge on first assessment of an area and may rely on local knowledge. The assessor makes a judgement as to whether it is possible to fill in this evaluation. Subsequent assessments make a judgement <u>where the trend is clear</u> in order that change in the landscape can be assessed. An explanation is helpful to explain the judgement. As with condition, the judgement is most often easiest in smaller areas in single use/land ownership or in small settlements. It is difficult to generalise on trend in larger Aspect Areas as this depends on various factors such as landownership. Where this is the case, this field is left as unassessed.
29	Existing management	The appropriateness of existing management to maintain the positive qualities of an area.
30	Existing management remarks	Comments on the type of management that prevails and its effect.
31	Principal management recommendation	Most important recommendation/s in brief summary form. In the Visual and Sensory aspect those qualities and elements that should be conserved, enhanced or changed are defined and entered before the principal management recommendation and guidelines, even though the order in the database suggests otherwise.

32	Guidelines	Up to ten guidelines may be included to cover the most important practical actions that need to be taken to conserve or enhance the area. The degree of urgency is defined.
33	Define the key qualities that should be conserved	Qualities that help define the positive character of an area. The terms used include enclosure, intimacy, exposure, wildness, tranquillity etc.
34	Define the key qualities that should be enhanced	Qualities that help define the positive character of an area but are currently degraded and could be improved.
35	Define the key qualities that should be changed	Qualities that disrupt or detract from the character of an area.
36	Define the key elements that should be conserved	Elements that help define the positive character of an area. The terms used include elements such as trees, hedges, walls etc.
37	Define the key elements that should be enhanced	Elements that help define the positive character of an area but are currently in poor condition and can be improved.
38	Define the key elements that should be changed	Elements or features which disrupt or detract from the character of an area such as wireless masts, poor development etc.
39	Tolerance to Change	This optional information may also be included in Survey forms if required by a local planning authority. This subject area needs to be approached with caution. A preliminary overview suggests that the term tolerance to change is equivalent to the inherent <i>sensitivity</i> of the Visual and Sensory qualities of an area <i>not its capacity</i> for a specific scale and type of development.
40 44	Aspect Area to boundary information	Clarification of the level information was site surveyed is noted to help define accuracy. The accuracy of the boundary is also specified and a justification of each boundary set out. This includes reasons such as break of slope, change in land cover or enclosure patterns, mountain fence and local authority boundary. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Care is taken with the wording as this information may be used for secondary products such as designations.
45	Bibliography	Any literature that is pertinent to this Aspect Area is noted, whether a landscape study or literature. References that relate to the whole study area are noted only in the Technical Report to avoid repetition.
52	Additional Assessments	If the Aspect Specialist is aware of more detailed studies within the Aspect Area which have been carried out, such as

		<p>environmental assessments, village or area studies or design guidance then these are noted for further reference.</p> <p>In addition, this field may be used by the Aspect Specialist to make notes about the <i>process of description</i> undertaken in this section of the survey. They may explain as succinctly as possible the basis for a difficult decision, or perhaps where they felt that the answer they might have given was not available to them.</p>
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6 Evaluating Aspect Areas

The Aspect Specialist aims to establish an evaluation of intrinsic value based on a professional understanding of the Visual & Sensory character of the landscape. Pre-defined assessment criteria are provided in a matrix. The matrix is completed within the survey form for each Aspect Area after collecting all information on which the evaluation is to be based. The evaluation is then summarised with an overall evaluation and justification. The summary needs to be carefully worded as it may be used for secondary products such as designation or in development management and decisions.

No.	Field name	Guidance notes
26	Value	This will duplicate the overall evaluation and summary in Field 50.
46	Scenic quality	The extent to which the area has scenes which are of a picturesque quality , demonstrating aesthetically pleasing elements in composition .
47	Integrity	The extent to which the area is in good condition , with consistent character throughout, and is generally unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development.
48	Character	The extent to which a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements, features and qualities occurs within the Aspect Area, to give a clear sense of place .
49	Rarity	The extent to which the area's visual & sensory character and/or features or qualities are rare/representative locally, regionally or nationally/internationally.
50	Overall Evaluation	This summary brings all the criteria text explanations together. This can either be a composite of all four justifications or a précis bringing out the key points. This will be used by various parties in the planning process and may be subject to close scrutiny.
51	Justification of Overall Evaluation	The justification of overall evaluation brings together the four criteria evaluations (46-49) and justifies the overall evaluation level. This is often a mathematical calculation, but not always. For instance all high or 3 high evaluations and one moderate evaluation is likely to lead to an overall evaluation of high. This is explanation enough. However, if there are two highs and two moderates a brief justification of why the overall evaluation is high or moderate is needed. This depends on the relative

		importance and weighting of criteria in an Aspect Area which is an issue of expert judgement.
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For each criteria (46-49), the importance of the qualities within the Aspect Area are scored on the following scale with the suggested interpretation of each category in the second table.

Outstanding	The importance of the qualities within the Aspect Area are of international or national importance to the Visual & Sensory Aspect
High	The importance of the qualities within the Aspect Area are of regional or county importance to the Visual & Sensory Aspect
Moderate	The importance of the qualities within the Aspect Area are of local importance to the Visual & Sensory Aspect
Low	The importance of the qualities within the Aspect Area are of little or no importance to the Visual & Sensory Aspect

Evaluation criteria	Outstanding	High	Moderate	Low
Scenic quality	A landscape offering many scenes of a picturesque quality throughout the area, which are aesthetically pleasing in composition. The area is iconic for these nationally and internationally.	A landscape with some scenes of a picturesque quality, which are aesthetically pleasing in composition. The area is notable for these regionally.	Landscapes with a few scenes of a picturesque quality, which are aesthetically pleasing in composition. These areas are notable locally for these.	Landscapes with very limited aesthetically pleasing scenes.
Integrity	Characteristic features in good condition and consistent throughout the area, which are unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development	Characteristic features in good condition are not fully consistent across the area but are nevertheless mostly unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development.	Some characteristic features remain intact but others are fragmented, and/or partly spoilt by some large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development.	Few characteristic features remain intact and these are highly fragmented or spoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development.
Character	Landscapes of very distinctive character demonstrating	Landscapes with distinctive character whose patterns of	Landscapes with some distinctive characteristics	Very little local character in keeping with the natural or built

7 Technical Report

To support the Visual & Sensory survey the Aspect Specialist submits a Technical Report for the Visual & Sensory aspect so that the justification and explanation of key decisions is made transparent.

Format and content of Technical Reports

- Executive Summary (500 words) in Welsh and English
- Contents page
- Methodology: If the prescribed LANDMAP guidance was followed then the Aspect Specialist does not need to reproduce the methodological description.
- Overview: A summary description of the Visual & Sensory aspect for the whole study area bringing out the most important characteristics and key issues.
- Information sources and data sets used including full details of consultations, date, personnel involved and outcomes
- References
- Justifications and judgements of any decision that may cause confusion. Areas where such texts are likely to be needed include:
 - Justification of approved additions to, or departures from, the prescribed hierarchical classification system, although such deviations are generally not permitted.
 - Explanation of potentially contentious decisions about individual Aspect Areas.
 - Elaboration on the justifications of evaluations for any potentially contentious decisions about individual Aspect Areas.

8 Monitoring

A robust, repeatable and standardised monitoring methodology has been developed to facilitate the process of identifying Aspect Areas where significant change has occurred. This methodology is described in full in the LANDMAP Monitoring Methodology (2016) and uses a range of mapped data, including processed information derived from remote sensing, to identify areas of potentially significant landscape change.

9 Quality Assurance

To ensure national consistency and high standards, LANDMAP information is Quality Assured before any datasets are approved and made available. The methodology is described in full in the LANDMAP Quality Assurance Methodology.

- Aspect Specialists submissions for quality assurance should be comprehensive and include:
 - A single GIS layer defining Aspect Areas
 - Aspect Area surveys
 - A comprehensive Technical Report/Monitoring Table

- Supplementary information as required. Documentation, including correspondence, survey maps and field data sheets should be retained, in the event that they are required.

10 Glossary

Where possible, terms have been used that are commonly understood in the UK landscape profession.

Term	Definition
Character	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements, features and qualities that occur within a particular landscape area.
Condition	The degree to which the physical state and functioning of a landscape is soundly managed, and in a good state of repair.
Elements	Individual component parts of the landscape such as field boundaries, woodlands, patches of similar vegetation, buildings and structures.
Features	Prominent or eye-catching elements e.g. wooded hilltop or chapel.
Landcover	Combinations of natural and man-made elements including vegetation that cover the land surface.
Landform	Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.
Qualities	Qualities are divided into two types: Aesthetic: the visible patterns of distribution of physical attributes in the landscape of landform and land cover. These help analyse the landscape and include criteria such as scale e.g. intimate, vast; enclosure e.g. enclosed, exposed; and diversity. Perceptual: the responses to a landscape felt or sensed by the assessor. These are more personal and subjective and are coloured by experience and, in some cases, by the time that the assessment was carried out. Assessors attempt to synthesise a range of potential responses to an area. They include terms such as wildness, tranquillity and shelter.
Remoteness	Physical isolation and removal from the presence of people, infrastructure (roads and railways) and settlement.
Sense of Place	The character of a place that makes it locally distinctive i.e. different from other places. The essential character and spirit of an area (derived from genius loci- literally 'spirit of the place')
Threatening	Perceived danger posed by terrain and/or weather or other threat.
Tranquillity	Sense of peace without disruptive noise or movement.
Wildness	The quality of an area which appears to be uninhabited and is often relatively inaccessible where the influence of human activity on the character and quality of the environment appears to have been minimal.