

# LDP Ceredigion

Local Development Plan  
2007 - 2022

## Supplementary Planning Guidance Special Landscape Areas



Ceredigion County Council Adopted, April 2014

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Ceredigion County Council, 100024419, 2014

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## List of Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
DERA	Defence Evaluation and Research Agency
GIS	Geographical Information System
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
LANDMAP	Landscape Assessment and Decision Making Process
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LDP	Local Development Plan
MYA	Million Years Ago
NNR	National Nature Reserve
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UDP	Unitary Development Plan



In accordance with Welsh Government Guidance (“Local Development Plans Wales” paragraph 5.3), the Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been prepared in partnership with stakeholders and was subject to public consultation between 16th January 2014 and midday 28th February 2014. Annex 1 (available on [www.ceredigion.gov.uk](http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk) only) of this report sets out the responses received to the consultation and a Ceredigion County Council (CCC) response along with any recommended changes to the SPG.

This SPG document was formally adopted by Ceredigion County Council on 24th April 2014 (Minute No: 9 a, b & c).



## **1. Purpose of Supplementary Planning Guidance**

1.1.1 This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is one of a series of guidance notes which support the policies of the Local Development Plan (LDP). Although decisions on planning applications will be based on the LDP's policies (as indicated in part 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004), the content of the SPG is a material planning consideration. This guidance forms a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications which could affect the form, appearance and setting of the built and natural landscape within Ceredigion's Special Landscape Areas (SLA). The main purpose of this SPG is to assist in the interpretation and application of national and local policies concerned with the protection and enhancement of landscape character within these areas and in doing so it will provide detailed guidance to members of the public, developers, planning officers and the Council's planning committee on planning issues relating to landscapes.

1.1.2 The Guidance:

- Explains the methodology used to inform this SPG;
- Provides an overview of the various elements that contribute to the character of Ceredigion's landscape;
- Introduces the relevant planning policy context in relation to SLAs;
- Explains the methodology used to assess and determine different SLAs in Ceredigion;
- Identifies specific characteristics unique to each individual SLA, and;
- Provides clear guidance for developers, Council Members and planning officers relating to each SLA.

1.1.3 The Guidance does not set out policy independently of the LDP but only provides supplementary guidance. Therefore, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004, it has not been considered necessary to subject it to separate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The results of the Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the relevant policy, Policy DM18, may be viewed in Appendix 3 of the Ceredigion Local Development Plan Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (April 2013).

1.1.4 The contents of this SPG will be used to determine whether or not a proposal respects the special qualities of an SLA as required by policy DM18. It will be used to inform applicants, Council Members and Planning Officers of what these special qualities are and how they are to be managed. Its contents therefore are material considerations in the determination of planning applications and

applicants will need to demonstrate how they have taken them into account. Applications that do not demonstrate that they have considered the contents of this document can be refused.

- 1.1.5 It should be noted however that applicants may use the document positively when working on their planning applications. For example, it can be used to inform the design of a development, including the proposals contained within landscaping schemes. It may form the basis for pre-application discussions with Council Officers and it is encouraged that it be used in the very early stages of a proposal.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Landscape

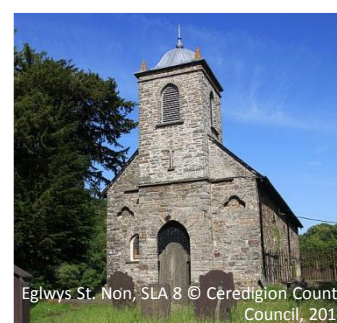
*“Landscape’ means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”*

European Landscape Convention, Article 1a (2000)

- 2.1.1 Landscape is the physical manifestation of space, the tangible elements that give shape and diversity to our surroundings. It is the product of thousands of years of interaction between man and nature, encompassing the environmental and cultural, physical and symbolic. It is also the environment perceived, predominantly visually but additionally through our senses of smell, touch and hearing. Our appreciation of landscape is also affected, by our cultural backgrounds, and by personal and professional interests.
- 2.1.2 Landscape is important, not just as scenery but because it links culture with nature, and the past with the present. Well-looked after and highly valued landscapes are essential to social well-being and an economically healthy society. Landscapes are valued because of their inherent interest, their contribution to both national identity and local distinctiveness. The protection of high quality and highly valued landscapes therefore is important both for its own sake and for the health, social and economic wellbeing of individuals and communities.
- 2.1.3 Yet landscapes are not static entities, they are fluid and continue to evolve in response to both environmental and socio-economic agents. Ceredigion LDP’s vision recognises the area’s special qualities, but also that “through sustainable development... Ceredigion will... be recognised for its enhanced environment and will provide and ensure appropriate and high quality housing and a strong, diverse and progressive economy”.
- 2.1.4 Since development occurs within a landscape setting, it may alter the landscape by changing its elements and features. This potentially significant impact necessitates management through the planning system, preferably through ‘landscape-aware’ development location and design. An important part of this management process is the encouragement of early consideration of landscape in the location and design of development proposals. This guidance has been produced in order to facilitate such consideration within the County’s SLAs.

## 2.2 Ceredigion's Landscape

2.2.1 Ceredigion is located on the western edge of Wales and forms the central section of the coastline of Cardigan Bay. It covers an area some 1,800 square kilometres, and has a coastline of around 96kms in length, stretching from the Dyfi estuary in the north to the Teifi estuary in the south. It is bounded inland primarily by the counties of Carmarthenshire and Powys, as well as smaller boundaries with Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire.



2.2.2 The County is home to a rich and diverse natural and historic landscape, ranging from uplands which rise up to 752 metres AOD at Pumlumon Fawr on the county's eastern boundary with Powys, dropping westwards towards the coast where the majority of the landscape is formed by a plateau of around 150-200 metres AOD which skirts Cardigan Bay. This is dissected by a number of river valleys including the Ystwyth, Rheidol, Aeron, Wyre and Teifi. These valleys are often cloaked in woodland and give a distinctive feel to the landscape. Finally the coastal edge is a mixture of rocky shoreline, exposed rocky headlands and sheltered bays, with narrow, small valleys extending inland. The area's geology is relatively simple and largely takes the form of a series of Silurian sandstones and greywackes. It is the softness of the rocks and their

general uniformity that results in the present landscape's subtle and elegant variations.

- 2.2.3 This gently changing topography and resulting local climates has resulted in distinct differences between the landscapes in the east and west and north and south of the county. In the south and west, the countryside is more enclosed, characterised by small intricate fields bounded by hedges and trees; the result of many centuries of agricultural practice. The area undulates rhythmically to form a series of rolling plateaus dissected by steep valleys. These areas are much affected by coastal exposure and contain pasture fields enclosed by hedge banks with low uniform hedges. On lee slopes and within the sharply defined dissecting valleys deciduous woodland and scrub thrive, along with expanses of gorse nearer the sea. In the north and east the plateau like hill tops are of a more open nature and comprise expanses of unenclosed, unimproved grassland and moorland, with cotton grass and other bog vegetation in wet flushes and around pools. Further north the landscape is generally more rugged, with a landform typified by irregular knobs and peaks, exposed rock outcrops, and scree slopes.
- Ceredigion has 13 Special Landscape Areas representing coastal, upland and valley environments.
- 2.2.4 This landscape is bounded in the west by the county's coastline, which stretches out along Cardigan Bay between the Dyfi and Teifi Estuaries. For the most part it comprises a mix of rocky wave cut platforms and pebble/shingle beaches, with enclosure from low cliffs. However, these features are often interspersed by much more dramatic high rocky cliffs, which form a rugged and dynamic edge landscape. They are often topped by unimproved grassland, gorse, bracken and scrub adding a varied mosaic to the already dramatic scenery. The cliffs often give way to sandy coves and beaches, as well as sheltered estuarine landscapes such as the Teifi and Dyfi estuaries. These areas retain wild and remote qualities, which are reduced only where settlements abut the coast.
- 2.2.5 That said, a substantial proportion of the coast is undeveloped, with four sections designated as Heritage Coast because of their exceptional landscape quality. Furthermore, two areas of Cardigan Bay are Marine Special Areas of Conservation because of their importance for biodiversity.
- 2.2.6 2.2.6 In the east, the rolling hills give way to the Cambrian Mountains, which are one of Britain's largest expanses of wilderness. Originally the term 'Cambrian Mountains' was applied in a general sense to most of upland Wales encompassing all mountains from Snowdonia to the Brecon Beacons. It was not until the 1950s that its application became increasingly localised to the geographically



homogeneous Mid Wales uplands of Pumlumon, Elenydd, and Mynydd Mallaen. Due to the area's remoteness and poor transport links (few houses and few roads) it is often referred to as the 'Desert of Wales'. However it could never be described as a desert in the normal sense, since the area receives considerable rainfall and is characterised by rough open grassland and upland bog, underlain by extensive layers of peat. Many of its valleys have been planted with non-native conifer, and in some areas natural and semi-natural deciduous woodland dating back to the Middle Ages still exists. The area is also scattered with hundreds of lakes and ponds, both natural and manmade. The steep valleys have proved ideal for damming and there are numerous large reservoirs throughout the mountains.



- 2.2.7 In the north of these uplands, the County is home to the range's highest mountain, Pumlumon Fawr, which can be seen from both the Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons National Parks. When comparing it to its northern and southern neighbours, the mountain might appear unremarkable, a broad, boggy, steep sided hill with a relatively undistinguished summit area. However it is an area of considerable landscape value, it's northern aspect being home to lakes, large crags, boulder-strewn slopes, screes, deep valleys, waterfalls and ridges. Like the rest of the Cambrian Mountains, these features are moderately scattered, often subtly set, and rarely dominate the



landscape. Its southern and north-eastern slopes, although in Powys, hold the sources for two of Britain's most important rivers, the Severn and the Wye. To the south, the uplands are arguably less spectacular and are typified by gently undulating plateau with shallow indistinct valleys. Rock outcrops are rare and the landscape feels vast and exposed.

- 2.2.8 During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, large areas of commercial coniferous forestry were planted in the Cambrian Mountains, inflicting a significant visual impact upon them. The abrupt edges can be disruptive to the flow of the open landscape of the upland moorland, detracting from the areas homogeneity. Furthermore, clear felling on a large scale creates ugly scarred landscapes, often on the skyline, until replanting heals the wound. The most successful forests are those that have larch and deciduous species to break up the edge and mass of the woodland. In some places, the combination of conifers and water can even create stunning landscapes and vistas, such as around the Nant-y-Moch and Llyn Brienne reservoirs, and can act as important foci for recreation and tourist activity.
- 2.2.9 Countywide, settlement pattern is one of scattered hamlets, isolated dwellings and loose knit villages, with larger towns and villages confined to the coast and major transport corridors. In the Cambrian Mountains settlement is largely absent, confined to the lower hillsides and valleys, though the large number of deserted settlements and farmsteads in this area is testament to the depopulation that occurred during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 2.2.10 Dissecting the County's landscape are several large rivers of local and regional importance, including the Rheidol and Ystwyth in the north and the Aeron in the centre. The county's longest river, the Teifi, runs from Teifi Pools in the Cambrian Mountains to Cardigan Bay in the southwest, for much of its course delineating the boundary between Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. In all cases, the verdure and 'manicured tidiness' of the valleys provides a contrast to the more impoverished open areas of adjoining upland and coastal plateau. Such juxtaposition is potent reminder that the County's landscape is a product of thousands of years of interaction between the environment and the communities that have created their livelihood there.

## 2.3 LANDMAP

“LANDMAP is a whole landscape approach that covers all landscapes, designated and nondesignated, it covers the natural, rural, peri-urban and urban areas, (excluding the Cities of Cardiff and Swansea), it includes inland waters and coastal areas to the low water mark. LANDMAP is an all-Wales GIS (Geographical Information System) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set..”

Natural Resources Wales (2013, p.3)

2.3.1 Landscape value in Wales is measured using Natural Resources Wales’ LANDMAP system. LANDMAP is a Geographical Information System (GIS) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. Data sets are defined by five methodological chapters:

- Cultural Landscape (Figure 1): this considers the relationship that exists between people and places; how people have given meaning to places, how the landscape has shaped their actions and their actions have shaped the landscape;
- Geological Landscape (Figure 2): this is the study of the geology, geomorphology and hydrology of the area;
- Historic Landscape (Figure 3): focuses on how archaeological and historical sites relate to each other and to the surrounding landscape.
- Landscape Habitats (Figure 4): looks at the distribution of vegetation and habitats and the basis for landscape ecology.
- Visual & Sensory Landscape (Figure 5): this aspect identifies those landscape qualities that are perceived through the senses. It deals with the individual physical attributes of landform and land cover, as well as their visual patterns of distribution and sensory characteristics, and the relationships between them in a particular area.

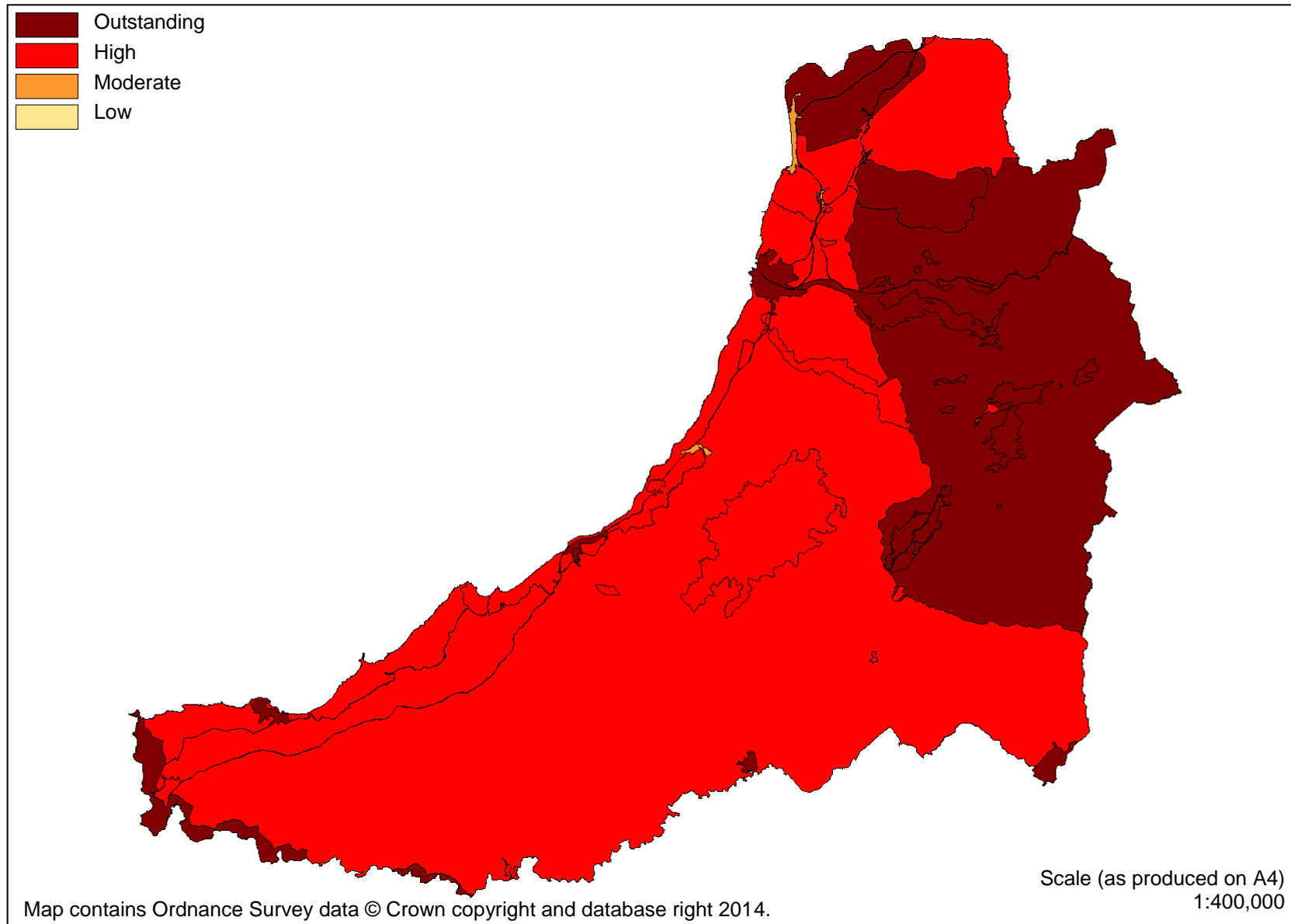
2.3.2 These are themselves split into individual Aspect Areas, which describe and evaluate areas of homogeneous character and quality within those methodological chapters.

2.3.3 It is the use of all five layers of information that promotes sustainable landscape decision- making as what may be less important in one particular layer may be of high

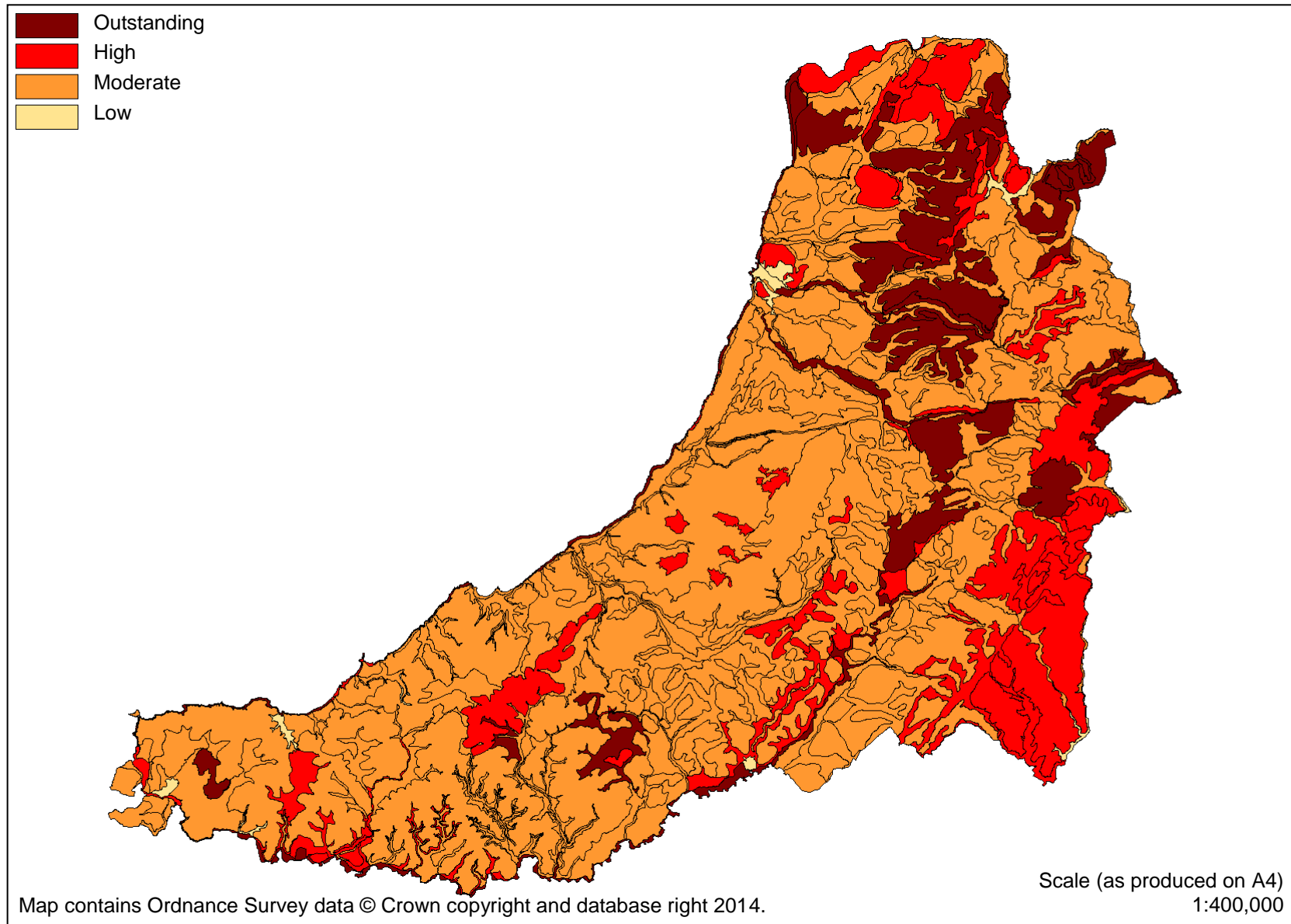
LANDMAP assesses the diversity of landscapes within Wales. It identifies and explains their most important characteristics and qualities - whether they are ordinary, but locally important landscapes, or nationally recognised spectacular landscapes.

importance in another. Giving all five layers equal consideration ensures no aspect of the landscape is overlooked.

- 2.3.4 A full LANDMAP survey of the County has been independently completed and quality assured, providing an up-to-date assessment of the qualities of Ceredigion's landscapes and a tool to be used in decision making processes. LANDMAP indicates that Ceredigion has large areas of highly valued landscapes according to all five of the methodical chapters, many of which can be considered to be of national and even international importance.

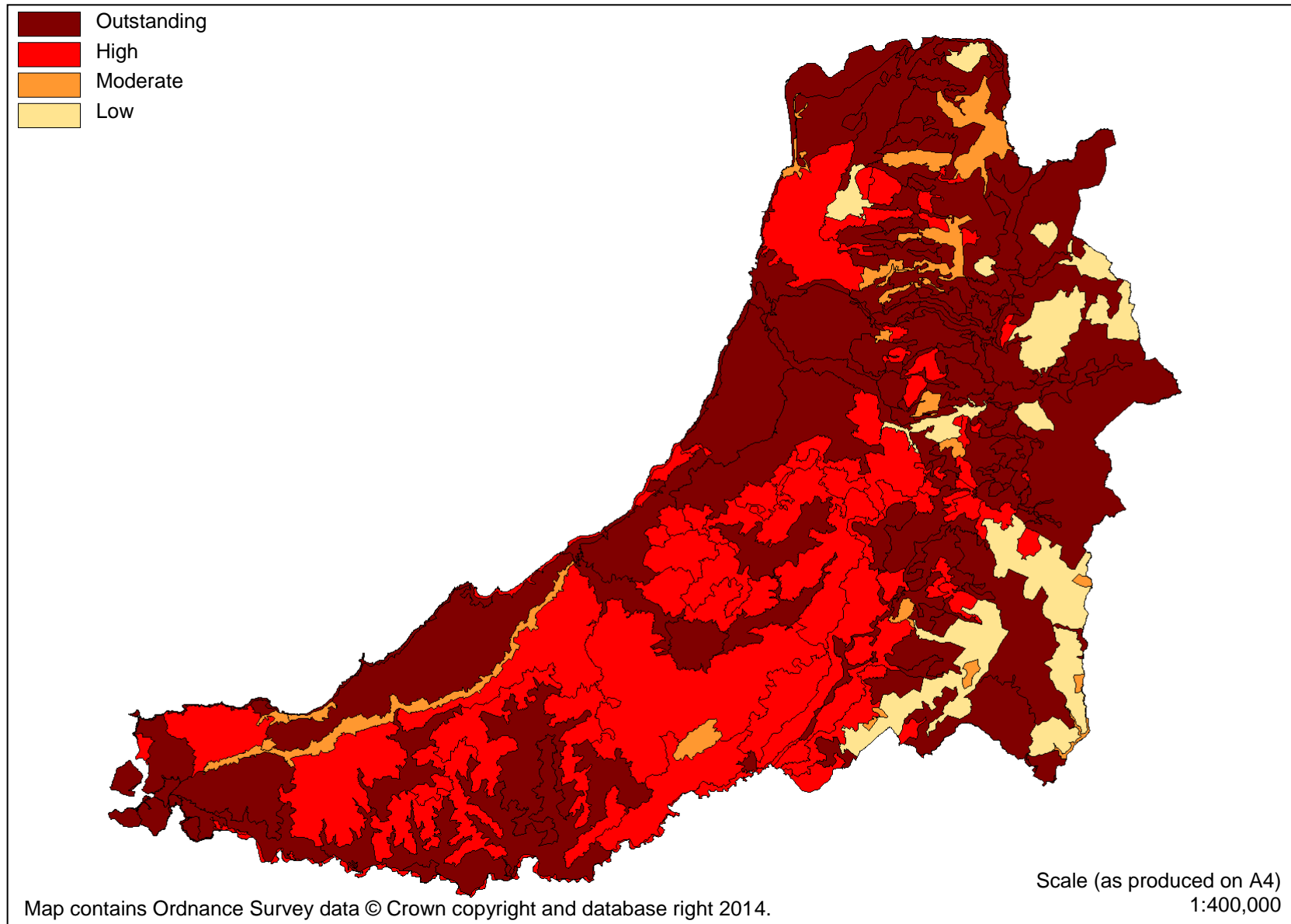


**Figure 1 Cultural Landscape Overall Evaluation**

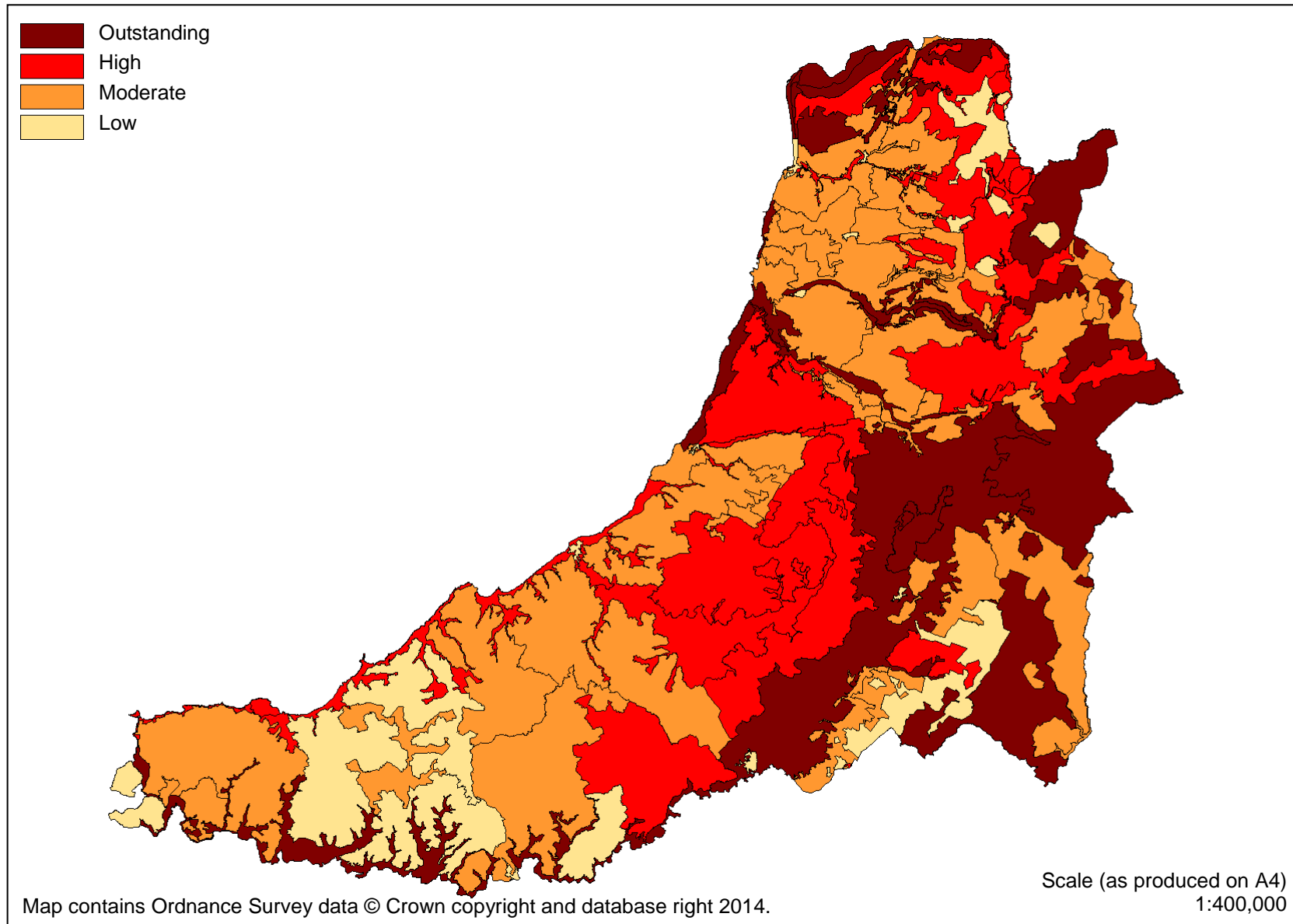


**Figure 1 Geological Landscape Overall Evaluation**

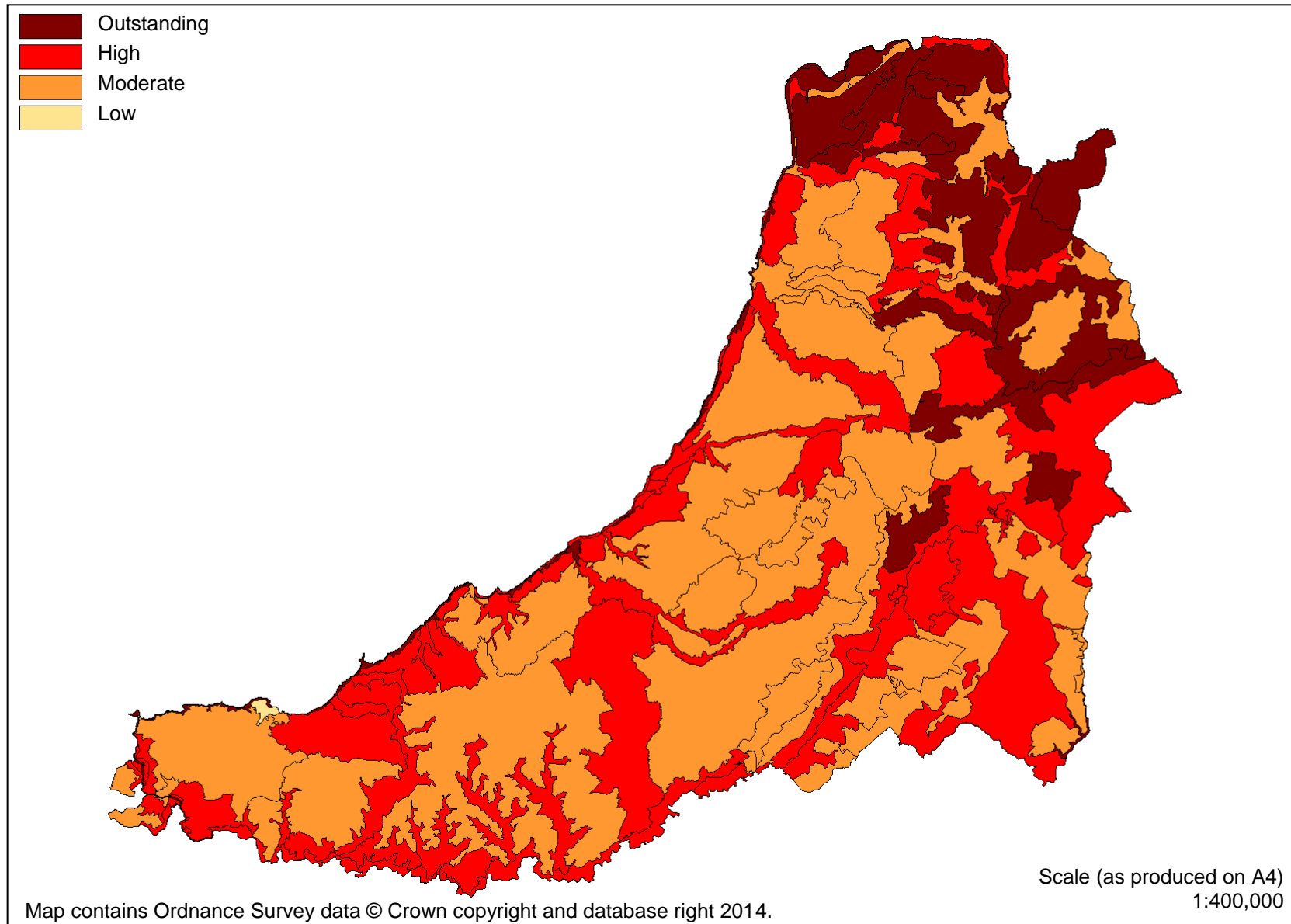
Adopted April 2014



**Figure 3 Historic Landscape Overall Evaluation**



**Figure 4 Landscape Habitats Overall Evaluation**



**Figure 5 Visual and Sensory Landscape Overall Evaluation**



- 2.3.5 All quality assured LANDMAP Information is available from the LANDMAP website, either by viewing the information in the online GIS or by downloading the information onto your computer. The online GIS option has enabled practitioners in landscape work to access the information without having to have a GIS licence, a considerable benefit both within local authority departments and private consultancies. See:

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/landmap.aspx>

## 2.4 National Planning Policy

*“Landscape policy’ means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes;”*

European Landscape Convention, Article 1b (2000)

- 2.4.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (November 2012) notes that attention to landscape issues is a key part of planning for sustainability. It states that planning policies and proposals should contribute to the protection and improvement of the natural environment, and help to ensure the conservation of the historic environment and cultural heritage. As part of the protection and improvement of the natural environment, PPW states that landscape conservation needs to be promoted, and as part of the conservation of the historic environment and cultural heritage, local diversity should be acknowledged and fostered.
- 2.4.2 Where development does occur it is important to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to safeguard or enhance the environmental quality of land. PPW encourages pre-application discussions between developers, local planning authorities and statutory advisors such as Natural Resources Wales.
- 2.4.3 PPW states (paragraph 5.3.11) that non-statutory designations, such as Special Landscape Areas, should be soundly based on a formal scientific assessment of the landscape value of the site. LPAs should apply these designations to areas of substantive conservation value where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. It is important to note, that it also states that such designations should not unduly restrict acceptable development.
- 2.4.4 This guidance continues with paragraph 5.3.13:
- 2.4.5 *“CCW’s LANDMAP Information System methodology provides an important information resource upon which local authorities can draw... needed to inform local policy... LANDMAP assessments should be published. They can help inform supplementary planning guidance... covering for example... Special Landscape Areas...”*
- 2.4.6 Thus, Ceredigion’s policy approach to landscape protection and the designation of its SLAs have taken this policy framework into account.

## 2.5 Local Planning Policy

2.5.1 With regard to landscape, the Vision of Ceredigion LDP is that “*from the Cambrian Mountains to Cardigan Bay, Ceredigion will remain a scenic and biodiversity rich county, committed to maintaining, enhancing and benefiting from its beautiful coastline, uplands and river valleys*”.

2.5.2 The Key policy of relevance to this SPG is Policy DM18: Special Landscape Areas. The policy recognises that although conserving and enhancing the landscape in general is important, as is required under Policy DM17: General Landscape, it is also important that there are some parts of Ceredigion that deserve special consideration - SLAs offer a means of achieving this goal. The Policy states:

**Policy DM18:  
Special Landscape Areas**

Proposals for development within Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) will be assessed in relation to scale and nature of development and their ability to be accommodated without significant damage to, and where possible the enhancement of, the valued visual, historic, geological, ecological and cultural characteristics of the SLA.

The areas designated as SLAs are included on the proposals maps and their management will be subject to SPG: ‘Special Landscape Areas’.

2.5.3 It’s important to note that where land identified by LANDMAP as being of particular value is not included within an SLA, the LANDMAP information will itself be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, as required under Policy DM17.

## 2.6 Ceredigion's Special Landscape Areas

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

Natural Resources Wales (2013, p.3)

- 2.6.1 The use of non-statutory policy designations, such as SLAs to protect areas of landscape value has long been a policy tool within the UK land use planning system. They have been seen by local authorities as a means of both protecting sensitive landscapes and developing an understanding and awareness of those features and characteristics that give a locality its sense of place.
- 2.6.2 The designation of Ceredigion's SLAs is based on the methodology using LANDMAP developed by consultants TACP on behalf of the South East Wales Local Authority Consortium (June 2007). This methodology forms the basis for Natural Resources Wales' Guidance Note No. 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas (May 2013) on the designation of SLAs within Wales. Importantly, it reflects guidance held within PPW.
- 2.6.3 In identifying the SLA designations reference has also been made to the approach and designations identified by neighbouring local authorities.
- Gwynedd
  - Powys
  - Carmarthenshire
  - Pembrokeshire
- 2.6.4 In addition, in the conduct of the study reference has been made to CCW's "Seascapes" report (2009). This identifies a range of coastal landscape areas and elements which can support and complement the LANDMAP information. This is particularly relevant given the length of the Ceredigion coastline, some 96km in extent from the Dyfi estuary in the north to the Teifi estuary in the south near Cardigan.
- 2.6.5 The Seascapes project considers seascape units along the Welsh coast which it defines as any area of sea, coastline or land whose perceived character is the result of the actions and interactions on land and sea by natural and/or human factors. This has resulted in five national and fifty regional seascape units being identified along the coast. Each unit is characterised by a basic typology based upon a reference to the sea, surface geology, height and land use, and its

sensitivity to change. Ceredigion lies within the Cardigan Bay national seascape unit and includes the following regional units:

- 24 Pen y Bwch to Upper Borth
- 25 Dyfi Estuary
- 26 Upper Borth to New Quay
- 27 New Quay to Cardigan Island
- 28 Teifi Estuary

2.6.6 Reference has been made within the description of the SLAs to the relevant regional Seascape unit where applicable. Details and plans of the Seascapes project, and the national and regional Seascape units can be obtained from NRW's website: <http://www.ccg.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/seascapes/seascape-assessment-of-wales.aspx>

2.6.7 Accordingly the following thirteen SLAs have been identified and designated in the Ceredigion LDP (Figure 6):

- SLA 1 Dyfi Estuary and Valley
- SLA 2 Ceredigion Coast - Aberystwyth to Borth
- SLA 3 Ceredigion Coast - Llanrhystud to Aberystwyth
- SLA 4 Ceredigion Coast - New Quay to Llanrhystud
- SLA 5 Ceredigion Coast - Aberporth to New Quay
- SLA 6 Ceredigion Coast - Gwbert to Aberporth
- SLA 7 Teifi Valley
- SLA 8 Aeron Valley
- SLA 9 Wyre Valley
- SLA 10 Ystwyth Valley
- SLA 11 Rheidol Valley
- SLA 12 Northern Uplands
- SLA 13 Southern Uplands

2.6.8 The thirteen SLAs were initially identified from a desk review of LANDMAP supported by field study to validate the areas and establish appropriate boundaries. Details of this process can be found in TACP (2011). The boundaries identified have since been verified by the County Council in line with the guidance contained in NRW Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas (2013).

2.6.9 The specific characteristics and guidance for developers and planning officers relating to each SLA is provided in Section 4 of this SPG.



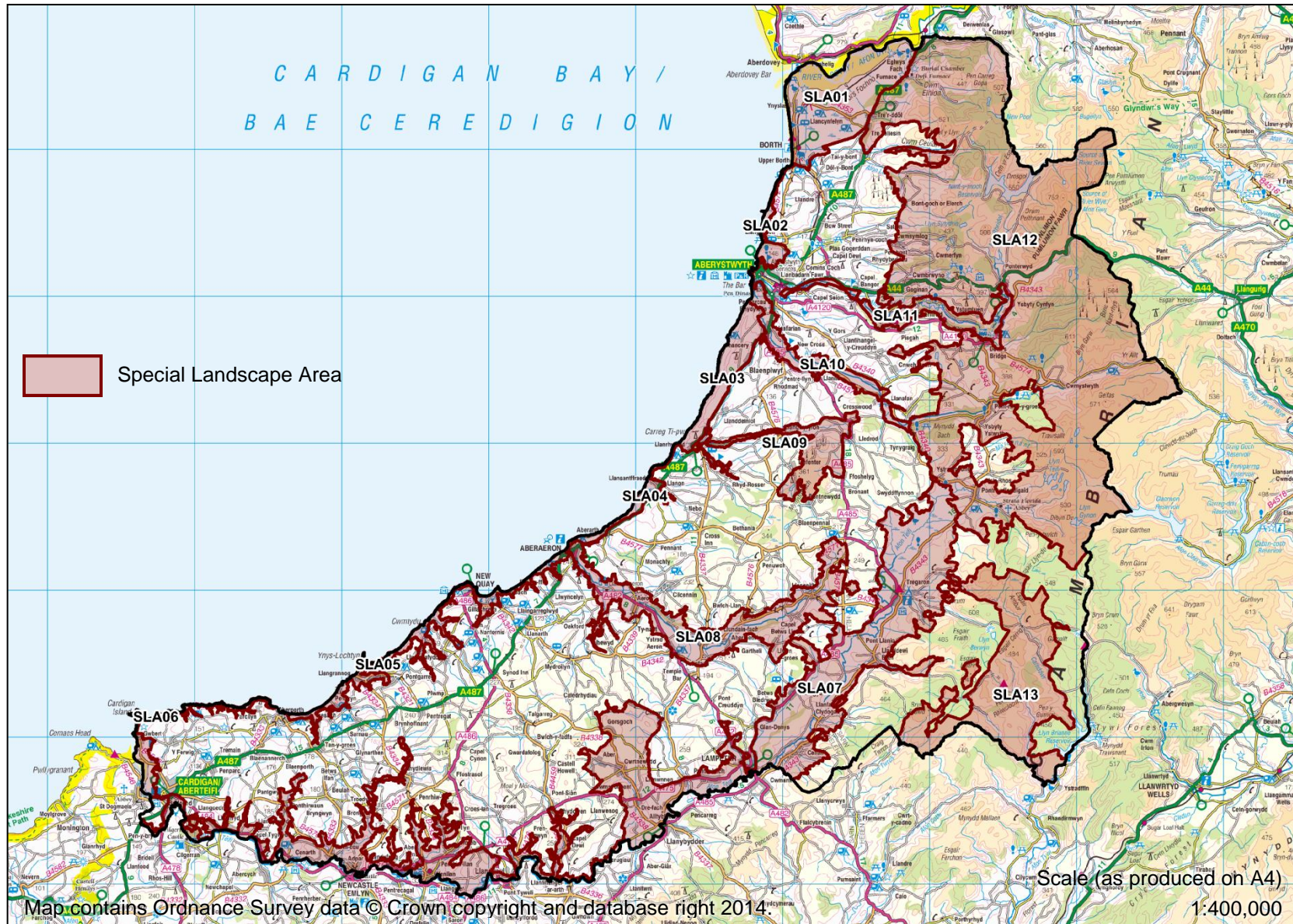


Figure 6 Ceredigion's Special Landscape Areas

### **3. Special Landscape Area Schedules**

3.1.1 For each of the SLAs an Area Schedule has been drawn up to record:

#### **Location Map**

3.1.2 A map of the SLA overlain on an Ordnance Survey map base. Map scales are provided for each map individually and are as printed on A4 paper. The SLA's are displayed as follows:

 Special Landscape Area

3.1.3 SLA boundaries were drawn at a scale of 1:10,000 using Ordnance Survey Mastermap data. The Ordnance Survey maps contained within this document are at 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scales, therefore SLA boundaries may not match the physical boundaries displayed on these maps. Detailed interactive mapping of each SLA is available on the County Council's website and it is advised that this mapping be consulted alongside this document and the policies of the LDP:

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=15100>

#### **Photographs**

3.1.4 This section provides a number of photographs of locations within the SLA. It provides applicants and planning officers with a broad outline of the SLA's character and example of some of the locations and features that are key to its designation.

#### **Relevance**

3.1.5 This section sets out the need for the SLA, an explanation relating to its coherence as a landscape unit and an explanation relating to the consensus that was reached in its selection.

#### **Key Characteristics**

3.1.6 A brief outline of the key landscape features of the SLA.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.7 This section provides a more detailed description of the SLA's character and of the features that give it its special qualities.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

3.1.8 An outline of key policy and management issues in response to potential threats to the SLA. Please note that the issues listed in this section are not exhaustive and each application will be considered on a case by case basis.

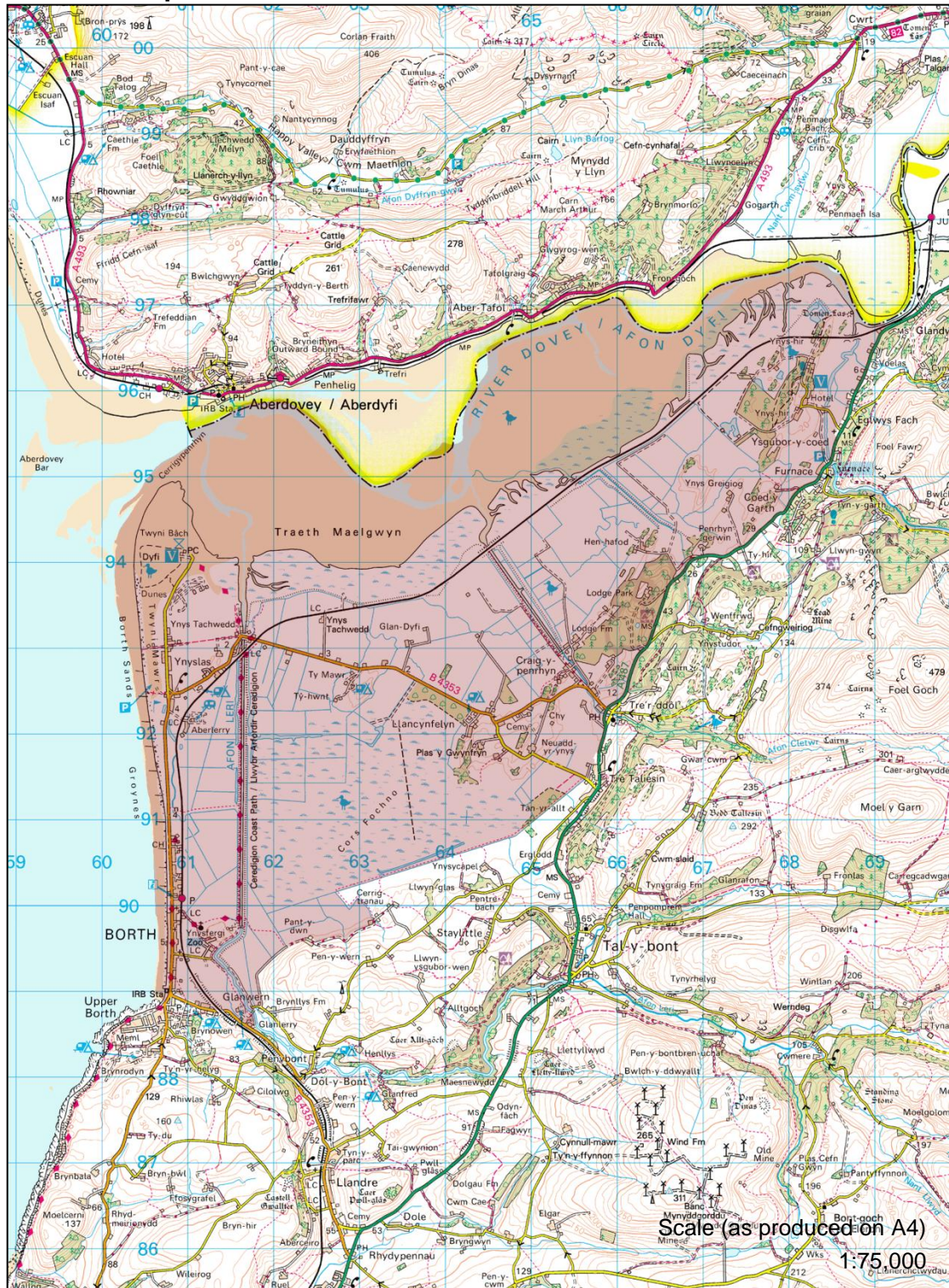
#### **Boundary Justification**

3.1.9 This section provides a brief explanation of the reasons why the SLA's boundary was chosen.



# SLA 1: Dyfi Estuary and Valley

## Location Map



Map contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014.



## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.10 **Need** - Although a landscape covered by a number of statutory designations (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar, National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Biosphere Reserve) it represents a very distinctive landscape unit and justifies its designation for landscape protection. It abuts Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC. It forms the gateway to Ceredigion from the north.

- 3.1.11 **Coherence** – The SLA contains a range of landscape types from sand dunes, through raised mires to reclaimed marshland, grasslands and woodland. Despite this it functions as a distinctive landscape unit with the close interrelationship with the estuary.
- 3.1.12 **Consensus** - Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), it is an assemblage of internationally important landscape elements and warrants the additional level of designation and protection.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Extensive, open estuarine landscape.
- Borrowed views of adjacent uplands and inland areas.
- Wide range of nature conservation designations, including biosphere designation.
- Distinctive landscape elements – Cors Fochno raised mire, dune systems, beach, network of drains.
- Dynamic landscape reflecting its tidal nature.
- Sense of wilderness, low horizon open skies.
- Benefits from borrowed views of the Snowdonia National Park and in turn the National Park borrows views from the SLA.
- Areas of tourism development.
- Includes Lower Borth, a distinctive multi period coastal resort.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

- 3.1.13 The Dyfi valley forms the northern gateway into Ceredigion, with the river from Dovey Junction to the coast forming the boundary with Gwynedd and Powys, and for its length within Ceredigion is estuarine in character. The SLA encompasses two Regional Seascape Units, number 24 Pen Bwch Point to Upper Borth and number 25 Dyfi Estuary. At its widest extent at its entrance into Cardigan Bay, the estuary forms an expansive open landscape where the sinuous pattern of the Dyfi contrasts with the more intricate edges of the salt marsh and the A487(T) road and railway corridor. The coastal interface of the estuary is formed by the Ynys Las dune system, which is degraded in places by tourism developments. The very end of the system (Twyn Bach) is designated as a National Nature Reserve. The core of this area is formed by Cors Fochno which covers some 40km<sup>2</sup> and is an important example of raised mire. It is covered and cut by alluvial drainage channels and is dotted with islands of bedrock, comprising Silurian mud stones, such as Ynysfergi close to Y Borth. The western boundary of the mire is formed by the canalised channel of the Afon Leri whilst the remainder of the area is reclaimed marshland now given over to farming. Further inland, from Tal-y-bont to the county boundary at Pont Llyfnant, the estuary narrows with still extensive areas of reclaimed marsh patterned with drainage ditches including the canalised Afon Clefwr. The A487(T) road corridor forms the edge of the SLA at its interface with the rising ground of the Northern Ceredigion Uplands. There is a mixture of grassland,

hedgerows, trees and extensive areas of broadleaved woodland, much of which is owned by the National Trust, and of which some are designated as SSSI and SACs (e.g. Coed Cwm Einion).

- 3.1.14 Together with the tidal mudflats of the main river channel, the SLA forms a distinctive landscape with a mosaic of habitats and vegetation which are important for wildlife, such as reptiles and over-wintering birds. It remains a dynamic landscape reflecting its tidal nature and despite the tourist based developments still maintains a sense of wildness, with a low horizon, open skies and extensive views all around. It is a landscape of the highest quality and importance reflected in the range of national and international nature conservation designations. It also remains a working landscape popular with visitors.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Maintain close links with the objectives of the Shoreline Management Plan (Cardigan Bay Coastal Group, 2002)
- Management of recreational use to reduce pressures on sensitive sites.
- Manage in partnership with the constraints approved by the myriad of nature conservation designations.
- Ensure open, wild character is maintained through careful control of development.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Management of the diverse range of habitats, such as ditch management for reclaimed marshland.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Control pressures for increased tourism and recreational developments.
- Monitor potential cumulative impacts of development and landscape change through close liaison with neighbouring local authorities.
- Manage the visual impact of signs and advertisements.

#### **Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.15 Follows distinctive estuarine landscape which includes administrative boundaries with Gwynedd and Powys. A487(T) corridor generally forms southern boundary.



## SLA 2: Ceredigion Coast - Aberystwyth to Borth

### Location Map



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## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.16 **Need** – The area is close to the town of Aberystwyth and the seaside resort of Borth. As a consequence it is under pressure for developments, especially tourism based facilities. The area is accessible to visitors and consideration should be given to monitoring impacts and consequential effects upon the quality of the area. Abuts Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC.

3.1.17 **Coherence** – A distinct area of raised rocky cliffs and headlands. Excludes the settlements of Aberystwyth and Borth.

3.1.18 **Consensus** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP. Part of the wider Ceredigion Coast area of landscape quality.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Rocky, exposed shoreline, exposed cliffs.
- Important geological area characterised by the famous "Aberystwyth Grits".
- Coastal cliff habitats.
- Under pressure to development.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.19 The area is the northern section of the Ceredigion Coast area of special landscape value. It extends from the northern edge of Aberystwyth to the edge of Upper Borth. The SLA encompasses part of Ceredigion Heritage Coast and Regional Seascape Unit number 24 Pen Bwch Point to Upper Borth and number 26 Upper Borth to New Quay. It forms a high rocky shoreline with little or no beach rising to 150 metres AOD in places. It is underlain by Lower Silurian sandstone dominated bedrock which include exposures of the well-known 'Aberystwyth Grits'. The southern end of the SLA is formed by Constitution Hill, which also exhibits the Aberystwyth Grits, and the historic Aberystwyth Golf Course. Despite the variation in land use, this area being more suburban than the rest of the SLA to the north, it has been included because of its geological (it is a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site (RIGS) site) and landscape habitats significance. The hill has a steeply sloped northern edge formed by the valley of the Afon Clarach. At this point only the edge Clarach Bay and its associated inter-tidal zone are include within the SLA.

3.1.20 The cliffs have a rich pattern of vegetation, and the mature cliff is important for wildlife (such as Chough) and is designated a SSSI. Elsewhere the vegetation, save for some small woodlands, is sparse and shows the effects of wind blow and exposure. The SLA includes part of the inland coastal plateau and there are a number of visual detractors relating to the caravan and camping sites.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Management of visitors and tourism facilities. Monitor the cumulative effect of such facilities on the overall quality and character of the SLA.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.

- Address settlement edge landscape quality through careful design, planning controls and guidance.

**Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.21 Coastal edge together with the settlements of Aberystwyth and Borth. The inland boundary follows the LANDMAP geological aspect area which generally forms the top of the cliff face, the valley of the Afon Clarach and Constitution Hill.



### SLA 3: Ceredigion Coast - Llanrhystud to Aberystwyth

#### Location Map



Map contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014.



## Photographs



Carreg Ti-pw © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Landscape around Pengraigdraw © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Allt-wen © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Iron work, Llanrhysud © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Llanrhystud Beach © Ceredigion County Council, 2014

### Relevance

- 3.1.22 **Need** – The area runs from Llanrhystud to Aberystwyth and although close to the main A487(T) road is relatively inaccessible with minor lanes confined to the northern part of the SLA around Llanfarian and Chancery. This results in an exposed, open landscape of high scenic quality with extensive views from the network of footpaths.

3.1.23 **Coherence** – A distinct area of rocky cliffs and headlands, interfacing with the mouth of the Afon Ystwyth at its northern extent.

3.1.24 **Consensus** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP; part of the wider Ceredigion Coast area of landscape quality.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Open, exposed rocky cliff shoreline.
- Sparse settlement pattern.
- Open exposed landscape reflected in scrubby gorse and windblown trees.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.25 Part of a wider Ceredigion Coast area of special landscape quality this SLA extends northwards from Llanrhystud to the Afon Ystwyth estuary. It includes part of Ceredigion Heritage Coast and encompasses one Regional Seascapes Unit, Upper Borth to New Quay (no. 26). This is a more rugged, exposed coastline, rising some 200 metres AOD in places. The area is less accessible and has few, if any beaches. The underlying geology of lower Silurian sandstones establishes the context of this SLA. At its northern end at Alltwen is a short but key section of rock cliffs which shows the "Aberystwyth Grits".

3.1.26 The settlement pattern is sparse, being one of individual farmsteads with any settlements being located along the A487 road which is inland from the SLA. There are a few small woodlands, the main woodlands being at the northern edge of the SLA on the Ystwyth side slopes.

3.1.27 The open exposed nature of the area is reflected in the vegetation pattern of scrubby gorse, grasslands, and where present, windblown trees. Given its closeness to Aberystwyth and the A487 the area retains a sense of openness and solitude with extensive views across Cardigan Bay from the few minor roads and rights of way.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Control over tourism developments to minimise detractors upon the landscape.

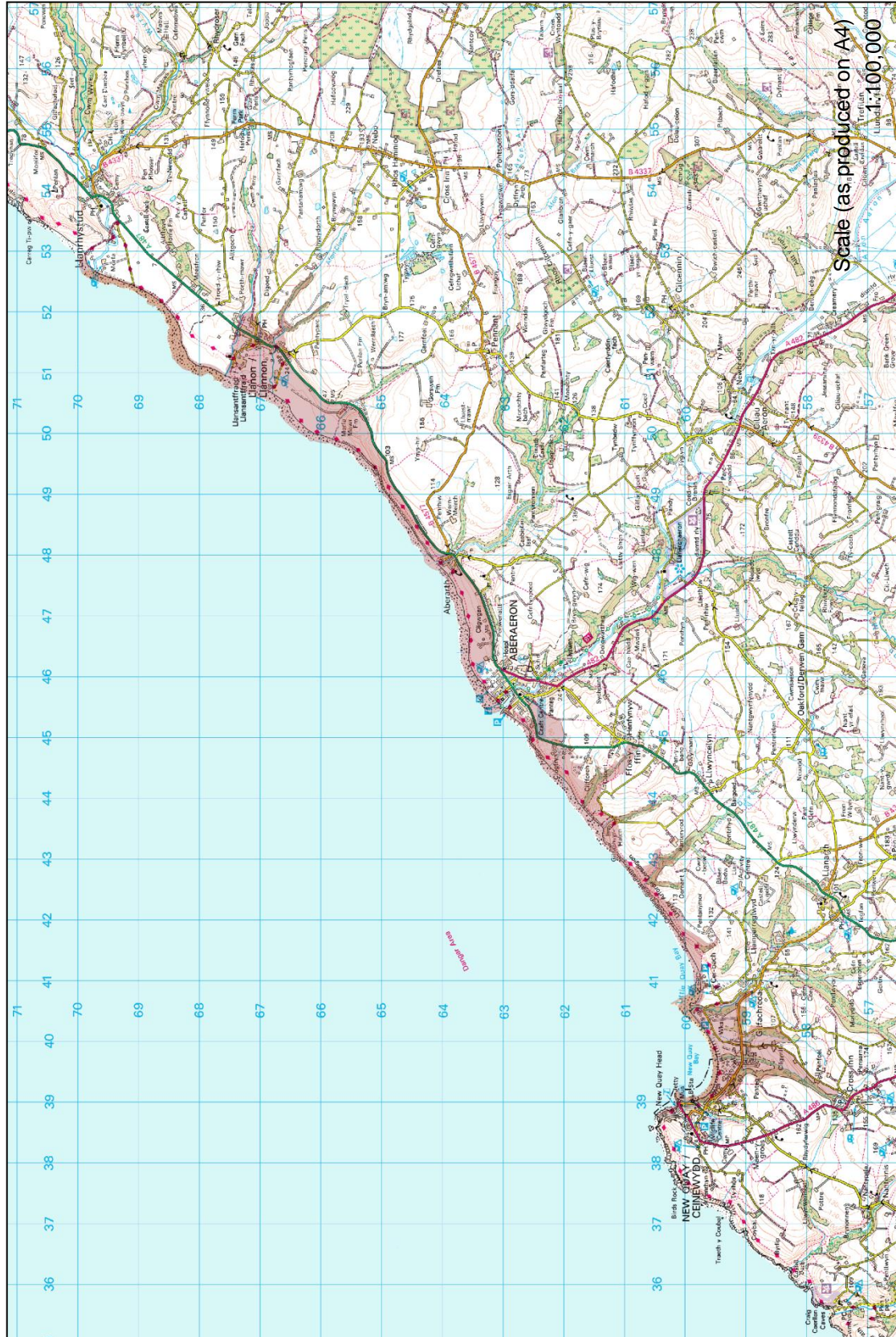
#### **Boundary Justification**

3.1.28 Follows the coastal edge from Ystwyth Valley to the north to the end of the rocky coastline at Llanrhystud. Inland boundary currently follows the A487(T) road for reasons of coherence and defensible line.



# SLA 4: Ceredigion Coast - New Quay to Llanrhystud

## Location Map



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## Photographs



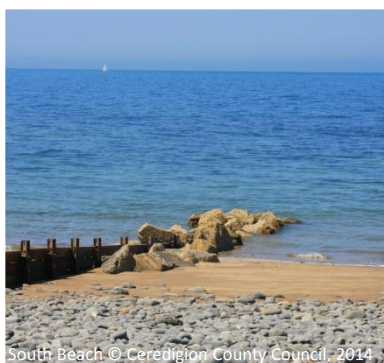
Aberaeron © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Aberaeron © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Coast to the south of Aberaeron © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



South Beach © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Llan-non and Llansantffraid © Ceredigion County Council, 2014

### Relevance

3.1.29 **Need** - A relatively large area of coastline forming the central core of the Ceredigion coastal landscape. Abuts Cardigan Bay SAC. Excludes the settlement of Aberaeron which has a distinct form and character. A much softer coastline and more accessible, the area is subject to pressure for tourism developments.

3.1.30 **Coherence** – Distinctive landscape element. Exclusion of Aberaeron (which is included within SLA 8, Aeron Valley) for continuity.

3.1.31 **Consensus** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP. Part of the wider Ceredigion Coast area of special landscape quality.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Open, less rugged coastline with greater accessibility to beaches.
- Crossed by a number of small, wooded valleys.
- Areas of tourism development.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.32 Part of a wider Ceredigion Coast area of special landscape quality. The section between New Quay and Llanrhystud is more open and less rugged in character, with greater access available to the coastline which itself has more beach and intertidal zone. It includes part of Ceredigion Heritage Coast and encompasses Regional Seascapes Unit 26. It includes part of the coastal edge plateau which is dissected by a number of small, steeply sided local valleys such as Gilfachrheda, Panteryrod, Gilfach-yr-Halen, Aberarth and Llanon. Many of these have densely wooded side slopes, giving a sense of enclosure and calmness, within a wider landscape which is more open to the elements. There are a number of tourist facilities such as campsites and caravan parks that detract from the overall quality. In general the area has a softer, less dramatic quality than the remainder of the Ceredigion Coast such as where the farmland runs down to the coast as at Llansantffraid.

3.1.33 The aforementioned area around Llansantffraid, known as Morfa Esgob, or The Bishop's Land, is also a rare example of a pre-nineteenth century field system. Many of the constituent strips fields or slangs still remain, although some have been amalgamated and others are overlain by the recreation ground and housing. Local tradition recalls that these narrow strips of land were given to fishermen by St. David. Further evidence of historic use exists within the adjoining intertidal zone in the form of a series of Medieval and Post Medieval 'V' and 'C' shaped fish traps. Some of the more complete examples retain pools of water at low tide.

3.1.34 The main settlement in the area, Aberaeron is included within a different SLA (No. 8) for reasons of coherence. However this does not detract from the overall connectivity of the SLA.

3.1.35 As with all the coastal SLAs, the vegetation pattern is directly linked to exposure and proximity to the coastline. The wider landscape is given over to agriculture with a mixed pattern of field sizes and boundaries.

**Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Continued pressure for tourism developments with consequent detrimental effects upon landscape quality.
- Impact of settlement edge development on quality of the area.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Protection of pre-nineteenth century field system at Morfa Esgob.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).

**Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.36 Follows coastal edge excluding the town of Aberaeron. Inland boundary formed by field boundaries, woodlands and minor incised valleys cutting into the coastal plateau.



# SLA 5: Ceredigion Coast - Aberporth to New Quay

## Location Map



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## Photographs



### Relevance

3.1.37 **Need** - Popular with visitors and tourists like much of the Ceredigion Coast the landscape is under increased pressure for tourism based development which will detract from the qualities of the landscape. Abuts Cardigan Bay SAC.



3.1.38 **Coherence** – Part of a wider landscape area, it represents a particularly rocky coastline which diminishes north of New Quay. Includes relevant sections of the coastal plateau hinterland.

3.1.39 **Consensus** - Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP, reflects the quality of the Ceredigion coastal landscapes, especially the rocky shoreline with high, dramatic cliffs.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Rugged, rocky coastline
- Narrow, often absent shoreline
- Extensive tourist / holiday developments
- Important coastal habitats

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.40 Part of a wider Ceredigion coast area of special landscape quality, this section between Aberporth and New Quay contains an extensive area of rugged, rocky coastline. The SLA encompasses one Regional Seascapes Unit, New Quay to Cardigan Island (no. 27). Underlain by predominantly Lower Silurian sandstone bedrock, the area has a number of high cliffs such as the headland of Ynys Lochtyn, with a narrow to often absent shoreline. In places, such as Traeth Penbryn, access to the coast is easier as well as Llangrannog and New Quay itself.

3.1.41 New Quay is an attractive harbour side/seaside village built upon irregular terraces set into the steep coastal slopes of the headland. This affords extensive views across Cardigan Bay. The village is very attractive and popular with tourists. As a result traffic and associated signage detract from the qualities of the area as a whole. This is exacerbated by the sprawl of caravan parks and other developments. As a consequence, the settlement is excluded from the SLA.

3.1.42 The vegetation pattern is a direct reflection of the degree of exposure, the sheltered side valleys of the adjacent coastal plateau such as Penbryn, Llangrannog and Penparc have well developed woodland and scrub cover. On the higher ground and the coast itself the vegetation shows a windblown character. This rugged edge to the landscape presents an attractive, dynamic landscape with a mixture of unimproved grasslands, gorse, bracken and scrub adding to the varying mosaic of the landscape itself. Many of these areas are important for wildlife and protected species (such as choughs) adding to the value and quality of the area.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Continued pressure from tourism based developments.
- Cumulative effects of development along settlement edges on the overall quality of the area.

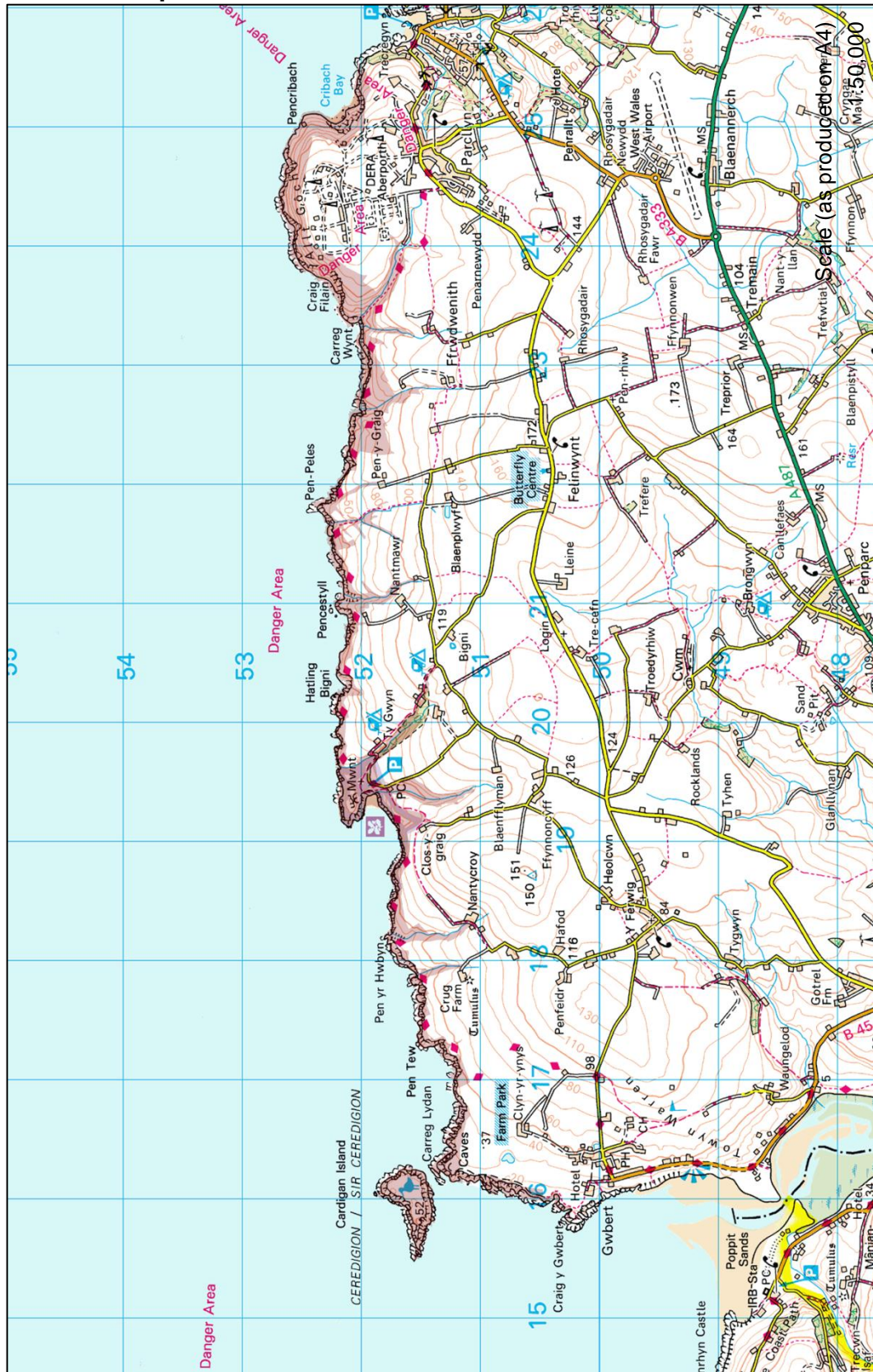
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Working with landowners to retain field pattern and landscape scale to the benefit of the wider landscape.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Developing design guidance to support development control of tourism and other developments.

**Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.43 Follows the coastal edge, excluding the settlement of Aberporth. Inland boundary follows field pattern, woodlands and small incised valleys.

### SLA 6: Ceredigion Coast - Gwbert to Aberporth

#### Location Map



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## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.44 **Need** – A long, narrow landscape unit covering the south Ceredigion coast, including Cardigan Island. Typified by steep cliffs, a narrow, often barely visible shoreline, few beaches but with stacks and blowholes. Barely settled it exudes a character of wildness, remoteness and expansive views. Abuts Cardigan Bay SAC.

3.1.45 **Coherence** – Distinctive landscape unit relating to cliffs, coastline and sea. Largely unspoilt and not easily accessible.

3.1.46 **Consensus** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP. It forms a distinctive landscape unit and forms part of the wider, generic broad search area of the coastline landscape.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Narrow, sinuous area formed by rocky cliff exposures.
- Narrow, often absent shoreline.
- Wide expansive views.
- Includes Cardigan Island and outer part of Teifi Estuary.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.47 A narrow, sinuous landscape unit formed by underlying slaty mudrocks which has resulted in a narrow outcrop of rocky cliffs and shore, with very few beaches although characterised by a number of stacks and sea caves. The inland edge is formed by the gently undulating Cardigan Bay coastal plateau. It includes part of Ceredigion Heritage Coast and encompasses two Regional Seascapes Units – New Quay to Cardigan Island (no. 27) and part of the Teifi Estuary (no. 28). The vegetation pattern associated with the shoreline, unimproved grasslands and gorse etc add a mosaic pattern to the cliff top hinterland. The area affords an important habitat for otters, choughs, seals and dolphins. Spectacular views are given across Cardigan Bay and the area has a sense of wildness, remoteness on a vast scale with high cliffs and a convoluted shoreline. It includes Cardigan Island, which is no longer farmed but contains relict hedgerows and field pattern. The island has rocky cliffs all round and is remote, but affords extensive views in all directions. Its openness can be unsettling but the area is very attractive. At Aberporth the SLA's boundary abuts the DERA/QinetiQ establishment, which forms a distinctive if detractive element within the wider landscape.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Retention and management of key habitats and species.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Integration of settlement edge developments.

#### **Boundary Justification**

3.1.48 Boundary closely follows geological outcrops and associated coastal habitats. Inland boundary largely follows change in vegetation from the cliff top area with the more intensively managed Cardigan Bay plateau area, and more obvious boundary to DERA/QinetiQ establishment at Aberporth



# SLA 7: Teifi Valley

## Location Map



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## Photographs



Afon Teifi © Dan Harris, 2014



Afon Teifi © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Cors Caron © Dan Harris, 2014



Cenarth Bridge © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Cors Caron © Dan Harris, 2014

### Relevance

- 3.1.49 **Need** – One of the main river valleys of Ceredigion, forming the southern boundary of the county. The Teifi is a SAC and there are a number of SSSIs, NNRs and Ramsar sites within the valley. Abuts Cardigan Bay SAC. The river and its tributaries are characterised by woodland cover that form a distinctive landscape element and justify its designation based upon landscape quality.

3.1.50 **Coherence** - The SLA relates primarily to the main river valley but also includes tributaries and the distinctive Cors Caron raised mire at its head. Need to liaise with Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire as the river forms the county boundary.

3.1.51 **Consensus** - Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP. It forms a distinctive landscape unit of a main river valley floor and sides, as well as numerous tributaries. It also includes the estuary area at Cardigan.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Main river valley of Ceredigion, forms boundary with Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire.
- Sinuous, largely wooded valley.
- Range of side valleys that contribute to the quality of the area.
- Includes Cors Caron an active raised bog.
- Number of international and national nature conservation designations.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.52 The SLA includes all of the main river valley as well a number of small tributaries that give a complex pattern of landscape, reflecting the numerous small dissected side valleys, many of which are wooded on the steeper valley sides. It forms the boundary of Ceredigion with Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, and as such any management policies and proposals require close liaison with both authorities.

3.1.53 For reasons of coherence the SLA includes the estuary to the north of Cardigan. This forms a Regional Seascapes Unit (no. 28 Teifi Estuary) and it abuts Regional Seascapes Unit no. 27, New Quay to Cardigan Island. This takes the form of a funnel like landscape with a mixture of sand, mud and areas of reclaimed land such as Cardigan Golf Club which is located on a former dune system. As the river reaches Cardigan, which has an attractive historic core but is excluded from the SLA, it passes through a narrow constriction before opening out into an area of marsh and woodlands at Rosehill. From here to Llechryd the river passes through a distinctive narrow gorge, clothed in woodland and illustrating its past use through the numerous old stone quarries found in this area.

3.1.54 As it continues inland, a number of smaller side tributaries enter the river. These are relatively narrow, incised valleys characterised by undulating farmland dropping down into the valley floor, within a matrix of small fields defined by hedgerows and trees. Elsewhere the valley sides are often cloaked in broadleaved woodlands.

3.1.55 The A484 road runs along the valley floor for most of its way and the valley gives an air of an established landscape of small settlements



and farms, with a sense of enclosure with limited views out to the surrounding wider landscape.

- 3.1.56 The SLA is rich in diversity of habitats and wildlife which is characterised by the number of SSSIs (such as the Teifi Estuary, marshes and woodland SSSIs) which are found within the SLA. In addition the Teifi itself is designated as a SSSI and NNR as well as a SAC under the EU Natura 2000 Programme. It is an important habitat for species such as otter, marsh fritillary, brown hairstreak and various passage migrants.
- 3.1.57 Inland the valley floor widens out, as do some of the side valleys such as the Afon Clettwr and Afon Grannell. As a consequence the land cover is given over to rolling farmland with a strong pattern of hedgerows and smaller areas of woodland on the steeper valley sides. Beyond Lampeter the valley retains the same landscape character and qualities until it reaches Tregaron where its upper reaches form Cors Caron, an extensive area of active raised bog, approximately 6kms by 2kms in extent and designated a Geological Conservation Review Site. A former lake basin with extensive peat deposits, it is the largest active mire within Britain and it contains a sequence of vegetation development from aquatic conditions, through floodplain to an ombrotrophic (i.e. rain fed) mire. It has a wide range of protected species reflected by its nature conservation designations (SSSI, SAC, NNR, Ramsar). It is included because work on pollen cores within the mire has provided a firm outline of the vegetational history of part of the area. Largely inaccessible, views are afforded by the adjacent A485 and B4343 roads. A landscape with a simple, expansive horizon it forms a highly distinctive element with the SLA.
- 3.1.58 In addition, it lies within the south western extremities of the Upland Ceredigion Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales published by ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW. Of further interest are the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach-Felindre Registered Historic Landscapes as well as the Adpar, Lampeter, Llanddewi Brefi and Tregaron Conservation Areas.

### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Management of protected habitats and species.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Management of non-native invasive species (e.g. balsam and Japanese knotweed).
- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Management of woodlands along valley sides. This is an important landscape element which underpins the overall character and quality of the SLA.
- Impact upon estuarine habitats and landscape, in particular increased development and access to coastline at Gwbert.

- Cumulative impact of development in the main settlements along the valley floor upon the quality of the SLA. This will require consultation with Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire.
- Reinforcement of a sense of 'bro' through appropriate design measures.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Management of historic environment, encompassing both landscapes and Conservation Areas.

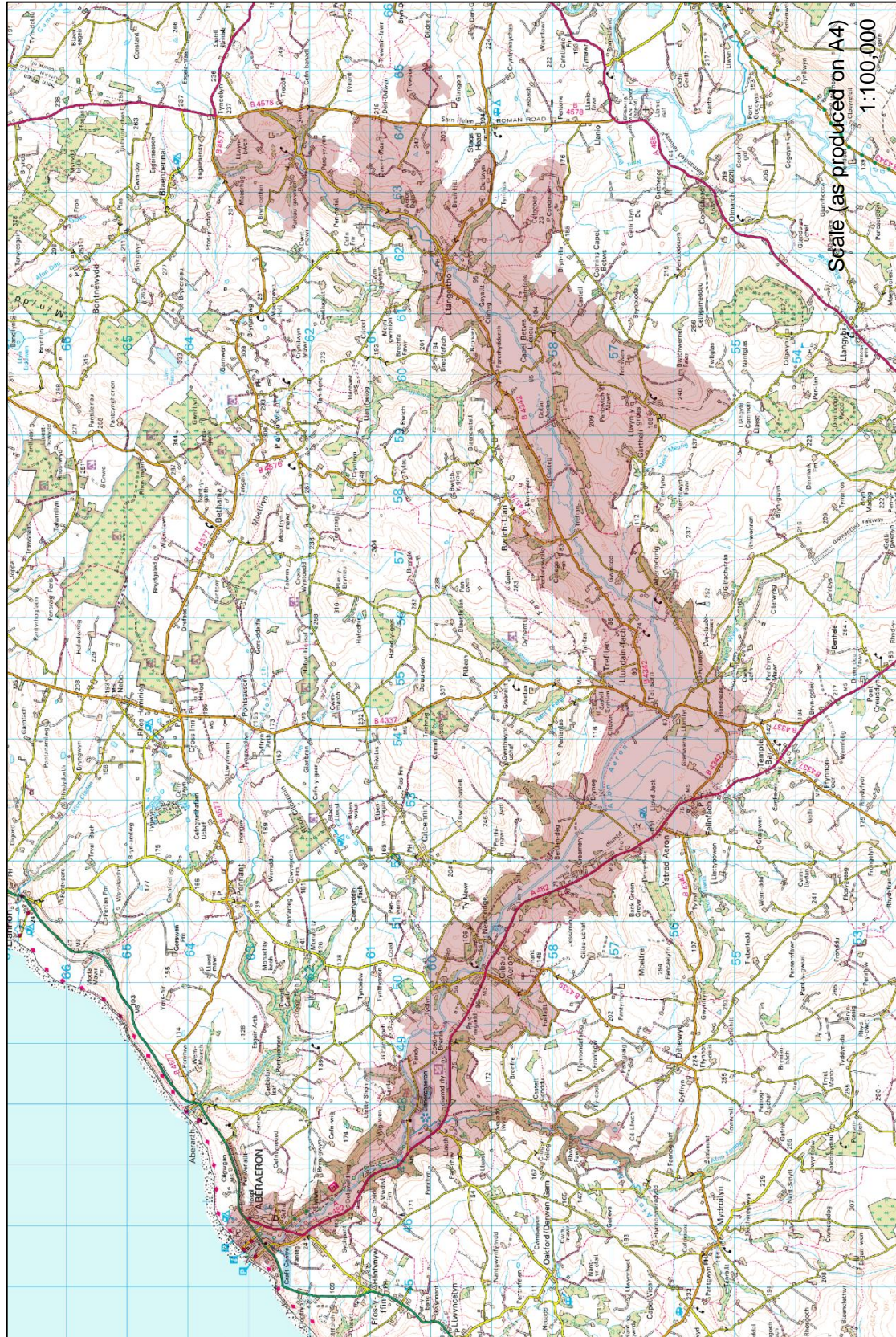
### **Boundary Justification**

3.1.59 Follows estuary edge up to Cardigan and for the east of the area the river forms the authority's boundary with Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. The inland boundary predominantly follows the break of slope of the numerous side valleys which run into the Teifi. This is supported by using a range of physical features including local roads, footpaths, edge of woodland and field boundaries.



# SLA 8: Aeron Valley

## Location Map



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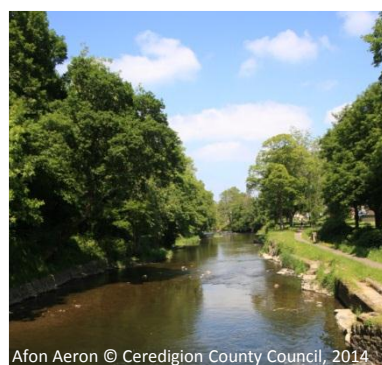
## Photographs



Llanerchaeron © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Aeron Valley from Allt Hugh Siôn © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Afon Aeron © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Aberaeron Harbour © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Aberaeron Harbour © Ceredigion County Council, 2014

### Relevance

- 3.1.60 **Need** – A main river valley crossing the centre of the county, reaching the sea at Aberaeron. A distinctive 'L' shape, with the valley trending south west – north east at Talsarn. Includes a number of settlements and SSSIs.
- 3.1.61 **Coherence** – Follows the valley landscape unit from the coast, inland to the headwaters of the Afon Aeron. A distinct valley

landscape. Includes the town of Aberaeron which relates to the landscape of the valley.

- 3.1.62 **Consensus** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP, it forms a distinctive valley landscape.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Relatively wide, flat bottomed valley. More incised closer to the coast.
- Wooded valley sides.
- Important transport corridor through centre of the county.
- Includes Aberaeron, a distinctive, planned Georgian town and Conservation Area.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

- 3.1.63 The Aeron valley is one of the main river valleys in Ceredigion. It starts inland, trending north east – south west and about halfway along at Talsarn trends north west – south east, forming a distinctive 'L' shaped landscape unit. The width of the valley bottom varies, opening out at Talsarn to about 1km. Towards Aberaeron the valley becomes more narrow and incised.

- 3.1.64 It is a farmed landscape of large, regular fields within the valley floor bounded by a network of well-maintained hedgerows with hedgerow trees. On the higher land on the valley sides the fields are less regular, with areas of deciduous woodland draping the side slopes. The valley is traversed by the B4343 and A482 roads, with small settlements located at regular intervals along the valley. As a consequence the landscape has a 'busy' feel about it with involvement and activity. This feeling has increased in recent years in the number of river highway improvements that affect the overall sense of place and scale. The valley shows evidence of glacial geomorphology with deposits, Cwms and landforms evident.

- 3.1.65 The river runs into the sea at Aberaeron, which is an attractive planned Georgian town typified by a regular street pattern with terraces and groups of brightly coloured houses adding to the interest, variety and quality of the place. The town is located on a broad platform of both alluvial and glacial materials, dissected by the river this results in a 'soft' cliff edge with the seashore. The town has a cosy, sheltered feel however more recent developments located on the coast detract from this quality.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Maintenance of pattern of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Maintenance of woodland blocks and copses.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Management of non-native invasive species (e.g. balsam and Japanese knotweed).

- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Impact of increased development at Aberaeron and other valley settlements to the detriment of the wider valley.
- Reinforcement of a sense of 'bro' through appropriate design measures.
- Ensure future road improvements reflect scale and form of the landscape whilst taking into account needs of safety.

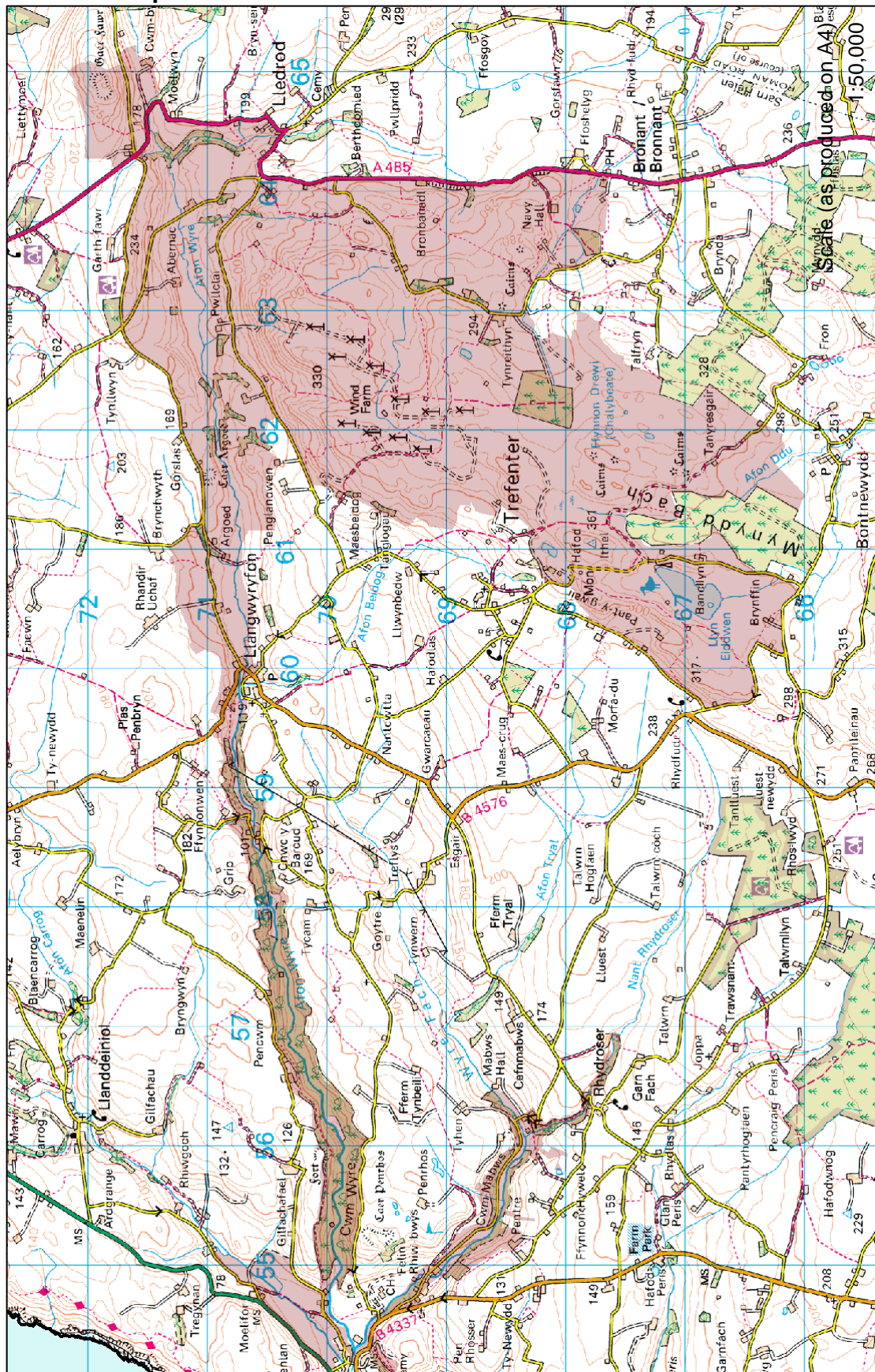
**Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.66 Includes settlement of Aberaeron and its associated coastal edge. Boundary follows LANDMAP data, reflected in field and vegetation patterns together with breaks of slope.



# SLA 9: Wyre Valley

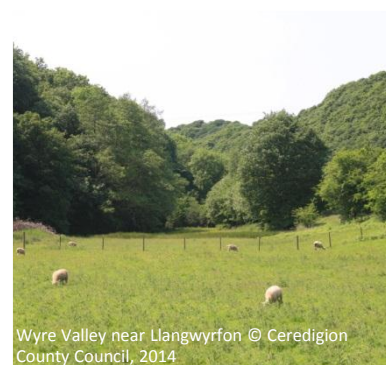
## Location Map



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## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.67 **Need** – A relatively small valley but of high landscape quality. One of a series of valleys that cut through the coastal plateau. Sensitive to change.
- 3.1.68 **Coherence** – Distinct landscape unit characterised by wooded valley sides and associated upland plateau.

- 3.1.69 **Consensus** – A small SLA, with a varied high quality landscape with a range of landscapes that include upland and valley environs including one of the County’s most significant geological features.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Small valley system dissecting coastal plateau.
- Wooded valley sides in places.
- Includes upland edge of Mynydd Bach.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

- 3.1.70 One of a number of valleys that dissect the coastal plateau, it includes both Afon Wyre and Wyre Fach as well as part of the upland edge and Mynydd Bach. Between Llanrhystud and Llangwryfon the valley is relatively narrow, incised and heavily wooded. Inland the valley widens and is more open in form and character. Here it forms part of the upland plateau edge which has a number of visual detractors from wind farm development around Trefenter. The plateau is small in scale and is characterised by a hummocky pattern with localised rock exposures along its western fringe. The feel is more open, with extensive views out towards Cardigan Bay. The vegetation has a windswept character with relict hedgerows and stone walls in places.
- 3.1.71 The Wyre Fach runs through a narrow, wooded incised valley inland from the coast (Cwm Mabws) before opening out as the valley runs inland.
- 3.1.72 A small distinct landscape with the main focus being on the river valley network. The associated upland plateau is included for its visual connections to the valley system.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Woodland management in lower valleys for both visual and biodiversity reasons.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Management of non-native invasive species (e.g. balsam and Japanese knotweed).
- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area’s landscape.
- Settlement edge development control at Llanrhystud with interrelated tourism based developments.
- Retention of scale and sense of enclosure.

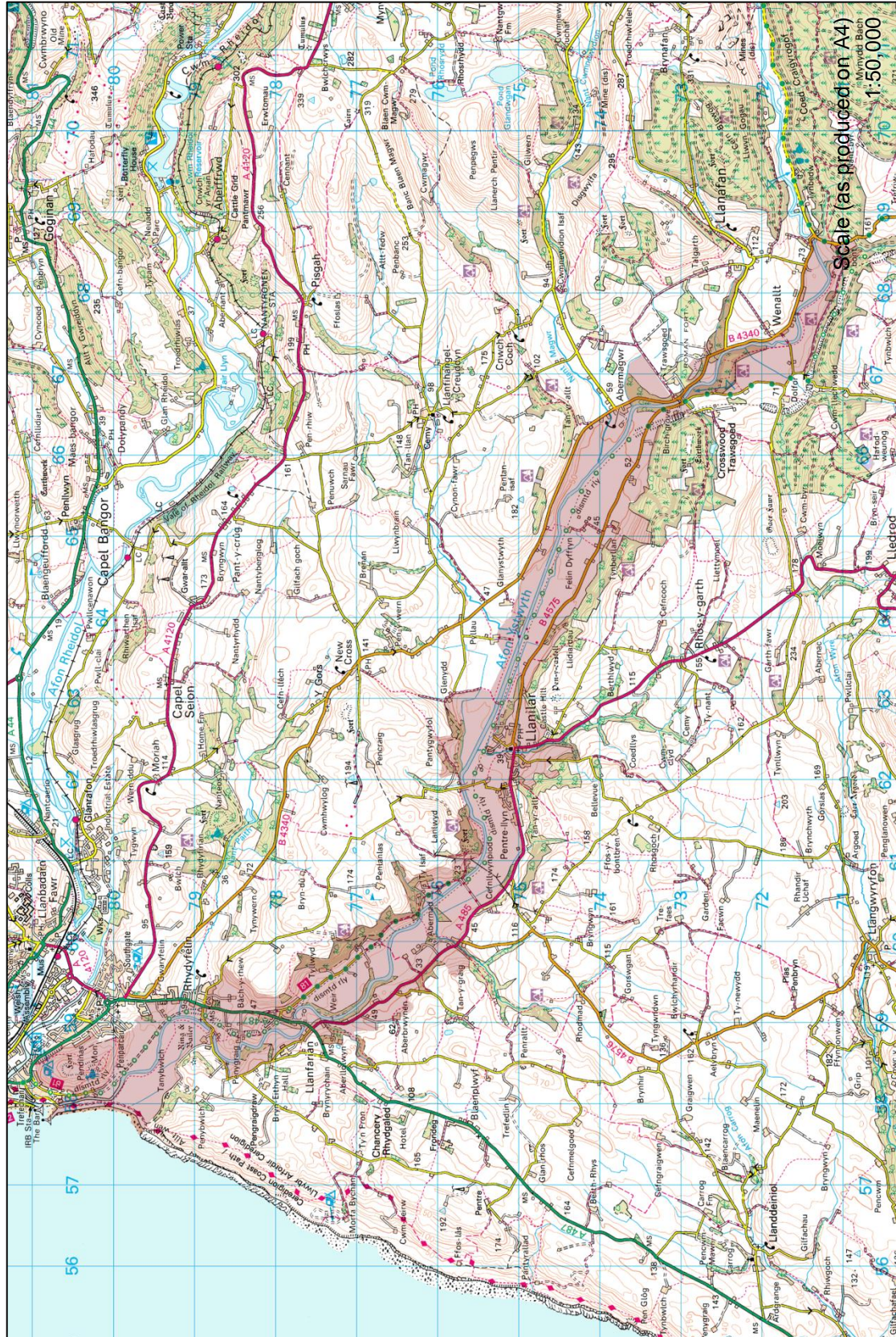
#### **Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.73 Valley complex based upon LANDMAP data and relationship to landscape features including woodland edge, footpaths, roads and field boundaries.



# SLA 10: Ystwyth Valley

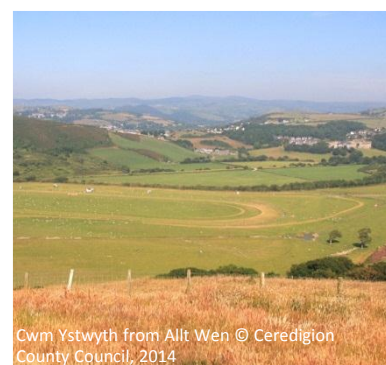
## Location Map



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## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.74 **Need** – One of the distinctive valleys that dissect the upland edge and coastal plateau. It contains a range of important landscape elements and habitats and is a landscape popular with locals and visitors alike.
- 3.1.75 **Coherence** – The SLA includes both upland and lowland landscape elements but functions as a distinct landscape element.



- 3.1.76 **Consensus** - A high quality landscape with a range of landscape, habitats and cultural elements that is subject to pressure and justifies additional protection through SLA designation.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Major river valley running across Ceredigion from the upland edge to the coast.
- At Wenallt, valley has a dramatic V-shaped form.
- Further west valley more open, river canalised in parts.
- Excellent example of a little changed Ceredigion farmed landscape.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

- 3.1.77 The valley has three distinct elements. The upper section is open and gently rounded, showing a history of mineral working with derelict structures and spoil heaps. For the purpose of this designation and for reasons of coherence, that section of valley from Cwmystwyth eastwards is included in the Northern Uplands SLA (SLA12).
- 3.1.78 From here westwards to Wenallt, the valley has a dramatic V-shaped form displaying both wild and rugged qualities. The valley floor comprises a range of shingle banks, grassland and low scrub many of which are an important resource for a range of species. The valley sides are clothed in a mixture of deciduous and coniferous woodlands interspersed with areas of exposed rock. As with the higher stretches of the valley there remains evidence of mining and mineral processing. The main settlement is at Pont-rhyd-y-groes.
- 3.1.79 From Wenallt, the valley turns north west and the valley floor widens out. It forms more of a u-shape in form with valley sides rising to 100 metres AOD. It has a distinct floodplain with land given over to pasture divided by a mixture of low uniform and tall irregular hedges. Between Felin Dyffryn and Pentre-Llyn the river follows a disused railway line and has a more controlled, canalised form.
- 3.1.80 The valley sides remain clothed in woodlands, with remnants of ancient oak woodlands and gravel beds within the valley floor that are important for lichen and moss species. A number of these areas are designated as SSSIs. From Llanilar to Llanfarian the valley becomes constricted where it cuts through an area of marginal glacial deposits which form a terrace on the eastern side of the valley. Towards Aberystwyth the landscape becomes more developed especially from the A487(T) to the coast.
- 3.1.81 Notwithstanding this the SLA remains an excellent example of a Ceredigion farmed landscape which has had little development to detract from the visibility of landscape patterns.

**Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Management of field boundaries and long term retention of hedgerows.
- Settlement edge development.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Management of woodland within middle valley.
- Management of non-native invasive species (e.g. balsam and Japanese knotweed).
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Access and pressure from tourism.
- Reinforcement of a sense of 'bro' through appropriate design measures.

**Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.82 Boundaries defined by break of slope of the top of the valley sides and their relationship to the LANDMAP data, predominantly following roads, forestry edge and footpaths.



# SLA 11: Rheidol Valley

## Location Map



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## Photographs



The Three Bridges © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Cwm Rheidol and Bryn Bas © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Afon Rheidol near Lovesgrove © Ceredigion County Council, 2014



Cwm Rheidol from Pontarfynach © Dan Harris, 2014



Cwm Rheidol from the A4120 © Ceredigion County Council, 2014

### Relevance

- 3.1.83 **Need** – A key valley within northern Ceredigion which contains a range of landscape, habitat, historic and cultural landscape elements. Popular with visitors, the valley is under pressure
- 3.1.84 **Coherence** – Upper valley beyond the Dinas Reservoir is included in the Northern Uplands SLA (No. 12). The SLA forms a distinct valley landscape unit.

- 3.1.85 **Consensus** – An attractive landscape unit under pressure from visitors and including a range of designated biodiversity sites. Justifies additional level of protection through a SLA designation.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Upper reaches narrow, steep sided and heavily vegetated.
- Traversed along its route by the Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge railway.
- Opens out to broader valley form with meandering watercourse.
- Has a number of conservation designations including SSSIs and SACs.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

- 3.1.86 For reasons of coherence the upper valley beyond Dinas reservoir is included within SLA 12 – Northern Uplands. From Dinas Reservoir southwards to Devil's Bridge, the river flows through a narrow, tree covered gorge opening up on to the upland margins. At Devil's Bridge the valley bends through an angle of forty-five degrees to run westwards to the coast. Here the valley forms a dramatic gorge of woodlands and bare rock where it cuts through the Lower Silurian sandstone with sides rising up 150 metres above the valley floor. Although relatively remote and sparsely populated, during the summer the valley is busy with people using the Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge railway and with traffic at its terminus station. The gorge shows evidence of glaciation and also mineral workings which were the reason for building the railway originally, having opened in 1902. As a consequence there are a number of sites designated as SSSIs/SAC and NNR (eg: Rheidol Woodlands).
- 3.1.87 Past Aberffwd the valley opens out with a flatter, distinct valley floor, primarily given over to pastureland with gently defined valley sides. The fields are demarcated by low hedges, which become increasingly gappy as the urban edge is approached beyond Capel Bangor. The A44 trunk road and Vale of Rheidol railway impact upon the area. The river has a meandering path and there are areas of wet ground and poor drainage. A number of the meanders have shingle banks, some of which are SSSIs and form a complex of habitats that support a wide range of plants and invertebrates.
- 3.1.88 The middle valley is important for visitors and has a network of footpaths and trails in addition to the narrow gauge railway.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Visitor management, particularly around Devil's Bridge, with impact of traffic on road network and visitor impact upon woodland habitats and industrial archaeology.
- Management of designated sites and areas, including biodiversity and historic landscapes.



- Management of designated sites and areas, including biodiversity and historic landscapes.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Management of non-native invasive species (e.g. balsam and Japanese knotweed).
- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Settlement edge development, particularly on the eastern edge of Aberystwyth.
- Retention of views of the valley from the A44(T).
- Potential to increase public access to the lower valley area.
- Reinforcement of a sense of 'bro' through appropriate design measures.

### **Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.89 Based upon consideration of the LANDMAP data and reference to local topography, including the river, field boundaries, forestry edge, the A4120 and A44 and the Vale of Rheidol Railway line to the south-west.





## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.90 **Need** - An extensive upland area, centred upon Pumlumon forming the eastern edge of Ceredigion. The area is characterised in places by extensive conifer plantations and is under pressure for renewable energy developments. Includes a number of SSSIs and the Elenydd SAC and Elenydd-Mallaen SPA.

3.1.91 **Coherence** – Set around the 250 metres contour and above, the area does have a distinctive form and character, with a more rugged texture in the north. The upper reaches of the main river valleys are included in the SLA given their wider synergy with the upland landscape character rather than the valleys themselves. Likewise a number of large conifer plantations, whilst themselves not necessarily being landscape elements of quality, do contribute to the whole and are therefore included within the SLA.

3.1.92 **Consensus** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP. It was also part of the proposed Cambrian Mountains National Park which was reviewed in the 1970s but not progressed further. It also includes the Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales as identified by ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW. Important sites included Cwmsymlog and Ffrongoch. A key feature of mining in the area was the rise of water power. As a consequence many storage reservoirs were built which have over time blended into the landscape.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Expansive upland area, includes the Cambrian Mountains' highest mountain, Pumlumon Fawr (752 metres AOD).
- Moorland with a rugged texture of 'peaks' and 'knobs'.
- Lies within ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW Register of Historic Landscapes of Outstanding Importance.
- Interspersed with conifer plantations and reservoir.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.93 A large, expansive upland area forming the northern part of the uplands of Ceredigion. It runs from the edge of the coastal plateau, inland of the A487 road corridor, eastwards to the county boundary with Powys, and focused on Pumlumon, which rises to over 700 metres AOD. It extends southwards to include part of Llyn Brienne reservoir and the upper reaches of the Teifi Valley.

3.1.94 Pumlumon and its associated peaks form an inlier of Ordovician age rocks set within a wider landscape of Silurian sandstones. The whole area shows extensive evidence of glacial action and deposition in terms of its landforms and features. The northern section forms an irregular, patterned, upland moorland with 'peaks' and 'knobs' with exposed rocks and areas of scree on side slopes. It has a more rugged texture than the upland areas to the south. The western edges of the SLA form a transition zone to the coastal plateau. Here the topography is more subdued and divided by the main incised river valleys of the Rheidol and Ystwyth. For example around Trisant the area has a more distinctive pattern of ridges and valleys with a mixed pattern of land cover and fields of an irregular field pattern. The upland edges set the context for the higher ground inland but often have a strong sense of place and character being somewhat



off the “beaten track” for visitors. A similar pattern to the landscape can be found around Moel Fferm.

- 3.1.95 The area shows extensive evidence of mineral working and processing of mineral ores. This is a key reason for its inclusion on the ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW register. Evidence exists of copper mining from the Bronze Age whilst the lead and silver mining was at its most intensive during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most surface remains are Victorian in age although evidence exists of earlier seventeenth and eighteenth century operations. This exploration of natural resources has continued well into the twentieth century as evidenced by the extensive conifer plantations for timber production and the completion of the Nant-Y-Moch hydroelectric scheme in 1962, and more recently the development of windfarms.
- 3.1.96 In terms of cultural landscapes, the evidence of man’s activities over many centuries is an important contribution to the special qualities of the area. This ranges from early settlements, agricultural expansion and developments such as the drove roads across the mountains as well as the mineral extraction previously discussed. A further development has been the increase in tourism to the uplands over the past century. Historically features such as Strata Florida Abbey and their associated land holdings are further elements to warrant consideration. Re-established in 1184, this Cistercian Abbey was an important contributor and influence on the cultural life of medieval Wales.
- 3.1.97 The SLA represents a key landscape unit that reflects its underlying geology, the effects of glaciation and later men’s activities, which today results in a wild, open, expansive landscape area.

### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

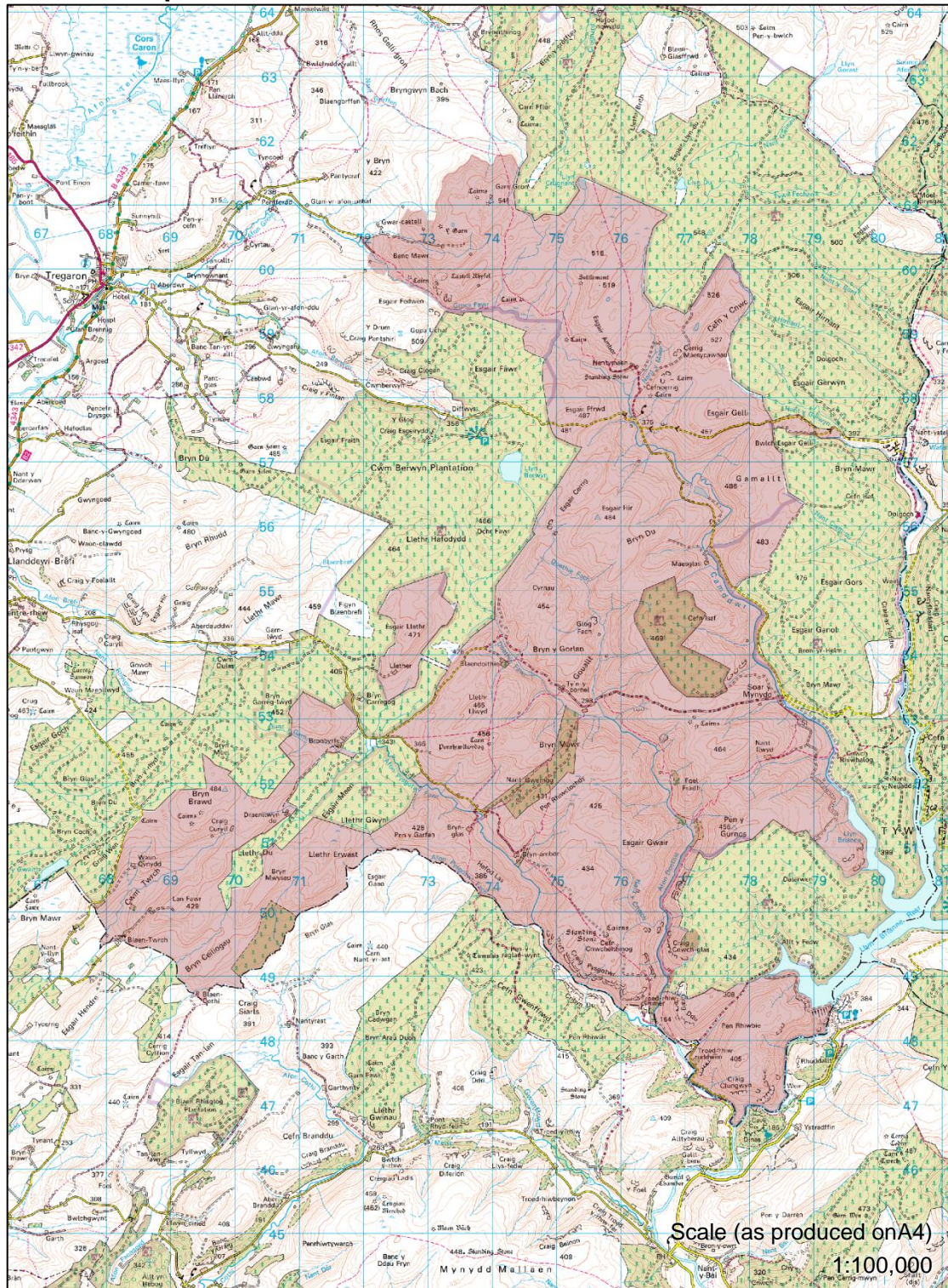
- Management of historic landscape elements.
- Management of habitats – both in terms of those with statutory protection and increase in variety elsewhere.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Sustainable management of forests and woodlands that takes full account of all the ecosystem services they could provide.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area’s landscape.
- Potential for landscape scale initiatives and biodiversity enhancements.
- Management of grazing patterns and rates to minimise loss of habitats.
- Reinforcement of a sense of ‘bro’ through appropriate design measures.

**Boundary Justification**

- 3.1.98 Generally follows LANDMAP data base related to local topography and includes A487(T), field and forestry boundaries and footpaths. Abuts SLAs 1, 7, 10 and 11. Also takes into account the ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW Historic Landscape Designations. Notwithstanding coherence arguments, two areas, namely Coed Bwlchgwaller and the area around Pontrhydferdigad have been excluded as they do not meet the SLA criteria in terms of LANDMAP data.

# SLA 13: Southern Uplands

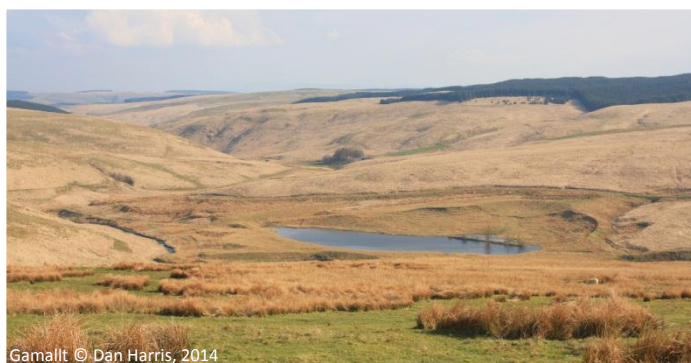
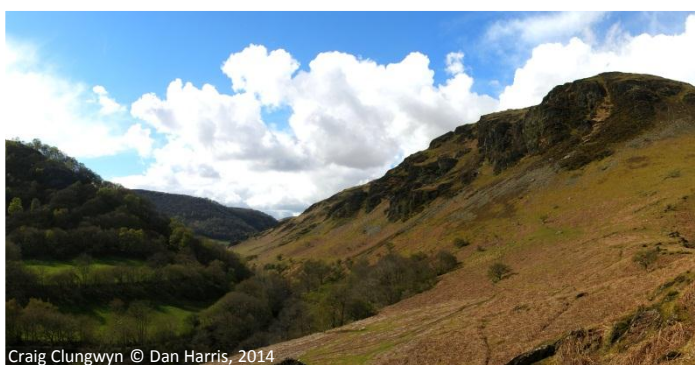
## Location Map



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## Photographs



### Relevance

- 3.1.99 **Need** – An area of open uplands with a range of internationally/nationally important habitats and species. Part of the wider Cambrian Mountains complex. The area is effectively surrounded by extensive conifer plantations. Includes a number of SSSIs and the Elenydd-Mallaen SPA. It has been identified as being part of one of Wales' largest Tranquil Areas (Land Use Consultants, 2009).

3.1.100 **Coherence** – An assemblage of open moorland and associated valleys that remains open in comparison to adjacent conifer plantations. Two smaller plantations included for coherence, remainder excluded due to scale and form.

3.1.101 **Consensws** – Previously identified as a SLA in Ceredigion County Council's UDP. A small part of the northern section of the SLA lies within the Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales as designated by ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW. Similarly a tiny area around the Llyn Brianne is included in the Tywi Valley landscape upon the same register.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Expansive upland landscape, softer form and character than Northern Uplands.
- Effectively surrounded by conifer plantations.
- Subject to agricultural improvement in places.
- Partially lies within ICOMOS/Cadw/CCW Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Importance.

#### **Primary Landscape Qualities and Features**

3.1.102 The SLA forms the southern part of the Cambrian Mountains complex within Ceredigion. It forms an extensive open upland plateau, with shallow rolling slopes and valleys. Added interest is given by the series of wet flushes, boggy depressions, pools and small lakes.

3.1.103 A key feature of its designation is the open form and character of the area which is effectively surrounded by extensive conifer plantations. In comparison to SLA 12 – the Northern Ceredigion Uplands, the landscape is softer, smoother and with exposed rocks more localised.

3.1.104 The underlying geology of the area is the Lower Silurian sandstone dominated bedrock with areas of mudstones. The area has been subject to glaciation and this is reflected within its landform with a range of glacial deposits and features being present.

3.1.105 The area has been subject to greater agricultural improvement than other upland areas in Ceredigion. As a consequence the typical upland vegetation matrix of acid grasslands, marsh, dry and acid heath has been replaced, in places by a more improved grassland/heather mosaic. This is not to say that important habitats do not exist. The area contains a wealth of upland habitats including herb rich grassland, alder fringed rivers in the valley floor, remnant sessile oak woods and heath on rockier side slopes as well as areas of moorland and blanket bog.

3.1.106 The area shows evidence of man's occupation since the Bronze Age, such as the cairns and standing stones around Llethr Llyd. Castell Rhyfel in the north of the SLA is an Iron Age Hill Fort and is included in the Upland Ceredigion Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Importance in Wales published by ICOMOS/Cadw and CCW. There is also extensive evidence throughout the SLA of farmsteads, relict field patterns and cultivation ridges. Contemporary farms that remain are widely scattered. The intervention of man remains with the extensive conifer plantations that form the boundary to the area and the Llyn Brienne reservoir which forms part of the south east boundary with Powys and Carmarthenshire.

#### **Key Policy and Management Issues**

- Management of key habitats and species.
- Ensure historic landscape elements are recorded and properly addressed in any proposals.
- Maintenance of area's tranquillity.
- Management and enhancement of key habitats and species (Section 42 and Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Potential to improve habitats to meet Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) criteria.
- Management of habitats – both in terms of those with statutory protection and increase in variety elsewhere.
- Management of grazing patterns and rates to minimise loss of habitats.
- Sustainable management of forests and woodlands that takes full account of all the ecosystem services they could provide.
- Ecosystem approach should be incorporated into development.
- Potential for landscape scale initiatives and biodiversity enhancements.
- Manage the cumulative impact of energy developments upon the overall quality and value of the area's landscape.
- Consideration of the cumulative effect on the qualities of the SLA through the longer term management of the adjacent conifer plantations.

#### **Boundary Justification**

3.1.107 Follows LANDMAP data and relationship to local topography. Follows the unitary authority boundary to the south, 450m contour, footpaths and field boundaries to the north-west and excludes extensive conifer plantations that characterise this part of the County.



## 4. Monitoring

- 4.1.1 Each LPA is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covering the preceding financial year to submit to the Welsh Government by 31<sup>st</sup> October each year following adoption (2014 onwards in Ceredigion).
- 4.1.2 The AMR will monitor the effectiveness of the LDP's strategy and policies and the effect of the LDP on the Sustainability Objectives identified in the Plan's SA/SEA. In doing so, it will identify any issues that need addressing. In addition to the Annual Monitoring, throughout the year local, regional and national publications, policies, reports and events will be reviewed to ensure any issues relevant to the LDP are identified and where applicable addressed.
- 4.1.3 The indicators that have been chosen to monitor the LDP's potential effects on Ceredigion's landscape, which form part of the SA/SEA's monitoring framework, are as follows:

Sustainability Objective		Indicator	Source	Report
5a	To understand, value, protect, enhance and celebrate Ceredigion's landscape, historic environment, diversity, and local distinctiveness, historic and cultural heritage.	Amount of development (ha, units and proportion) permitted and completed within Special Landscape Areas.	Ceredigion County Council	Annually
		Amount of development (ha, units and proportion) permitted and completed within LANDMAP Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of Outstanding.	Ceredigion County Council	Annually

## References

Cardigan Bay Coastal Group (2002) Cardigan Bay Shoreline Management Plan, Cardigan Bay Coastal Group, Bala.

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Natural Resources Wales (2013) LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas, Countryside Council for Wales, Aberystwyth.

TACP (2007) Development of Criteria for Special Landscape Area Designation for South East Wales Local Authorities, TACP, Cardiff.

TACP (2011) Ceredigion County Council: Designation of Special Landscape Areas, TACP, Cardiff.

Welsh Government (2012) Planning Policy Wales, Edition 5, Welsh Government, Cardiff.

## **Contacts**

### **Council Contacts**

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### **Planning Policy and Research Services**

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[ldp@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@ceredigion.gov.uk)

### **Development Management**

01545 572 135

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### **Coast and Countryside**

01545 572105

[countryside@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@ceredigion.gov.uk)



## Other Useful Contacts

### Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales has taken over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, as well as some functions of Welsh Government. They work to maintain and improve the quality of Wales' environment.

Natural Resources Wales

Tŷ Cambria

29 Newport Road

Cardiff

CF24 0TP

03000 653 000

[naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

[enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

### Cadw

Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service. They work to conserve and protect the historic environment and to promote distinctive regeneration and sustainable development through heritage.

Cadw

Plas Carew

Uned 5–7 Cefn Coed

Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff

CF15 7QQ

01443 336000

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

[cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

### Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited is one of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The Trust is both a Limited Company and a Registered Charity. The Trust is established to advance the education of the public in archaeology. It is committed to working to help protect, record and interpret all aspects of the historic environment.

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[www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

[info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

**Arboricultural Association (Directory of Consultants & Contractors)**

The Arboricultural Association seeks to advance the science of arboriculture for the public benefit.

Ampfield House  
Romsey  
Hampshire  
S051 9PA

01794 368 717

[www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

[admin@trees.org.uk](mailto:admin@trees.org.uk)

**British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI)**

The British Association of Landscape Industries is the UK's representative trade association for firms undertaking landscaping, both interior and exterior, a wide range of associated suppliers to the industry. With a landscape contracting membership of over 700, BALI is continually raising standards throughout the industry.

Landscape House  
Stoneleigh Park  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2LG

08707 704 971

[www.bali.co.uk](http://www.bali.co.uk)

[contact@bali.org.uk](mailto:contact@bali.org.uk)

**Landscape Institute (Directory of Landscape Architects)**

The Landscape Institute is the Royal Chartered body for landscape architects in the UK. There are over 5,000 members who work across a range of organisations such as local authorities, government agencies and private practice. They are involved in a broad range of tasks including masterplanning, environmental assessment, public consultation and design.

33 Great Portland Street  
London  
W1W 8QG

02072 994 500

[www.landscapeinstitute.org](http://www.landscapeinstitute.org)

[mail@landscapeinstitute.org](mailto:mail@landscapeinstitute.org)

### **Natural History Museum**

The Natural History Museum promotes the discovery, understanding, enjoyment and responsible use of the natural world. The website provides a useful link to a Plant Postcode Database which generates lists of native plants and wildlife for any specified postal district in the UK. Visit this tool by using the following web link:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/plants-fungi/postcode-plants/>



## Glossary

### **Aberystwyth Grits:**

The Aberystwyth Grits Group is a Silurian lithostratigraphic group (a sequence of rock strata) in mid Wales. The Group comprises the Trefechan Formation and the underlying Mynydd Bach Formation.

### **Ancient woodland:**

Woodland that has existed since at least 1600, and possibly much longer. It often has dense canopies, large trees and an abundance of wildlife.

### **Biodiversity:**

The variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

### **Biosphere Reserve:**

A Biosphere Reserve is an area in which people work to balance the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are internationally recognised within the framework of UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and are designated for their conservation, development and logistic functions.

### **Bro:**

A Welsh word, without direct English translation, which over time has become increasingly abstract in its meaning. Up until the mid-nineteenth century it might be regarded as being the equivalent of 'vale', but has since become a term of social rather than physical geography; that is, an area with subjectively perceived borders which embraces people and the Welsh language as much as land.

### **Bronze Age:**

A period characterised by bronze tools and weapons, a technological stage between the Stone Age and the Iron Age, beginning in the Middle East in about 4500 BC and lasting in Britain from about 2000 to 500 BC.

### **Cairn:**

A human-constructed pile of stones, usually in the uplands and often conical in shape, marking summits or regular intervals.

### **Conservation Area:**

An urban area designated for its special architectural and historic interest.

### **Cultural Heritage:**

Relates to both the physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present for the benefit of future generations.

**Cultural Landscape:**

A landscape that is taken to embrace any kind of human activity that can be related to landscape. It includes the contrived and sometimes pre-eminent expressions of culture, like art or literature, in which the landscape may be depicted or described, as well as the prosaic and commonplace expressions, like the choice of building materials, which were perhaps not intended to create something valuable or special.

**Ecosystem:**

A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

**Ecosystem Approach:**

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.

**Geodiversity:**

Geology typically controls or has the strongest of all influences on the landscape, profoundly affecting relief, drainage patterns, and vegetational cover. These geological qualities also had one of the strongest influences on the historical development of settlements, by determining their agricultural potential and communication networks, as well as access to water, building materials and other mineral resources.

**Geomorphology:**

Geomorphology encompasses landforms and the processes such as glaciation, coastal and fluvial erosion and gravity which form them.

**Greywacke:**

Greywacke or Graywacke is a variety of sandstone generally characterized by its hardness, dark colour, and poorly sorted angular grains of quartz, feldspar, and small rock fragments or lithic fragments set in a compact, clay-fine matrix.

**Historic Landscape:**

A landscape which displays a myriad of features that are the result of the activities of the people who used and shaped the land to serve their needs in the past: they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of those people.

**Historic Parks and Gardens:**

A park or garden of special historic interest. Graded I (highest quality), II\* or II. Designated by CADW.

**Iron Age:**

The period following the Bronze Age when weapons and tools came to be made of iron. Began in the Middle East in about 1100 BC.

**LANDMAP:**

A system that allows information about landscape to be gathered, organised and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set comprising Visual and Sensory; Landscape Habitats; Historic Landscape; Cultural Landscape; and Geological Landscape assessments.

**Landscape:**

Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

**Landscape Habitats:**

The aspect of landscape that is expressed by semi natural habitats and vegetation cover, which have influenced biological prosperity, land cover, utilisation and enjoyment of rural areas.

**Local Development Plan (LDP):**

The required statutory plan for each Local Planning Authority area in Wales under Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

**National Nature Reserve (NNR):**

National Nature Reserves are statutory designation that contain examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in Great Britain. They are managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats, communities and species represented within them.

**Natura 2000 (N2K):**

A network of protected areas established under the European Union's Habitats and Birds Directives.

**Ordovician:**

The Ordovician is a geologic period and system, the second of six of the Paleozoic Era, and covers the time between  $485.4 \pm 1.9$  to  $443.4 \pm 1.5$  million years ago. It follows the Cambrian Period and is followed by the Silurian Period.

**Picturesque Movement:**

A movement established by a group of architects from about 1840 to 1900, particularly in Europe, who developed the idea that architecture should embrace the romanticised past rather than the formal classical tradition.

**Ramsar Site:**

A Ramsar Site is an area designated under the auspices of the The Ramsar Convention (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat), an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands.



**Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site (RIGS):**

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), designated by locally developed criteria, are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The designation of RIGS is one way of recognising and protecting important Earth science and landscape features for future generations to enjoy.

**Romantic Movement:**

A movement that lasted from about 1784 to 1830. Romantic writing, particularly by poets such as William Wordsworth, examines the role of the natural world and its importance as a stimulus to thinking.

**Seascape:**

An area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with sea, by natural and/or human factors.

**Silurian:**

The Silurian is a geologic period and system that extends from the end of the Ordovician Period, about  $443.4 \pm 1.5$  million years ago (mya), to the beginning of the Devonian Period, about  $419.2 \pm 3.2$  mya. It follows the Ordovician Period and is followed by the Devonian Period.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):**

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom. SSSIs are the basic building block of site-based nature conservation legislation and most other legal nature/geological conservation designations in Great Britain are based upon them, including National Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, and Special Areas of Conservation.

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC):**

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), also known as the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. They are to protect the 220 habitats and approximately 1000 species listed in annex I and II of the directive which are considered to be of European interest following criteria given in the directive.

**Special Landscape Areas:**

A non-statutory conservation designation used by local government in some parts of the United Kingdom to categorise sensitive landscapes which are, either legally or as a matter of policy, protected from inappropriate development or other man-made influences. See Policy DM18: Special Landscape Areas

**Special Protection Area (SPA):**

A Special Protection Area or SPA is a designation under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Together with Special Areas of

Conservation (SACs), the SPAs form a network of protected sites across the EU, called Natura 2000.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):**

The SEA Regulations require a formal "environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use.

**Strategic Search Area (SSA):**

An area that has been identified at a strategic level by TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (WAG, 2005) as having the general characteristics that lend it to the accommodation of large wind farms.

**Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG):**

Supplementary Planning Guidance may cover a range of issues, both thematic and site specific and provide further detail of policies and proposals in a development plan.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA):**

Undertaking a SA is mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA is used to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations whilst developing LDPs.

**Visual & Sensory Landscape:**

The Visual and Sensory Landscape is an aspect of the environment that 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.