



Caerphilly Local Development Plan

Hearing Session 9: Minerals and Waste (25th May 2010)

Issue: *“Are the provisions of the Plan sound in relation to the Nant Llesg area north of Fochriw?”*

Addendum to the Supplementary Statement on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited

Proposed Revisions to Boundaries of SLA and VILL west of Rhymney

20th May 2010

1. At para 23 of our Supplementary Statement we state:

“Cynon LH108 has an overall evaluation of High. It appears to us that this would be Moderate if it were not for the presence of the Lower House Stream Section (Blaen Rhymney) SSSI which is referred to in the aspect area description. However, this SSSI is designated for geological reasons as explained above and is not based on ecological features. It should not therefore be taken into account in evaluation of Landscape/Habitats. We have sought CCW’s views on this but have yet to receive a response. “

2. Our question to CCW on 4th May regarding CynonLH108 was as follows:

“This aspect area has an overall evaluation of High. However, it appears to us that this would be Moderate if it were not for the presence of the Lower House stream section (Blaen Rhymney) SSSI.

However, this SSSI is designated for geological reasons and is not based on ecological features. It should not therefore be taken into account in evaluation of Landscape/Habitats. Again, do you agree and would Moderate not be a more appropriate overall evaluation?”

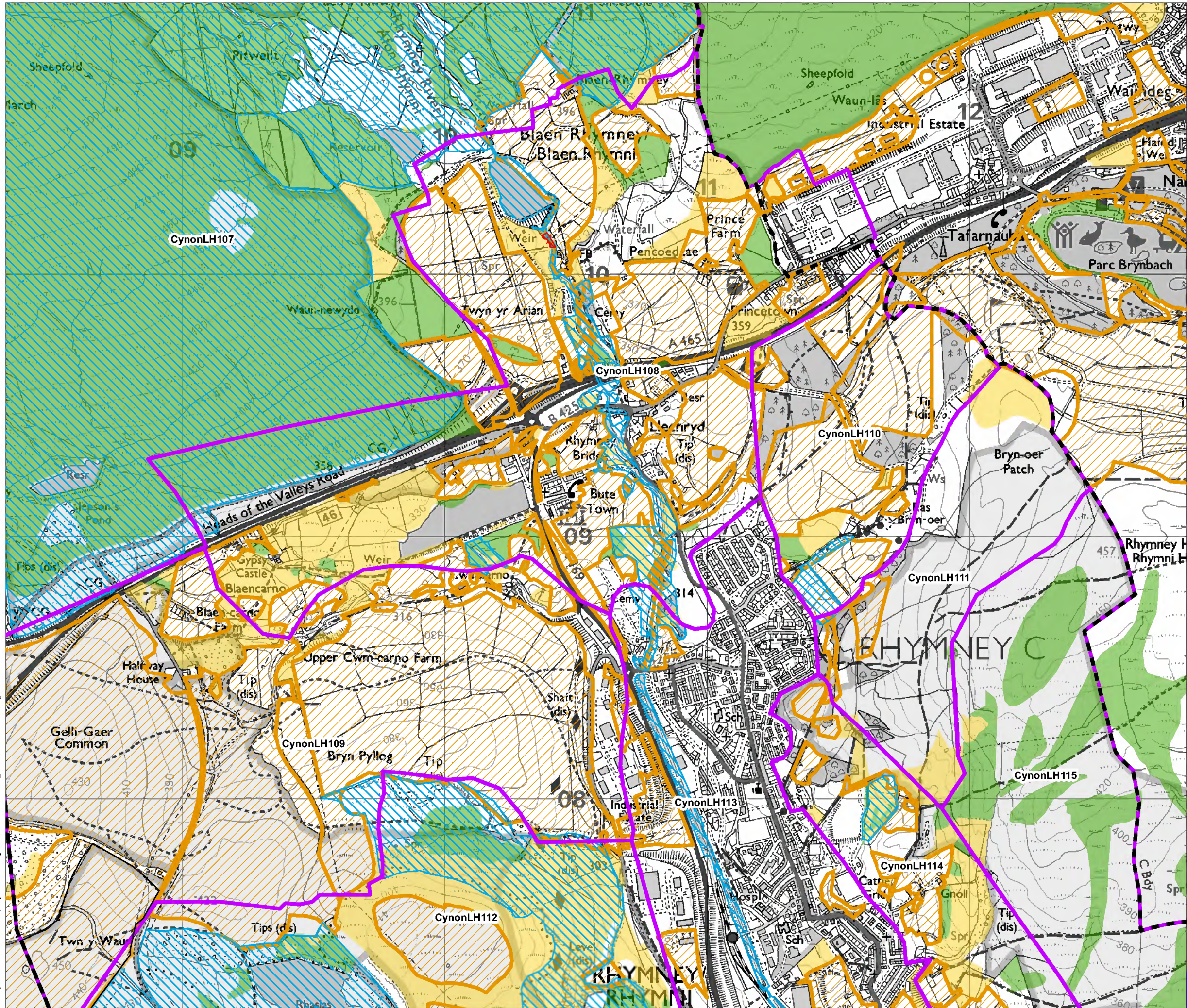
3. CCW’s response on 19th May was:

"I have just had a response from the relevant CCW Team Leader for Monmouthshire & Eastern Valleys for the Quality assured aspect area LH108.

Based on his knowledge of the area he would concur with the existing LANDMAP description that there are areas of semi-improved habitat important for nature conservation within the aspect area. This is confirmed by fact that there are 3 existing SINCs identified by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The final decision of how much weighting is attached to the Landmap evaluation would be taken by the Inspector."

4. By way of clarification, Figure 9 attached shows the information on habitats previously shown on our Figure 3, and the SSSI and SINC designations from Figure 5 on the enlarged area of LH108.
5. We have also added semi-improved grassland to this plan since CCW have referred to semi-improved grassland in their response (data from CCW Phase 1 Habitat Survey). However we do not regard such grassland as of high nature conservation importance. This is supported by Caerphilly County Borough Council's SINC designations in this area which Figure 9 shows are clearly not based on the occurrence of such grassland.
6. CCW have not confirmed the overall evaluation of High for Landscape Habitats. Neither have they agreed that it is incorrect. They have not confirmed whether or not the presence of the geological SSSI has influenced the evaluation. They simply leave the Inspector to decide the weight which should be attached to this area.
7. CCW's response with respect to CynonLH109 does not alter our view regarding the comparative value of land to the north and south of the Heads of Valleys Road in this area, and we consider that an appropriate and defensible southern boundary of the SLA here would be the Heads of the Valleys Road.



Legend

- LPA boundary
- Landscape habitat aspect areas (Landmap)
- SSSI
- SINC
- Detractor (improved grassland)
- Semi-improved grassland
- Valued habitats

(Dry dwarf shrub heath
 Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic
 Flush
 Marsh grassland
 Wet dwarf shrub heath
 Wet heath/acid grassland mosaic)

Source: CCW Phase 1 Habitat Survey

■ Data Source: RPS 2010
 Status: FINAL

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■ Client: Miller Argent (South Wales) Ltd
 Project: Caerphilly LDP

Title: LH108

Scale: A3 @ 1:14,000
 0 0.125 0.25km

Date: May 10 Datum: OSGB36 Projection: BNG
 Drawn: AVG Checked: KJ Job Ref: JR6741

■ Figure No: **9** Revision: .

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