

ED50 - Appendix 1 – Insertion of historical landscape descriptions

Appendix 1 has been amended to include LANDMAP descriptions for all aspect layers including Historical Landscapes. This information was unavailable at time of the preparation of the Deposit Plan as the Countryside Council for Wales were quality assuring the data.

The text to be included is as follows:

NH1.1 UPPER RHYMNEY VALLEY

Historical Landscapes

- An extensive area of unenclosed open moorland, forming the easternmost outline of Merthyr Common, which has remained relatively, unchanged since the 19th Century, in spite of encroachment by industrial extraction activity, in particular lime and ironstone quarries.
- The area contains numerous water management features that form part of the extensive remains of Dowlais Free Drainage System. There are also quarries associated with the Dowlais Ironworks, which together with the water management features represent a significant concentration of 19th Century industrial water-management features of considerable historical importance.

NH1.2 GELLIGAER COMMON

Historical Landscapes

- The landscape of Gelligaer common represents an increasingly rare survival in Southeast Wales of an extensive area of high upland moor rich with an exceptionally rich and diverse archaeological heritage, demonstrating a long continuity of human activity and occupation.
- The lower areas are characterised by extensive, well preserved irregular and enclosed upland landscape, dominated by significant remains of medieval/ post-medieval agricultural settlement and later 19th – 20th century industrial extractive activity.

NH1.3 MYNYDD EGLWYSILIAN

Historical Landscapes

- The area represents a remarkably coherent, rich multi-period, well preserved landscape with significant remains of Roman military occupation.

- The overall landscape pattern characterised by a mixed fieldscape and a largely dispersed pattern of settlement that has survived relatively unchanged. Although there has been some encroachment by 20th century housing development.
- The archaeological record for this area is exceptionally rich with evidence of human activity dating back to the Bronze Age.
- The Nelson area is dominated by the 20th Century industrial settlement and transport corridor and developments, which has led to the substantial loss of earlier patterns of landscape and settlement in this area. However, there is still significant evidence for Roman and medieval occupation in this area.
- The Mynydd Eglwysilian and Meio areas represent an important and remarkably well-preserved historic landscape containing a wealth of archaeological evidence. The area is an extensive enclosed area of mountain moorland that has remained substantially intact and unaffected by 19th – 20th Century industrial exploitation or modern forestry plantations.

NH 1.4 NORTH CAERPHILLY

Historical Landscapes

- This area represents a remarkably diverse multi-period upland landscape with particularly significant concentrations of prehistoric ritual/ funerary monuments and medieval settlement sites.
- The landscape has remained essentially unchanged, although the semi-natural woodland along the Sirhowy has been increasingly superseded by modern forestry plantation.

NH 1.5 SOUTH CAERPHILLY

Historical Landscapes

- The landscape is a complex, multi-period landscape containing evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation that has remained relatively unchanged, with little evidence of intrusion by 19th – 20th century industrial or residential development.
- The predominant landscape pattern in this area is characterised by a mixed fieldscape enclosing areas of open moorland interspersed with substantial tracts of ancient, semi-natural woodland and isolated and dispersed farmsteads.

- Ruperra Castle and ground also falls within this area which is an outstanding example of national importance of an early Jacobean Renaissance mock castle, virtually unique in Wales.

NH 1.6 Mynyddislwyn

Historical Landscapes

- A large and reasonably well-preserved irregular rural fieldscape of post-medieval date, which has survived largely intact in spite of encroachment by 20th Century quarrying activity.
- Extensive 20th century quarrying activity along the Sirhowy and Ebbw valley has taken place, which has ultimately distracted from the overall coherence of the landscape.
- An extensive, relatively well-preserved tract of open moorland is also present at Mynydd y Lan, which has remained largely intact, although much of the semi-natural woodland has been superseded by modern forestry and there is currently a modest record of archaeological remains recorded in this particular area.