

LANDMAP methodology: survey questions and definitions

The Welsh approach to describing and evaluating landscape character through the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Services spatial datasets.

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What is this document about?

This document is a supplementary part of the LANDMAP methodology guidance for the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Services. It replaces all 2016 LANDMAP methodology guidance.

This supplementary document sets out, and defines, the range of LANDMAP survey questions and their associated definitions.

The complete set of LANDMAP Methodology guidance includes:

GN007a	LANDMAP Methodology Overview
GN007b	LANDMAP Methodology Datasets
GN007c	LANDMAP Methodology Classifications and Definitions
GN007d	LANDMAP Methodology Survey Questions and Definitions
GN007e	LANDMAP Methodology Quality Assurance

You can download the LANDMAP Methodology Guidance Note from the LANDMAP webpage page: [Natural Resources Wales / LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline](#)

Who is this document for?

This guidance is aimed at all users of LANDMAP as a landscape evidence resource for Wales that need to understand how LANDMAP information is derived, and the definitions of terms, classifications and evaluations.

Key users will be local authority and National Park landscape and planning officers, consultants engaged in landscape assessments, woodland planners, land management decision makers and those using landscape information as an opportunity.

The guidance is also aimed at those preparing new, or updating existing, LANDMAP datasets ensuring it is consistent and robust evidence.

Contact for queries and feedback

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Version History

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2.0	04-2026	Visual & Sensory: Survey date. Questions 22, 23, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 45, 52, 53, (56 to 59 unused) Historic Landscape. Survey date. Questions 16, 20a, 22a, (23 unused) 27, 28, 29, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48

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LANDMAP surveys

A LANDMAP survey is completed for every geographical landscape aspect area. Surveys are created and edited by authorised users using LANDMAP Portal, the online data entry programme.

The overall structure of the surveys is the same for each LANDMAP dataset. The definitions of terms associated with questions, and drop-down menus for data entry where possible, aids national consistency and data accuracy. The questions and their definitions are set out below by LANDMAP dataset.

SurveyUrl view

In the GIS attribute table, each survey has a field called SurveyUrl. The 'More info' value is a hyperlink that opens the survey in a new window, this html view includes the question number, the full question and non-truncated responses.

Survey structure

All LANDMAP surveys include the following:

- Survey ID: database reference automatically generated
- Area Unique ID: used to identify surveys, link to GIS maps and in reports, often UID
- Area name: geographical or place-based name associated with the survey
- Aspect Name: LANDMAP dataset the survey belongs to
- Region Name: local authority, National Park or area
- Survey Date: latest monitoring date
- Classifications: associated classifications at levels 1 to 3, some at level 4
- Sections with landscape questions and responses unique to each LANDMAP dataset. For example, monitoring, description, evaluation, recommendations, aspect area boundary, evaluation, information sources.

Table 1: Summary of consistent survey sections and questions

LANDMAP dataset	Geological Landscape	Landscape Habitats	Visual and Sensory	Historic Landscape
Survey section	Questions	Questions	Questions	Questions

LANDMAP dataset	Geological Landscape	Landscape Habitats	Visual and Sensory	Historic Landscape
Monitoring	1 to 2	1 to 3	1 to 2a	1 to 2
Description	3 to 15	4 to 24	3 to 25	3 to 22
Condition	16 to 18	25 to 27	26 to 28	23 to 25
Recommendations	19 to 22	28 to 31	29 to 34	26 to 28
Aspect Area boundary	24 to 28	32 to 36	40 to 44	30 to 34
Evaluation	29 to 34	37 to 45a	46 to 51	35 to 41
Information Sources/Bibliography/Assessment	35, 36 to 37	46, 47 to 48	52 to 53	42

The term character is defined as the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements, features and qualities that occur within a particular landscape area. Elements are the individual parts which make up the landscape e.g., trees, stone walls, buildings. Features are prominent or eye-catching elements e.g., church towers, waterfall, outcrop.

Aesthetic qualities refer to the visible patterns and distribution of physical attributes in the landscape of landform and land cover. They help analyse the landscape and include criteria such as scale, intimate or vast; enclosure such as enclosed or exposed.

Perceptual qualities refer to the responses to a landscape felt or sensed by an assessor with professional judgement and experience. They include terms such as wildness, tranquillity, and shelter.

Questions by LANDMAP dataset

Geological Landscape

Table 2: Geological Landscape Monitoring

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
1	Date of monitoring?	Period of time the monitoring update covers.
1a	Monitoring undertaken by	Record all involved in updating and quality assurance.
1b	Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	3 self-explanatory options.
1c	Change indicated by	Information sourced from the monitoring table.
1d	What has changed?	Information sourced from the monitoring table, e.g., classification, boundaries, evaluation.
1e	Has the information been verified in the field? If yes, at what scale has this been verified?	Record if a site survey has been completed.
2	Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Which area and what is the nature of the link?	The relationship with adjacent areas can be important in the overall character or connectivity of an area, areas do not necessarily have to be adjacent.

Table 3: Geological Landscape Description

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
3	If classification is 'Other'	Specify.
4	What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?	A full description of the geological and topographical character, including rock types, significant superficial deposits and structural features and processes - both active and past.
4a	Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?	Options include Sedimentary, Igneous intrusive, Igneous extrusive, Metamorphic
4b	Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the Aspect Area?	Options include Precambrian, Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Paleocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
4c	Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithology (-ies)?	Options include Sandstone, Siltstone, Mudstone, Conglomerate, Limestone, Marls, Coal, Granite, Basalt, Andesite, Rhyolite, Tuff, Slate, Other
4d	Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?	Options include Fluvial, Alluvial, Coastal, Glacial, Fluvioglacial
4e	Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?	Options include Sand and gravel, Silt, Boulder clay/till, Head, Other
5	What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?	Select one from Rock cliff and shore, Lowland dip slope, Upland gorge, Soft- sediment cliff and shore, Lowland plateau, Mountain glacial erosion terrain, Sand Dune, Lowland valley slope/ escarpment, Glacial mountain valley, Spits, bars and ridges, Lowland glacial outwash plain/ field, Upland glacial outwash plain/ field, Saltmarsh, Lowland till plain/ field, Lowland escarpment, Upland till plain/ field, Ancient upland river/stream systems, Estuary, Coastal Slope, Undulating upland terrain, Mass movement, Coastal Flat, Upland escarpment, Upland Karst, Active lowland river floodplain, Lowland Karst, Mineral workings, Ancient lowland river flood plain system, Upland valley slope, Artificial water bodies and channels, Lowland river gorge, Upland Plateau, Engineered features and reclaimed/ infilled land, Undulating lowland hill terrain, Active upland river or stream channel system, Other, please specify if other
6	Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?	Options include Stratigraphic formation(s), Superficial deposits, Active Processes, Structural features, Past Processes, Other

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
7	What additional Subsidiary Level 3 components are notable	Options include Rock cliff and shore, Lowland dip slope, Upland gorge, Soft- sediment cliff and shore, Lowland plateau, Mountain glacial erosion terrain, Sand Dune, Lowland valley slope/ escarpment, Glacial mountain valley, Spits, bars and ridges, Lowland glacial outwash plain/ field, Upland glacial outwash plain/ field, Saltmarsh, Lowland till plain/ field, Lowland escarpment, Upland till plain/ field, Ancient upland river/stream systems, Estuary, Coastal Slope, Undulating upland terrain, Mass movement, Coastal Flat, Upland escarpment, Upland Karst, Active lowland river flood plain system, Lowland Karst, Mineral workings, Ancient lowland river flood plain, Upland valley slope, Artificial water bodies and channels, Lowland river gorge, Upland Plateau, Engineered features and reclaimed/ infilled land, Undulating lowland hill terrain, Active upland river or stream channel system, Other
8	What Level 4 components are notable in this area?	Options include Cliff Hanging coastal valleys, Former Lake (e.g., silted up), Wave- cut platform, Lagoon / Lake / Pool (natural), Alluvial fan (Ancient), Sea-cave / cave, Lake / reservoir (artificial), Arête, Gorge / gully / ravine, River Channel / canal (artificial), Cwm/Corrie, Boulder, River channel (natural), Roche moutonnée, Scree / talus, Former salt marsh / marsh, Nunatak, Island, Waterfall / rapids, Glacial U-Shaped valley, Sand/ shingle foreshore, Ley, Flood plain, Patterned ground, Mud- dominated foreshore, Abandoned channel / Ox Bow Lake, Landslip (Active), Active sand dune, River Terrace, Landslip (Ancient), Stabilised sand dune, Dry Valley, Glacial hanging valley, Dune Slack, Slope, Rockslide (Active), Sand Beach, Hill Top, Spit, Scarp Slope, Mudslide / mudflow, Rockslide (Ancient), Dip slope, Bar, Tombolo, Plateau, Polje, Spring, Gravel / shingle ridge, Ridge, Beach, Moraine, Limestone gorge, Marsh / salt marsh, Esker, Doline, Lower salt marsh / mudflat, Kettle hole, Scarp, Opencast mine, gravel or sand pit, Upper salt marsh / grazing marsh, Drumlin/ Drumlin Field, Coal / Mineral spoil tips, Creek, Tor, Coastal defence works, Rock platform, Rock Pavement, Sand, Stepped Topography, Made Ground, Shingle / gravel, Peat bog, Landfill, Coastal slope, Braided channel system, Reclaimed land, Urban /Industrial development, Raised beach /platform, Engineered topography, Alluvial fan (active), Hanging (fluvial) valley, 'Fossil' cliff line

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
9	What Active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?	Include up to 5 named processes.
10	Are there components of significant hydrological importance? If yes, which?	Features of surface hydrological significance, including river systems, springs and karst.
11	Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect? If yes, which?	Pedological processes, present or past, and ground water hydrological issues (optional).
12	Is there current mineral extraction? If yes, what for?	Active quarries or mines.
13	Has there been mineral extraction in the past? If yes, what for?	Disused quarries or mines.
14	Are there SSSI / GCR sites here? If yes, which?	Identify Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and /or Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites.
15	Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier or RIGS sites in the area? If yes, which?	Identify Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and/ or regionally important geological and geomorphological sites (RIGS).

Table 4: Geological Landscape Condition

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
16	Value	Select one from Outstanding, High, Moderate, Low, Unassessed
17	Condition	Good. No significant potentially damaging activities, management or development.
17	Condition	Fair. The character generally remains in a favourable condition.
17	Condition	Poor. Significant parts or characteristics have been damaged or lost.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
18	Trend	Improving.
18	Trend	Constant.
18	Trend	Declining.

Table 5: Geological Landscape Recommendations

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
19	Existing management	The appropriateness of existing management to maintain the positive qualities of an area.
20	Existing management remarks	Comments on current management and its effect.
21	Principal management recommendations	Recommendation to improve the current management relevant to the LANDMAP dataset.
22	Guidelines (up to 3) and indicate timescale	The most important practical actions that need to be taken to conserve or enhance the area relevant to the LANDMAP dataset.

Table 6: Geological Landscape Tolerance to Change

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
23	Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?	Inherent sensitivity, not its capacity for a specific scale and type of development.

Table 7: Geological Landscape Aspect Area Boundary

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
24	To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Options include levels 1, 2, 3, 4, individual site, none.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
25	At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise? (Follows specific landscape elements tracks, hedgerows, contours, land use).	Options include all, most, some, none.
26	What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Options include OS Raster, OS Landline, Aerial photographs, other (e.g., Habitat Network Map)
27	If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	Options include 1:10,000, 1:25,000 or 1:10,000 and 1:25,000.
28	What is the justification for the Aspect Area Boundaries?	Open text box to complete.

Table 8: Geological Landscape Evaluation

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
29	Evaluation criteria: Research Value.	Outstanding. Includes features or sites of outstanding importance to the national and international geoscience community.
29	Evaluation criteria: Research Value.	High. Includes features or sites of significant scientific potential or importance, including to regional geological studies.
29	Evaluation criteria: Research Value.	Moderate. Features present have some scientific potential but may be better developed or exposed elsewhere.
29	Evaluation criteria: Research Value.	Low. Geological heritage of the area is damaged, concealed or better seen elsewhere and therefore is of limited current scientific significance.
29a	Evaluation criteria: Educational Value.	Outstanding. Includes features or sites of exceptional value for education – primarily at university level but also potentially at school level.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
29a	Evaluation criteria: Educational Value.	High. Includes features or sites with a high potential for educational use, primarily at university, but also at school level.
29a	Evaluation criteria: Educational Value.	Moderate. Includes features which although having some local potential, e.g., at school level, may be better developed or exposed elsewhere.
29a	Evaluation criteria: Educational Value.	Low. Geological heritage of the area is damaged, concealed or better seen elsewhere and, therefore, is of little or no educational value.
30	Evaluation criteria: Historical Value.	Outstanding. Includes features or sites which have significantly contributed to the historical development of geology as a science.
30	Evaluation criteria: Historical Value.	High. Includes features or sites which have made a significant contribution to the development of knowledge of local or regional geology.
30	Evaluation criteria: Historical Value.	Moderate. Includes features or sites which have been noted in literature but have not in themselves significantly contributed to the understanding of local and regional geology.
30	Evaluation criteria: Historical Value.	Low. Includes no described sites or sites present have no particular historical significance in published literature.
31	Evaluation criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Outstanding. Includes features of exceptional scientific importance which are nationally or internationally rare or unique.
31	Evaluation criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	High. Includes features which are scientifically rare or exceptional in a regional context.
31	Evaluation criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Moderate. Includes features which although being widely distributed regionally, may still be of local interest.
31	Evaluation criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness	Low. Features present are widely distributed regionally and better developed or exposed elsewhere.
32	Evaluation criteria: Classic Example.	Includes features or sites which constitute an actual or potential 'textbook' example of a geological or geomorphological phenomenon.
32	Evaluation criteria: Classic Example.	Includes features or sites which clearly demonstrate key geological or geomorphological features.
32	Evaluation criteria: Classic Example.	Includes features or sites which although demonstrating geological and geomorphological features, are not well exposed or developed.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
32	Evaluation criteria: Classic Example.	Features or sites present are too badly exposed or developed to demonstrate key geological processes or features.
33	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding. Aspect Area contains features (including sites) of outstanding Earth heritage importance, including for national and international geological science. Generally, such areas also have a high actual or potential educational value, and many will also be of historical importance and contain rare or unique features. As geological science is continually developing, however, an area rated as 'Outstanding' may not always feature significantly in historical studies or be suitable for general teaching purposes – evaluation of these criteria may occasionally be relatively low within the Evaluation Matrix. Although not necessarily including 'Outstanding' representatives of 'Classic examples', it would be expected that some of the sites present in the Aspect Area would show good exposures or developments of geological and geomorphological phenomenon and therefore merit at least a 'High' rating for these criteria.
33	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	High. The Aspect Area contains features (including sites) of high regional significance for scientific studies, typically linked to a high educational potential. Some of these sites may also have some historical value or demonstrate well-developed geological or geomorphological features. Other Aspect Areas evaluated as 'High', form the major landscape features in a district, such as prominent escarpments and upland tracts.
33	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate. An overall rating of 'Moderate' is appropriate where the Aspect Area concerned is not known to include any exceptional or notable features, although it may still be 'representative' of its underlying geology or surface geomorphology.
33	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Low. Aspect Areas assessed as having an overall rating of 'Low' have been damaged by development, or other human activities to such an extent that the majority of features of geological or geomorphological significance have been destroyed, buried or otherwise obliterated.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
34	Justification of Overall Evaluation.	A short explanation and an overall evaluation is made based on the general balance of responses to each part of the matrix. Occasionally, however, the overall valuation may differ from the balance of individual ratings, as Research value is considered to be the most significant category, as it directly reflects the global geological significance of the geology and/or geomorphology of the Aspect Area concerned. In such cases, a 'High' or 'Outstanding', Research value rating would serve to raise the overall valuation, even if the Historical, Classical and Educational values are relatively low.

Table 9: Geological Landscape Bibliography

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
35	List the key sources used for this assessment.	Open text box to complete.

Table 10: Geological Landscape Assessment

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
36	Additional Assessments	Open text box to complete.
37	Additional Comments	Open text box to complete.

Landscape Habitats

Some questions require a field visit.

Environment (Wales) Act (2016) Section 7: Questions 8, 9, 13, 14, 23, 37 to 45a currently include BAP habitats, these may be updated to reflect Section 7 habitats and species during 2026 to 27.

Table 11: Landscape Habitats Monitoring

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
1	Date of monitoring?	Period of time the monitoring update covers.
1a	Monitoring undertaken by	Record all involved in updating and quality assurance.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
1b	Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	3 self-explanatory options.
1c	Change indicated by	Information sourced from the monitoring table.
1d	What has changed?	Information sourced from the monitoring table, e.g., classification, boundaries, evaluation.
1e	Has the information been verified in the field? If yes, at what scale has this been verified?	Record if a site survey has been completed.
2	Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Which area and what is the nature of the link?	The relationship with adjacent areas can be important in the overall character or connectivity of an area, areas do not necessarily have to be adjacent.
3	What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?	The total area of land within the Aspect Area should be calculated from the GIS and expressed in hectares. In part it is needed so that the areas of particular habitats within the Aspect Area can be expressed as percentages of the total.

Table 12: Landscape Habitats Description

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
4	What are the dominant soil types?	This requires an understanding of the Soil Survey data, which may require specialist knowledge. However, this is important information in terms of future land use and should not be ignored. Recognising that a mix may be present, limit the selection to the three most widespread soil types within the area.
5	What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Specify what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.	The availability of Phase 1 habitat survey data for Wales in digital format enables a detailed description of habitat composition of each Aspect Area. Use of GIS tools will enable the amounts of habitats to be calculated for the Aspect Area, at the finest level of detail available from Phase I. Only the top five may be listed. Note some data may be prior to 1997, use latest available resource.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
6	Does the area contain habitats of international importance?	Options include yes, no, not known.
7	If yes, which habitats of international importance?	Select from a drop-down list of habitats of international importance.
8	Does the area contain BAP habitats? New question and replacement data in 2024. Does the area contain Section 7 Terrestrial Habitats of Principle Importance (Priority Habitats)?	Options include yes, no, not known.
9	If yes, which BAP habitats? New question and replacement data in 2024 linked to question 8. If yes, which Section 7 Priority Habitats?	Select from a drop-down list of BAP habitats. Replace in 2024 with drop-down Section 7 biodiversity list options
10	Does the area contain protected sites?	Options include yes, no, not known.
11	If yes, which ones?	Options include SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar, NNR, LNR, local wildlife site.
12	Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?	Percentage of the Aspect Area covered by protected sites.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
13	<p>Does the area support important species?</p> <p>New question and replacement data in 2024. Does the area support Section 7 Priority Species?</p>	<p>Requires an assessment of whether the area contains significant populations of any Red Data Book species (RDB), Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 7 priority species, those legally protected by Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and amendments, or Annexes of the Habitat Directive 1994. Or identify key species for the area (e.g., abundance of rhos pasture, marsh fritillary, woodland known for lesser horseshoe bats, dormice etc.) This assessment can be made from existing data sources.</p>
14	<p>If yes which species?</p>	<p>For each species also note the source of information.</p>
15	<p>Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)</p>	<p>Threat is defined as those species that represent an invasive threat to dominant, significant or endangered species or habitats. Most areas will contain at least one specimen of at least one threat species. However, the entries here should highlight areas where there are appreciable populations of threat species, i.e., where there is real cause for concern.</p>
16	<p>What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?</p>	<p>Use this field to highlight additional habitat features, which by virtue of their abundance or effect on the landscape, contribute significantly to the biodiversity character of the area. These features are often an important part of the fabric of the landscape, whilst providing valuable additional habitats for species and serving to link Aspect Areas.</p>
17	<p>Are any of these features in very good condition? (Field visit required)</p>	<p>Options include none, some, unknown.</p>
18	<p>Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)</p>	<p>Options include none, some, unknown.</p>
19	<p>What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)</p>	<p>These fields are completed to indicate where there is significantly widespread evidence of certain key management techniques. Not all management activities can be recorded and so the emphasis is on the main ones of relevance to the presence and welfare of biodiversity habitats and species.</p>

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
20	Do any appear to have an appreciable positive impact on the condition of habitat? (Field visit required)	Positive management impacts are to be encouraged, for example controlled burning where this is done in appropriate locations and seasons. It is important, therefore, to highlight such examples so that land managers may seek to further or enhance such management.
21	Do any appear to have an appreciable negative impact on the condition of habitat? (Field visit required)	Where it is obvious that land management practices within any Aspect Area are having a widespread negative impact on biodiversity resources, LANDMAP has a role of play in identifying such problems.
22	Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?	In addition to threats arising from invasive species (considered elsewhere), a wide variety of anthropogenic impacts and disturbances may be encountered within individual Aspect Areas. Examples include unsympathetic management, neglect, urban development, recreation, grazing pressure, afforestation, pollution, drainage, quarrying etc. (note that this is not an exhaustive list). Threats such as these should be recorded with reference to their likely impacts upon biodiversity characteristics of the Aspect Area.
23	Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity of this area?	If there are clear activities which would improve the biodiversity of the whole Aspect Area these should be explained in this section. In 2024 may include if there are opportunities to improve Resilient Ecological Networks (RENs) in this area, referring to Habitats Network maps (semi-natural habitat connectivity) and CuRVe (Current Relative Value) maps of relative ecosystem resilience based on DECCA (diversity, extent, condition, connectivity and adaptability). Refer to SoNaRR and Area Statements.
24	Summarise the key features that define this Area's biodiversity character	The purpose is to summarise the information and provide a succinct description of key biodiversity features, including habitat quality, notable features, species interests, opportunities, threats, management issues etc. The description should focus on the characteristics and features that distinguish this particular Aspect Area.

Table 13: Landscape Habitats Condition

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
25	Value	Select one from Outstanding, High, Moderate, Low, Unassessed
26	Condition	Good. No significant potentially damaging activities, management or development. Could refer to SoNaRR and the protected sites baseline assessment.
26	Condition	Fair. The character generally remains in a favourable condition. Could refer to SoNaRR and the protected sites baseline assessment.
26	Condition	Poor. Significant parts or characteristics have been damaged or lost. Could refer to SoNaRR and the protected sites baseline assessment.
27	Trend	Improving.
27	Trend	Constant.
27	Trend	Declining.

Table 14: Landscape Habitats Recommendations

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
28	Existing management	The appropriateness of existing management to maintain the positive qualities of an area e.g. maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and resilient ecological network goals
29	Existing management remarks	Comments on current management and its effect.
30	Principal management recommendations	Recommendation to improve the current management relevant to the LANDMAP dataset.
31	Guidelines (up to 3) and indicate timescale	The most important practical actions that need to be taken to conserve or enhance the biodiversity of the area e.g. DECCA.

Table 15: Landscape Habitats Aspect Area Boundary

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
32	To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Options include levels 1, 2, 3, 4, individual site, none.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
33	At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise? (Follows specific landscape elements tracks, hedgerows, contours, land use).	Options include all, most, some, none.
34	What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Options include OS Raster, OS Landline, Aerial photographs, other (e.g., Habitat Network Map)
35	If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	Options include 1:10,000, 1:25,000 or 1:10,000 and 1:25,000.
36	What is the justification for the Aspect Area Boundaries?	Open text box to complete.

Table 16: Landscape Habitats Evaluation

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
37	Evaluation criteria: priority habitats	Outstanding. Outstanding value areas are either internationally important or nationally significant with the majority of the area comprising habitats or species of principle importance, or a substantial percentage of SSSI habitats.
37	Evaluation criteria: priority habitats	High. High importance is given where there are areas of national importance e.g., SSSIs which are enhanced by local features which form wildlife corridors. It will also include areas where many diverse habitats are linked together or there are important areas for protected species.
37	Evaluation criteria: priority habitats	Moderate. Moderate habitats are those with a local importance. This includes areas of more intensively farmed land where there are still well managed stock-proof hedges and occasional areas of native vegetation for example, fragmented woodland blocks.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
37	Evaluation criteria: priority habitats	Low. Low value habitats are where the landscape is mainly low diversity sown grass swards or arable land where fields are very large and have post and wire fences. Large urban areas with little green space and lacking in biodiversity networks are also classed as low value.
38	Evaluation criteria: significance	Outstanding. Outstanding Aspect Areas contain a significant proportion of very valuable habitats and habitats of international importance
38	Evaluation criteria: significance	High. High significance can be awarded to Aspect Areas which contain important habitats or where there are smaller but extremely important examples of a particular habitat which can be enhanced by features in the surrounding area, for examples linking hedges, copses of woodland or small ponds and streams.
38	Evaluation criteria: significance	Moderate. Moderate importance can be awarded where the Area contains native or semi-natural habitats, which although being fragmented still form a small proportion of the Area.
38	Evaluation criteria: significance	Low. Low significance occurs where the Area contains little or no significant national or local, native or semi-natural communities.
39	Evaluation criteria: opportunity	Outstanding. Outstanding is applied to areas adjacent to large, outstanding habitats which with suitable management or minimal restoration would revert easily to these native habitats.
39	Evaluation criteria: opportunity	High. High should be awarded where some input and change to management practice of more important habitats of national and/or local significance could be formed which could enhance the overall biodiversity of the area and make larger areas of high-quality resource.
39	Evaluation criteria: opportunity	Moderate. Moderate opportunity is awarded where either much effort would be needed to restore medium sized blocks of native habitats or where smaller changes to management practices would restore only small blocks of more fragmented communities.
39	Evaluation criteria: opportunity	Low. Low importance should be given to areas where very significant effort or very large areas would need to be restored in order for the Aspect Area to form a significant part of the biodiversity network.
40	Evaluation criteria: expansion rates	Outstanding. Outstanding expansion rates are where there has been a significant increase in the amount of important semi-natural habitats over the last 25 years.
40	Evaluation criteria: expansion rates	High. High expansion rates are where there has been a small increase in habitats or habitat networks within the Aspect Area over the last 25 years.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
40	Evaluation criteria: expansion rates	Moderate. Moderate expansion rates are where the aspect area has a stable amount of semi-natural and important habitats over the last 25 years.
40	Evaluation criteria: expansion rates	Low. Low expansion rates are where there has been a loss in semi-natural habitats over the Aspect Area within the last 25 years.
41	Evaluation criteria: sensitivity	Outstanding. Robust semi-natural ecosystems well protected against adverse changes by active management regimes.
41	Evaluation criteria: sensitivity	High. Robust habitats where the management practices are not degrading the habitats to any extent.
41	Evaluation criteria: sensitivity	Moderate. Sensitive habitats which could be prone to damage by smaller changes in management practices etc of the area.
41	Evaluation criteria: sensitivity	Low. Sensitive ecosystems being actively damaged by management of the area or surrounding areas.
42	Evaluation criteria: connectivity / cohesion	Outstanding. Large cohesive areas of habitats strongly related to other native areas. Refer to Habitat Network maps (semi-natural habitat connectivity) and CuRve (Current Relative Value) maps
42	Evaluation criteria: connectivity / cohesion	High. Larger blocks of habitat giving viable sites for many species, or moderate sized blocks linked together without significant breaks.
42	Evaluation criteria: connectivity / cohesion	Moderate. Where blocks of habitat are small, they are connected through a network of hedges, streams or rivers to allow species to travel along biodiversity corridors.
42	Evaluation criteria: connectivity / cohesion	Low. Very little native habitats scattered throughout the landscape
43	Evaluation criteria: habitat evaluation	Outstanding. All of the outstanding conditions met
43	Evaluation criteria: habitat evaluation	High. Mostly high conditions met or if lower in some and outstanding in others
43	Evaluation criteria: habitat evaluation	Moderate. Overall, of moderate value although with some high and some low features.
43	Evaluation criteria: habitat evaluation	Low. Mostly low value features described

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
44	Evaluation criteria: importance for key species	Outstanding. Records of protected species and species of international importance or where such species is represented by a particularly significant population.
44	Evaluation criteria: importance for key species	High. Many records of local or nationally important species and of importance nationally.
44	Evaluation criteria: importance for key species	Moderate. Important species recorded as present or old records for important species but not recorded for over 15 years.
44	Evaluation criteria: importance for key species	Low. No records of important species.
45	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Outstanding. Both species and habitats are of international importance and form a very substantial part of the Aspect Area.
45	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	High. Either the species or the habitats are of national importance.
45	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Moderate. This will be awarded if either the species or the habitats have moderate importance. Where there is a nationally scarce species such as the otter, but if the habitats are only locally important overall evaluation will be taken as moderate.
45	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Low. Habitats and species have no particular importance.
45a	Justification of Overall Evaluation.	A short explanation and an overall evaluation is made based on the general balance of responses to each part of the matrix.

Table 17: Landscape Habitats Bibliography

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
46	List the key sources used for this assessment.	Open text box to complete.

Table 18: Landscape Habitats Assessment

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
47	Additional Assessments.	Open text box to complete.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
48	Additional Comments	Open text box to complete.

Visual and Sensory

Table 19: Visual and Sensory Monitoring

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
1	Date of monitoring?	Period of time the monitoring update covers.
1a	Monitoring undertaken by	Record all involved in updating and quality assurance.
1b	Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	3 self-explanatory options.
1c	Change indicated by	Information sourced from the monitoring table.
1d	What has changed?	Information sourced from the monitoring table, e.g., classification, boundaries, evaluation.
1e	Has the information been verified in the field? If yes, at what scale has this been verified?	Record if a site survey has been completed.
2	Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Which area and what is the nature of the link?	The relationship with adjacent areas can be important in the overall character or connectivity of an area, areas do not necessarily have to be adjacent.
2a	During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?	Self-explanatory options.

Table 20: Visual and Sensory Description

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
3	Summary Description	A description of the most important qualities of the aspect area. The description should include brief reference to physical form, aesthetic qualities, perceptual qualities, views, sense of place and relationship with other areas. This is likely to include topography, land cover, land use, key elements, scale, openness, exposure, diversity, settlement pattern, management, features, detractors (without judgement) and tranquillity. For a complex area 100-150 words may be appropriate. If a monitoring update, include comments on the changes that have occurred.
4	Topographic form	The dominant, definitive physiological character of the area. The Land form combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land. The physical form should be considered stripped of land cover.
4	Levels	Low-lying level ground (<10m from low to highpoint), includes low dunes, mudflats, flat farmland.
4	Rolling/undulating	Gently uneven (10-100m from low to highpoint), low lying ground - usually demonstrating rhythmic pattern.
4	Hills/valleys	Steeply uneven (>100m from low to highpoint) high ground with low valleys.
4	High hills/mountains	High ground with distinct summits and peaks.
4	Plateau	Raised, level ground usually defined by a perimeter of sloping ground.
4	Disturbed	Land that has been predominantly altered so as to significantly alter the natural landform, such as quarries and landfill sites.
5	Land cover pattern	The dominant, definitive land cover character of the Area. Landcover refers to the combinations of natural and man-made elements including vegetation that cover the land surface. This does not refer to historical pattern.
5	Open land	All broad expanses of continuously open (unenclosed and treeless) land, such as marsh, bog, tidal mudflats, moorlands, grasslands.
5	Development	All developed land, includes built form, significant hard standing, and associated open space such as amenity land, playing fields, etc.
5	Woodland	All significant wooded ground (>70% tree cover).
5	Field pattern/mosaic	All land exhibiting a recognisable agricultural field system, with significant boundaries and/or tree cover.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
5	Water	All significant water bodies (>70% water), such as estuaries, large lakes, or lake complexes, rivers.
5	Mixture	All areas characterised by a complex relationship that falls into none of the above categories.
6	Settlement pattern	The predominant pattern of human development in the Area. This does not refer to historical settlement pattern.
6	Urban	Substantial, large-scale development associated with a town or city; includes urban fringe development which may be geographically detached from the main body of the host city/town.
6	Village	Single, small-scale development associated with traditional rural settlement cores; likely to include other community features such as church, school, shops, market square, village green.
6	Clustered	Multiple small-scale developments gathered around individual community activities, such as hamlets or large farms with many residences and associated buildings, but also may be late 20 th c. Commercial development around major road junctions (excludes <i>linear</i> development).
6	Scattered rural/farm	Individual, dispersed rural settlements such as isolated small farms and residences.
6	Linear	Individual, clustered developments typically following existing elements such as main roads; archetypally likely to be commercial or residential development on urban arterial transport corridors.
6	None	No significant settlement currently in use.
7	Boundary type	The dominant, definitive character of the current boundaries in the Area. This does not mean historical boundary type.
7	Managed hedge	Managed hedgerows only, i.e., those that are well-maintained to preserve a hedgerow form
7	Hedge with trees	Managed hedgerows with occasional standard trees
7	Overgrown hedges	Unmanaged or overgrown hedgerows with or without trees. Tall and overgrown hedgerows where the hedge plants may have now grown into almost full trees.
7	Clawdd / hedgebanks	Presence of hedgebanks or clawdd as dominant base to hedges above.
7	Stone wall	Stone boundary walls
7	Fences	All wire or wooded fencing free of hedgerow
7	Slate fences	Slate fences
7	Fences with trees	All wire or wooded fencing free of hedgerow but with standard trees
7	Mixture	Areas exhibiting no single dominant boundary type, but a variety of boundary types

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
7	None	All areas with no significant boundaries (not the same as no <i>dominant</i> boundary type - see <i>mixture</i>)
8	Scale	Refers to relationship of key elements or spaces of the Aspect Area, such as woodland or open space, within the whole landscape. Does not refer merely to the size of the Aspect Area. May be that a small Aspect Area is of a vast scale as it is a small part of a continuous whole. Not to be confused with enclosure.
8	Intimate	Elements and spaces of a predominantly personal scale, such as private gardens and houses
8	Small	Elements and spaces of a community scale, such as hamlets, woodland clearings, small field or woodland units
8	Medium	Elements and spaces which are of a moderate scale, in that they are neither extensive nor small
8	Large	Elements and spaces which extend to cause the observer to feel small, such as wide valleys or woodlands
8	Vast	Elements and spaces which are of a regional continuity, such as mountain ranges, extensive forests, plains and large vales.
9	Sense of enclosure	Refers to predominant spatial relationship of observer amongst key elements and spaces - including the horizon, landform and land cover. Relates to likely perception of an observer in the landscape. Considers the <i>likely position</i> of most observers within the Aspect Area.
9	Confined	Presents the likely observer with close spaces such as in thick woodland, narrow corridors or gorges; likely to see relatively little sky.
9	Enclosed	Presents the likely observer with short distance views to a high horizon, such as from most valley bottoms.
9	Open	Presents the likely observer with predominantly eye level horizons, such as lowlands and cliff-less coastal areas.
9	Exposed	Presents the likely observer with far-distance horizons, such as on hill-tops.
10	Diversity	Refers to the diversity of visual elements in the Aspect Area.
10	Uniform	Unvarying in texture, form, colour, etc. With a single recognisable pattern of visual elements.
10	Simple	Little variation in texture, form, colour, etc. With only a narrow range of visual elements.
10	Diverse	Widespread variation in texture, form, colour, etc. With a broad range of visual elements.
10	Complex	Complete variation in texture, form, colour, etc. With little or no recognisable pattern of visual elements.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
11	Texture	Refers to the texture of visual elements in the Aspect Area. Texture can be determined by land cover such as scale and extent of tree cover, natural vegetation, presence of rock exposures, crops or size of fields.
11	Smooth	Consistent cover with smooth appearance e.g. grassland without enclosure.
11	Medium	Moderately textured land cover.
11	Coarse	Land cover with coarse texture due to intrinsic nature of cover e.g., coniferous forestry or variation in land cover such as a mosaic of woodland/grassland
11	Rock exposure	Land cover with significant rock exposures
12	Lines	Refers to the dominant arrangement of lines in the Aspect Area.
12	Straight	Predominantly straight lines such as in a rectilinear field system e.g., levels.
12	Angular	Predominantly straight lines at a variety of angles such as in field system or in a rugged landscape.
12	Curved	Predominantly curved lines possibly dominated by gentle landform.
12	Sinuuous	Predominantly sinuous lines possibly defined by fluvial patterns.
13	Colour	The predominant nature of the colours and contrast between colours or shades within the Area (not just notable colours). Includes all elements in the landscape such as signage, building materials, vegetation. Assessed according to its most common state. A judgement on both colour and contrast is possible.
13	Muted	A predominance of neutral colours or monotones, such as found on hill sides or woodland for most of the year.
13	Colourful	A predominance of more bold colours and tones, such as building materials in rural locations.
13	Garish	A predominance of bold colours with little recognisable pattern, such as commercial signage amid bold natural colours.
13	Moderate contrasts	Moderate contrasts between vegetation types such as bracken, heather and pastures.
13	Strong contrasts	A predominance of bold contrasts between just a few strong colours or tones, such as dark buildings materials against a pale background.
14	Balance	Refers to the balance and interaction of different elements and characteristics of the Area.
14	Harmonious	All the characteristics/elements visually contribute to a harmonious and concordant composition or unity.
14	Balanced	Most characteristics/elements visually contribute to a balanced and even composition or unity.
14	Discordant	Some characteristics/elements visually disrupt and detract from a balanced and even composition or unity.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
14	Chaotic	Characteristics/elements visually compete and disrupt each other to create a chaotic or confused composition.
15	Unity	Refers to the repetition of similar elements or qualities, which give an area a sense of unity. For example, the repetition of materials/detailing such as stonewalls.
15	Unity	An area where there is strong sense of unity and consistency in form and detail
15	Neutral	An area where this is not a significant unity or consistency in form and detail but where it is also not affected by disruptive elements.
15	Disunity	An area where there is significant disruption of sense of unity and lack of consistency.
16	Pattern	Refers to the predominant patterns discernible in the Area.
16	Random	Characteristics/elements do not appear to have a purposeful relationship with each other
16	Organised	Characteristics/elements have a purposeful relationship with each other
16	Regular	Characteristics/elements are ordered and regular.
16	Formal	Characteristics/elements have a formal designed relationship with each other.
17	Seasonal interest	Relates to the question above in that this is primarily an issue of colour, although texture is also considered. This question relates to the presence of elements that might change colour or texture significantly or notably in any season. It requires assessment of significance or notability in that commonplace or unremarkable seasonal interest is not considered.
17	Summer	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in summer.
17	Autumn	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in autumn.
17	Winter	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in winter.
17	Spring	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in spring.
17	Mix	Demonstrates particularly notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in more than one season.
17	None	Demonstrates no notable seasonal interest in terms of changes of colour and/or texture in any season.
18	Level of human access	The effects of human presence in the Area, especially human movement/traffic. May relate strongly to tranquillity.
18	Constant	A constant stream of human movement for most of the day, such as a town centre, motorway or busy main road.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
18	Frequent	A frequent, but interrupted stream of human movement for most of the day, such as busy railway corridor or rural main road.
18	Infrequent	An infrequent flow of human movement for most of the day, such as quiet road or rail corridor, canal, park or footpath, small village or hamlet.
18	Occasional	An occasional presence of human activity of only a few times a week, such as most valley-bottom agricultural areas, or a very quiet rural back road or track.
18	Rare	Only the lightest of human traffic, such as remote hill/mountain tops or unvisited woodland.
19	Unused	Unused question
20	Use of construction materials	Refers to the Visual and Sensory appropriateness of the most recent use of construction materials, such as roofing, walls (including field boundaries where relevant), paving, agricultural development, etc. Based on appropriateness in relation to other local materials and to the creation of a sense of place or definitive <i>local</i> character.
20	Appropriate	Materials used are overwhelmingly in keeping with or more appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
20	Generally appropriate	Materials used are generally in keeping with or more appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
20	Generally inappropriate	Materials used are generally in conflict with or less appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
20	Inappropriate	Materials used are overwhelmingly in conflict with or less appropriate than previous good examples of local materials which define visual character in the study area
21	What materials. Give Details.	List typical materials used in most recent developments.
22	Attractive views (of high scenic quality, variations and typical views)?	Refers to the availability of attractive views from the likely positions of most observers. Attractive here is defined as being of a particularly high scenic quality. If outstanding or high in question 46 scenic quality, a yes is likely to be recorded. Assessor comments are included in the comment box. Also refer to questions 62 to 64 on visible settings and key views.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
23	Detractive views within area (of low or degraded scenic quality, variations and typical views)?	Refers to the availability of detractive views from the likely positions of most observers. Detractive here is defined as being of a particularly low or degraded scenic quality (low in question 46 scenic quality). If low in question 46 scenic quality, a yes is likely to be recorded. Assessor comments are included in the comment box. Also refer to questions 62 to 64 on visible settings and key views.
24	Perceptual and other Sensory Qualities	Refers to other sensory and perceived qualities of the Aspect Area. These are more subjective than the qualities described above but can nevertheless be helpful in defining what is important in an Aspect Area.
24	Tranquil	Sense of peace without disruptive noise or movement. Is the area quiet giving a sense of tranquillity and peace? This is a judgement on site and is not derived from a tranquil area map.
24	Noisy	Is the area noisy and affected by, for instance, busy roads or low flying aircraft?
24	Sheltered	Is the area particularly sheltered?
24	Exposed	Is the area particularly exposed?
24	Safe	Do you feel particularly safe in this area?
24	Threatening	Do you feel threatened in this area? The perceived danger posed by terrain and/or weather or other threat.
24	Remote	Is the area perceived as remote? Remoteness is the physical isolation and removal from the presence of people, infrastructure (roads and railways) and settlement.
24	Settled	Is the area well settled and domestic in character?
24	Wild	Is the area perceived as wild? Wildness is the quality of an area which appears to be uninhabited and is often relatively inaccessible where the influence of human activity on the character and quality of the environment appears to have been minimal.
24	Spiritual	Does the area stimulate a spiritual response?
24	Smell	Is there a particularly distinctive smell in the area?
24	Other	Tick if there are other significant qualities.
24	...Give details:	Give details of the significant qualities giving reasons for your responses.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
25	What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness?	The character of a place that makes it locally distinctive i.e., different from other places. The essential character and spirit of an area (derived from genius loci- literally 'spirit of the place'). It refers to the overall ability of the place to convey a character that is recognisable or distinct at a local level. This is based on the arrangement and relationship of particular elements or qualities discussed above. It is not necessary for that sense of place/local distinctiveness to be based on a positive aesthetic; for instance, a concrete factory in an idyllic valley may have a stronger sense of place than the other idyllic valleys nearby. The judgement is based on the most local context first. However, the sense of place may work at different scales- from regional (e.g., the Valleys) to very local. The former provides a context for the latter.
25	Strong	Exhibits distinctive characteristics that are unique or specific to the study area
25	Moderate	Exhibits common but distinctive characteristics which may be repeated throughout the locality
25	Weak	Exhibits few distinctive characteristics which contribute to a 'sense of place'
25	None	Exhibits no distinctive characteristics
25	Give details	Give details of the characteristics. Do not describe the basis for your judgement, only the characteristics which you judged to be contributing to the local distinctiveness/sense of place.

Table 21: Visual and Sensory Condition

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
26	Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual and sensory features of the area?	Inherent sensitivity, not its capacity for a specific scale and type of development.
27	Condition	Good. The degree to which the physical state of a landscape is soundly managed and in a good state of repair. This includes elements, features, landscape structure and functioning. No potentially significant damaging activities, management, or development. Record opportunities to address specific condition issues in questions 33 to 38.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
27	Condition	Fair and/or variable. The degree to which the physical state of a landscape is soundly managed and in a good state of repair. This includes elements, features, landscape structure and functioning. The character generally remains in a favourable condition, or condition varies across an area e.g., with land ownership. Record opportunities to address specific condition issues in questions 33 to 38.
27	Condition	Poor. The degree to which the physical state of a landscape is soundly managed and in a good state of repair. This includes elements, features, landscape structure and functioning. Significant parts or characteristics have been damaged or lost. Record opportunities to address specific condition issues in questions 33 to 38.
28	Trend	Improving.
28	Trend	Constant.
28	Trend	Declining.

Table 22: Visual and Sensory Recommendations

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
29	Existing management	The appropriateness of existing management to maintain the positive qualities of an area.
30	Management recommendations	Collated recommendations and guidelines to conserve or enhance the area relevant to the LANDMAP dataset.
31	Define the key qualities that should be conserved and enhanced	Qualities that help define the positive character of an area. The terms used include enclosure, intimacy, exposure, wildness, tranquillity etc. Qualities that could be improved.
32	Define the key qualities that should be changed	Qualities that disrupt or detract from the character of an area.
Note	Definition	Elements are the individual parts which make up the landscape e.g., trees, stone walls, buildings Features are prominent or eye-catching elements e.g. church towers, waterfall
33	Define the key elements that should be conserved and enhanced	Elements or features that help define the positive character of an area. The terms used include elements such as trees, hedges, walls etc. Elements that could be improved.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
34	Define the key elements that should be changed	Elements or features which disrupt or detract from the character of an area such as wireless masts, poor development etc.

Table 23: Visual and Sensory Tranquillity & Dark Skies

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
35	Link to Tranquillity & Place Programme Overview and Index. Containing summaries and links relating to themes, indicators, reports, downloads, headlines, StoryMaps, webapps and guidance.	https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/downloads/Tranquillity_Place_Programme_Overview_Index_April_2026.docx
36a to 36h	Dark skies Light Pollution %	% in brightness colour band (with value). Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies. 11365 Wales Dark Skies (arccgis.com). December 2019 VIRS.
37a to 37j	Sound Environment Combined % (Theme 4)	https://naturalresourceswales.sharefile.eu/share/view/s_cb65ef647e91414faa82449c8410704f/fof17cc7-0d05-469d-a183-bd0fb08a28eb
38a to 38j	% in visually tranquil category 1 to 10	% in visually tranquil category, rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined. The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). Dataset version 2. https://www.lucmaps.co.uk/NRW_TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20-%20Theme%205%20Report.pdf
39a to 39j	Tranquillity and Place overall % (Theme 6)	% in overall Tranquillity & Place Theme 6 category, themes 4 combined and 5. The categories range from 1 (least tranquil) to 10 (most tranquil). https://lucmaps.co.uk/NRW_TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20-%20Theme%206%20Report.pdf

Table 24: Visual and Sensory Aspect Area Boundary

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
40	To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Options include levels 1, 2, 3, 4, individual site, none.
41	At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise? (Follows specific landscape elements tracks, hedgerows, contours, land use).	Options include all, most, some, none.
42	What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Options include OS Raster, OS Landline, Aerial photographs, other (e.g., Habitat Network Map)
43	If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	Options include 1:10,000, 1:25,000 or 1:10,000 and 1:25,000.
44	What is the justification for the Aspect Area Boundaries?	Open text box to complete.

Table 25: Visual and Sensory Natural Beauty

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
45	Contribution of this area to natural beauty	Information to include once published.

Table 26: Visual and Sensory Evaluation

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
46	Evaluation criteria: Scenic quality	Outstanding. A landscape offering many scenes of a picturesque quality throughout the area, which are aesthetically pleasing in composition. The area is iconic for these nationally and internationally.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
46	Evaluation criteria: Scenic quality	High. A landscape with some scenes of a picturesque quality, which are aesthetically pleasing in composition. The area is notable for these regionally.
46	Evaluation criteria: Scenic quality	Moderate. Landscapes with a few scenes of a picturesque quality, which are aesthetically pleasing in composition. These areas are notable locally for these.
46	Evaluation criteria: Scenic quality	Low. Landscapes with very limited aesthetically pleasing scenes.
47	Evaluation criteria: Integrity and quality	Outstanding. Characteristic features in good condition and consistent throughout the area, reflecting the intactness of the landscape, which are unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive, or other inharmonious development.
47	Evaluation criteria: Integrity and quality	High. Characteristic features in good condition are not fully consistent across the area, reflecting the relative intactness of the landscape, but are nevertheless mostly unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive, or other inharmonious development.
47	Evaluation criteria: Integrity and quality	Moderate. Some characteristic features remain intact, but others are fragmented, and/or partly spoilt by some large-scale, visually intrusive, or other inharmonious development.
47	Evaluation criteria: Integrity and quality	Low. Few characteristic features remain intact, and these are highly fragmented or spoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive, or other inharmonious development.
48	Evaluation criteria: Character	Outstanding. Landscapes of very distinctive character demonstrating explicit patterns of elements and features that creates a very strong sense of place. These areas are iconic and help define regional, national and international landscape identity.
48	Evaluation criteria: Character	High. Landscapes with distinctive character whose patterns of elements and features make a significant contribution to regional or county sense of place.
48	Evaluation criteria: Character	Moderate. Landscapes with some distinctive characteristics whose patterns of elements and features contribute to a local sense of place.
48	Evaluation criteria: Character	Low. Very little local character in keeping with the natural or built environment. A weak sense of place lacking in distinctive identity.
49	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	Outstanding. Includes characteristic features and qualities that are unique, exceptionally uncommon, or the best example.
49	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	High. Includes characteristic features and qualities features that are uncommon in a regional or county context.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
49	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	Moderate. Includes characteristic features and qualities that although widely distributed may still be of local interest.
49	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	Low. Characteristic features and qualities present are common or widely distributed across the study area (county) or beyond.
50	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	Options include Outstanding, high, moderate, low.
51	Justification of Overall Evaluation.	This summary brings all the criteria text explanations together. This can either be a composite of all four justifications or a précis bringing out the key points.

Table 27: Visual and Sensory Information Sources

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
52	Sources and additional Assessments.	Open text box to complete.
53	Landscape Institute Landscape character assessment database	Check the online resource for Wales for links to other relevant assessments e.g. NLCA, NMCA, LCA, LSCA, management plans, sensitivity assessments https://landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/landscape-character-assessment-lca-database/

Table 28: Visual and Sensory LMP 14 and 09

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
54	LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14)	Description of associated LANDMAP LMP14 classification.
55	LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09)	Description of associated LANDMAP LMP09 classification.

Table 29: Visual and Sensory Unused questions

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
56	Unused	N/A
57	Unused	N/A
58	Unused	N/A
59	Unused	N/A

Table 30: Visual and Sensory SLAs

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
60	Does the area overlap with Special Landscape Areas (SLA)?	2024 change to List the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in this local authority or region
61	Approximately what percentage of the area overlaps with a SLA?	2024 change to SLA policy and resources

Table 32: Visual and Sensory Visible Settings

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
62	Visible settings of LANDMAP V and S areas	PDF link
63	Visible Settings of Designated Landscapes	PDF link
64	Key views into or out from Designated Landscapes	PDF link

Historic Landscape

Table 33: Historic Landscape Monitoring

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
1	Date of monitoring?	Period of time the monitoring update covers.
1a	Monitoring undertaken by	Record all involved in updating and quality assurance.
1b	Has this record been updated following monitoring work?	3 self-explanatory options.
1c	Change indicated by	Information sourced from the monitoring table.
1d	What has changed?	Information sourced from the monitoring table, e.g., classification, boundaries, evaluation.
1e	Has the information been verified in the field? If yes, at what scale has this been verified?	Record if a site survey has been completed.
2	Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area? Which area and what is the nature of the link?	The relationship with adjacent areas can be important in the overall character or connectivity of an area, areas do not necessarily have to be adjacent.

Table 34: Historic Landscape Description

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
3	If classification is other, specify	To be filled in if a classification has been adopted that is not in the existing hierarchy. New terms must be agreed with NRW in advance of their use.
4	Summary description	A description summarising the main historic character of the Area.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
5	If working at Level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area?	In addition to the main classification selected, further patterns can be identified, if relevant, to indicate a more complex relationship influencing the historic landscape character.
6	If working at Level 4, which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area?	Further details, if relevant, to indicate a more complex relationship influencing the historic landscape character.
7	If working at Level 4 only, which building types prevail in the area?	Identify those building styles and materials which are both historically important and which contribute significantly to the historic landscape character of the Area.
8	If working at Level 4 'only', which periods prevail in this area?	Identify the period significant building types date from.
9	If working at Level 4 'only', which architectural types prevail in the area?	Identify which architectural styles are present in the area.
10	If working at Level 4 'only', which what traditional walling materials prevail in the area?	Identify which walling materials are present in the Area.
11	If working at Level 4 'only', which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area?	Identify which roofing materials are present in the area.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
12	Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area?	Identify the traditional boundary types which are both historically important and which contribute significantly to the historic landscape character of the Area.
13	What is the nature of any archaeological interest in the area?	Assess the principal archaeological interest(s), which contribute significantly to the historic landscape character of the area.
14	Which chronological period is visually dominant in the area?	This is not a statement of all chronological evidence; it requires an assessment of the chronological period/s that are significantly relevant to the historical character of the area.
15	Is this a historic landscape character area (HLCA)? If yes, provide detail	This section should be used to record the details of any historic landscape characterisation.
16	HLCA description url	url to website description of HLCA
17	Are there Scheduled Monuments here?	This section records the presence or absence of Scheduled Monuments in the Aspect Area.
18	Are there Listed Buildings here?	This section records the presence or absence of Listed Buildings in the Aspect Area.
19	Are there registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?	This section records the presence or absence of Registered Parks and Gardens wholly or partly within the Aspect Area.
20	Are there Conservation Areas here?	This section records the presence or absence of Conservation Areas wholly or partly within the Aspect Area.
20a	Are there Historic Battlefields here?	
21	Are there World Heritage Sites here?	This section records the presence or absence of World Heritage Sites wholly or partly within the Aspect Area.
22	Is this within a Registered Historic Landscape (RHL)?	This section records the presence or absence of Registered Historic Landscapes wholly or partly within the Aspect Area.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
22a	Registered Historic Landscape description	To include 150 word summary of RHL and url to full RHL description

Table 35: Historic Landscape Condition

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
23	Unused question	Unused question
24	Condition	Good. No significant potentially damaging activities, management or development.
24	Condition	Fair. The character generally remains in a favourable condition.
24	Condition	Poor. Significant parts or characteristics have been damaged or lost.
25	Trend	Improving.
25	Trend	Constant.
25	Trend	Declining.

Table 36: Historic Landscape Recommendations

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
26	Existing management	The appropriateness of existing management to maintain the positive qualities of an area.
27	Management recommendations	Comments on current management and its effect. Recommendation to improve the current management relevant to the LANDMAP dataset. Practical actions that need to be taken to conserve or enhance the area relevant to the LANDMAP dataset.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
28	Sector Adaptation Plan	Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaptation Plan. https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2020-02/Adaptation%20Plan%20-%20FINAL%20WEB%20-%20English%20%281%29.pdf Assessment of likely impacts of climate change on historic assets and significance p8-11. Buildings and Settlements p23 Marginal and upland p26 Marine and coastal p28 Rivers, canals and freshwater p30 Farmland p33 Woodland p36 Industrial landscapes p38 Designed landscapes, parks and gardens p40 Historic landscapes p42
29	Unused question	Unused question

Table 37: Historic Landscape Aspect area boundary

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
30	To what level was this information site-surveyed?	Options include levels 1, 2, 3, 4, individual site, none.
31	At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise? (Follows specific landscape elements tracks, hedgerows, contours, land use).	Options include all, most, some, none.
32	What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?	Options include OS Raster, OS Landline, Aerial photographs, other (e.g., Habitat Network Map)
33	If OS Data was used, what was the scale?	Options include 1:10,000, 1:25,000 or 1:10,000 and 1:25,000.
34	What is the justification for the Aspect Area Boundaries?	Open text box to complete.

Table 38: Historic Landscape Evaluation

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
35	Evaluation criteria: Integrity	The integrity of an Aspect Area relates to its overall 'completeness'. This is assessed by the visibility and legibility of the components or elements of the Dominant Landscape Pattern (at Level 3) or the Historic Landscape Detail (at Level 4). Greater visibility and legibility generally increase the potential for the historic landscape to be easily understood by the non-specialist and hence enhance its value. It is not necessarily about the physical survival of individual elements (which is quantified elsewhere), but about the overall survival of the landscape pattern or detail as measured through the identification of its components, which might be both physical (for example fields systems, archaeological features or buildings) and associative (for example particular institutions, cultural figures or historical events). It may even be that historical processes and patterns have been maintained, or continue, so that the Aspect Area retains much of its original character, thus also enhancing its Integrity.
35	Evaluation criteria: Integrity	Outstanding. Pattern and/or Detail highly visible and easily understood; Aspect Area retaining most of its original character, form and function.
35	Evaluation criteria: Integrity	High. Pattern and/or Detail visible and fairly easily understood; Aspect Area retaining much of its original character, form and function.
35	Evaluation criteria: Integrity	Moderate. Pattern and/or Detail visible, but not easily understood Aspect Area retaining only some of its original character, form and function.
35	Evaluation criteria: Integrity	Low. Pattern and/or Detail not particularly visible and difficult to understand; Aspect Area retaining little or nothing of its original character, form and function.
36	Evaluation criteria: Survival	This relates to the degree of survival of individual elements and components present in the Aspect Area. In instances where the original extent or numbers are known (for example, traditional field boundaries for which there may be detailed mapped evidence), it may be possible to measure this quantitatively, but failing this estimates should be made.
36	Evaluation criteria: Survival	Outstanding. More than 90% of visible elements surviving.
36	Evaluation criteria: Survival	High. Between 71% and 90% of visible elements surviving.
36	Evaluation criteria: Survival	Moderate. Between 51% and 70% of visible elements surviving.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
36	Evaluation criteria: Survival	Low. Between 26% and 50% of visible elements surviving.
37	Evaluation criteria: Condition	This relates to the condition of those elements and components that survive in the Aspect Area, as a measure of overall condition. It is therefore not the same as the survival of individual elements – 100% of an Aspects Area’s components may survive but they may all be in a poor condition.
37	Evaluation criteria: Condition	Outstanding. Elements surviving in very good condition for their class.
37	Evaluation criteria: Condition	High. Elements surviving in good or above average condition for their class.
37	Evaluation criteria: Condition	Moderate. Elements surviving in moderate or average condition for their class.
37	Evaluation criteria: Condition	Low. Elements surviving in fair or below average condition for their class.
38	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	This relates to the rarity of the Aspect Area. This should be assessed against the Aspect Areas of the same type in the study area, as long as the study area is of sufficient size to make the comparison meaningful. Producing thematic maps based on the hierarchical classification can assist with this assessment. Care must also be taken here to compare like with like. For example, many rural areas classified at Level 3 will contain large numbers of Irregular fieldscapes, but these are not necessarily all the same thing – they may result from combinations of radically different Level 4 classes, for example. A certain amount of professional judgment will be required here to ensure a sensible result is achieved.
38	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	Outstanding. Includes features of exceptional historic importance which are nationally or internationally rare or unique.
38	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	High. Includes features that are historically rare or exceptional in a regional context.
38	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	Moderate. Includes features that although being widely distributed regionally, may still be of local interest.
38	Evaluation criteria: Rarity	Low. Features present are widely distributed regionally and but better elsewhere.
39	Evaluation criteria: Potential	This relates to the potential within the landscape for future study and analysis and for the potential of elements that might be, or already are, developed as a public educational and recreational amenity.
39	Evaluation criteria: Potential	Outstanding. Wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and /or its potential amenity value.
39	Evaluation criteria: Potential	High. Considerable scope for future historic landscape study and /or its potential amenity value.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
39	Evaluation criteria: Potential	Moderate. Some scope for future historic landscape study and /or its potential amenity value.
39	Evaluation criteria: Potential	Low. Little scope for future historic landscape study and /or its potential amenity value.
40	Evaluation criteria: Overall Evaluation	The Aspect Specialist should evaluate each Aspect Area according to the criteria and rationale above and should assess the Level of intrinsic value against each criterion, and then accord an overall evaluation. To enable the overall evaluation to be determined, a crude mechanism would be to allow a score ranging from 1 for each Low (or Poor) to 4 for each Outstanding with each score then being added to the overall total. This gives an overall range from 5-20. This range of 16 points can be divided into four bands of four allowing the allocation of an Overall Evaluation. Outstanding 17 to 20, High 13 to 16, Moderate 9 to 12, Low 5 to 8.
41	Justification of Overall Evaluation.	The evaluation must be clearly justified and explained in the survey.

Table 39: Historic Landscape Information Sources

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
42	Sources and additional assessments.	Open text box to complete.

Table 40: Historic Landscape Living Heritage

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
43	Are there any art/artistic expressions associated with the landscape/area?	For example, where connected to the landscape or landscape scale. Art, painting, sketches, engravings, carvings, reliefs, sculpture, ceramics and glass, film and photography, commercial art, commemorative art, pop art. Literature. narrative, prose, historic tour, local/parish history, poetry, drama, oral. Music, choral, classical, folk, popular, dance. Drama, classical theatre, theatr gwerin, pageants, processions. Requires desk work and local knowledge.
44	Are there any folklore/legends associated with the landscape/area?	For example, where connected to the landscape or landscape scale. Folk tales and stories, myths and legends, traditions and beliefs, superstitions, games, events. Requires desk work and local knowledge.

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
45	Are there any events/traditions associated with the landscape/area?	For example, where connected to the landscape or landscape scale.
46	Are any famous people associated with the landscape/area?	historical; scientific; 'Dyn y Ddafad Wylt'/medical; 'DynHysbys'/witchcraft; tinkers/travellers; religious; literary; poet; bard; artist; sculptor; composer; politician; education & welfare; industrialist; sportsman; Pop, TV, film star
47	Are there any technical / scientific discoveries associated with the landscape/area?	Geological; botanical; wildlife; scientific & technological; medical
48	List of Historic Placenames	https://rcahmw.gov.uk/discover/list-of-historic-place-names/

Cultural Landscape Services

For a fuller explanation of the data within Cultural Landscape Services the following two evidence reports will be useful.

You can download the LANDMAP Cultural landscape services evidence report 336 from: [Natural Resources Wales / Publications about landscape, geology, soils and features of historic interest](#)

You can download the LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Cultural Heritage and Sense of Place and Belonging II evidence report 347, published in 2019: [Natural Resources Wales / Publications about landscape, geology, soils and features of historic interest](#)

Table 41: Cultural Landscape Services Details

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
1	Night-time light pollution	Visual and Sensory question 19
2	Attractive views	Visual and Sensory question 22
3	What are attractive views of/to?	Field work or local knowledge required.
4	Perceptual and other Sensory Qualities	Visual and Sensory question 24

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
5	Additional cultural, perceptual and sensory qualities and comment	Field work or local knowledge required.
6	Wales Tranquil Area Assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban)	Calculated from Wales Tranquil Areas 2009, LUC_TYPE in TranquilAreasWales
7	International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve	Boundaries provided by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Elan Valley Trust and Snowdonia National Park Authority
8	What is the sense of place/ local distinctiveness	Visual and Sensory question 25
9	What contributes to sense of place/ distinctiveness	Field work or local knowledge required.
10	Visual and Sensory landscape evaluation	Visual and Sensory question 50
11	Justification of Visual and Sensory landscape value	Visual and Sensory question 51
12	Scenic quality	Visual and Sensory question 46
13	Character	Visual and Sensory question 48
14	Geological Landscape evaluation	Geological Landscape question 33
15	Landscape Habitats evaluation	Landscape Habitats question 45
16	Historic Landscape evaluation	Historic Landscape question 40

Question number	Question	Definition/answer options
17	Are there any art/artistic expressions associated with the landscape/area?	For example, where connected to the landscape or landscape scale. Art, painting, sketches, engravings, carvings, reliefs, sculpture, ceramics and glass, film and photography, commercial art, commemorative art, pop art. Literature. narrative, prose, historic tour, local/parish history, poetry, drama, oral. Music, choral, classical, folk, popular, dance. Drama, classical theatre, theatr gwerin, pageants, processions. Requires desk work and local knowledge.
19	Are there any folklore/legends associated with the landscape/area?	For example, where connected to the landscape or landscape scale. Folk tales and stories, myths and legends, traditions and beliefs, superstitions, games, events. Requires desk work and local knowledge.
21	Are there any events/traditions associated with the landscape/area?	For example, where connected to the landscape or landscape scale.
22	No question	Question not yet used
23	World Heritage Sites present	Identifying any overlap with a World Heritage Site.
24	Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority	Sourced from https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/National-Identity/nationalidentity-by-year-identity
25	Welsh language in the authority	Sourced from https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/National-Identity/nationalidentity-by-year-identity
26	HER entries	Sourced from Historic Environment Record (HER).
27	Cultural Heritage comment	Sourced from Historic Environment Record (HER).
28	% HER classes represented >1%	Sourced from Historic Environment Record (HER).
29	Archaeological Watching Briefs	Sourced from Historic Environment Record (HER).
30	Archaeological Excavations	Sourced from Historic Environment Record (HER).