Gower Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Caravan and Camping Sites

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Tourism has a key role to play in the County's economy and it is acknowledged that the caravan and camping industry provides a valuable tourism offer for visitors, particularly within the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In order to develop a sustainable tourism industry, it is important that tourism does not have a harmful impact on the very environment that attracts visitors in the first place.
- 1.2 The Gower Landscape Character Assessment (LCAS) (2013) clearly shows that the presence of caravan and camp sites in certain circumstances can be detrimental to the landscape beauty of the AONB. As a result of the Gower LCAS, it was decided to undertake a more detailed Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study which would focus on the caravan and camping industry on Gower. It would identify which areas are at landscape capacity, in terms of caravan and camping sites, and which areas might have potential for planned expansion of facilities, whilst taking account of the capacity and suitability of the area to accommodate such expansion.
- 1.3 This Landscape Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites Study (Capacity Study) was commissioned by the City and County of Swansea Council (CCS) in January 2013. The Capacity Study has three main purposes:
- To assess the landscape capacity for caravan and camp site provision on and around Gower;
- (ii) To provide a background paper for the Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP), which will inform the preparation of policy relating to caravan and camp site provision within Gower;
- (iii) To provide baseline data, in conjunction with the Gower LCAS, to facilitate future monitoring of caravan and camp site provision and the assessment of its impact on the Gower landscape.
- 1.4 It must be recognised that the identification of areas which can accommodate new sites - or the expansion of existing sites within this Study does not indicate a presumption in favour of such development. The Capacity Study provides only one material consideration (a Landscape Capacity Study) for assessing

planning applications for caravan and camping sites, and many porary nature, provided that suitable mitigation measures are inother issues will also be relevant, such as transport or utilities in- corporated. frastructure.

1.5 The Capacity Study builds on work already undertaken during the Gower LCAS process and consists of two key related

Area identified by the Gower LCAS, in terms of its landscape capacity to accommodate additional caravan and camp sites without detriment to its landscape character and the identified special qualities of the AONB underpinning that character.

Stage 2: For those Landscape Character Areas which are considerations in the planning process. identified as having some potential capacity for additional their landscape character, a more detailed evaluation of existing caravan and camp sites was undertaken. This inmade recommendations as to remedial landscape treatments, as well as identifying the most appropriate locations (from a landscape perspective) for any expansion to their area, or for the development of new sites.

- 1.6 The Gower LCAS process identified 41 discrete Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) of varying size within the Gower AONB and that area of Swansea which is contiguous with the AONB to the north of the boundary. The Stage 1 Capacity Study identified 11 of these LCAs as having some potential capacity for the provision of additional planned caravan and/or camping facilities with- base. out general detriment to their landscape character.
- 1.7 Stage 2 of the Capacity Study has looked in more detail at each of these 11 LCAs. This includes observations on existing caravan and camp sites, identifying the most suitable locations (from a landscape perspective) for any expansion to their area, or for the development of new sites, appropriate to the LCA characteristics. It also includes an appraisal of temporary, small scale camping/caravan sites which could operate in peak periods in response to increase demand, noting whether such sites would have a less significant impact on the landscape, due to their tem-

- 1.8 It should be noted that detailed reference to underlying LANDMAP Aspect Data is required when considering the detailed assessment of landscape character in relation to any given development proposal or land management activity. In addition, the Stage 1: A broad assessment of each Landscape Character whole of Gower has been subject to detailed Historic Landscape Characterisation, and this important historical and archaeological resource should also be utilised in the land use, development and land management context. This resource is accessible via the Gwent Glamorgan Archaeological Trust (GGAT). The Registered Historic Landscapes at West Gower and Cefn Bryn are material
- caravan and campsite provision without general detriment to 1.9 The special qualities of the landscape have also been described in summary form, abstracted from information provided by the Gower Landscape Partnership. These are important in volved observations on problematic existing sites and has determining planning policy objectives in the emerging LDP and informing the production of subsequent revisions to the statutory AONB Management Plan.
 - 1.10 As a follow-on from this Capacity Study, in statutory land use planning terms, this document has two potential roles. Under the emerging City and County of Swansea LDP, following appropriate public consultation, it may be adopted as the basis for specific Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG); and it may also be formally incorporated into the adopted LDP with the status of a Background Paper forming part of the required sound evidence

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Tourism has a key role to play in the County's economy and in 2012 tourism expenditure was £337.13million and supported some 5,390 jobs (STEAM 2012). It is acknowledged that the caravan and camping industry provides a valuable tourism option for visitors to the County, particularly within the Gower Area of outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and contributes significantly to the local economy. However, in order to develop a sustainable tourism industry, it is important that tourism does not have harmful effects on the very environment that attracts visitors in the first place.
- 2.2 Caravan and camp sites within the Gower AONB vary considerably in their size, character and setting. Many of the sites have a long history and are 'established' in planning terms; however, some have little integration into the landscape. The main purpose of AONB's is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated area and the landscape has a finite capacity to accommodate new development without having a detrimental impact. The Capacity Study is therefore intended to help develop an understanding of how the landscape of the Gower AONB can accommodate sustainable tourism growth without destroying its character.

Background

- 2.3 This Capacity Study follows on from, and is based upon, the Gower Landscape Character Assessment Study (LCAS). It has been undertaken by John Campion Associates in accordance with current guidance and best practice, principally *Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity* [Countryside Agency and SNH 2004]; and the *LCA Topic Paper 6 Summary Sheet* [Natural England 2006].
- 2.4 The study encompasses all of the area of the Gower

AONB and land to the north of the AONB boundary as far as the main railway line between Gowerton and Loughor and including Clyne Valley Country Park.

National and Local Planning Framework

- 2.5 Paragraph 5.3.5 of Planning Policy Wales (6th Edition, February 2014) states that the primary objective for designating AONBs is the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty. Development plan policies and development management decisions affecting AONBs should favour conservation of natural beauty, although it will also be appropriate to have regard to the economic and social well-being of the areas. Local authorities, other public bodies and other relevant authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to AONB purposes. Paragraph 5.3.6 also notes that National Parks and AONBs are of equal status in terms of landscape and scenic beauty and both must be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate developments. Paragraph 5.3.7 states that the duty to have regard to National 3.1 Park and AONB purposes applies to activities affecting these areas, whether those activities lie within or outside the designated areas.
- 2.6 The current development plan for the City and County of Swansea is the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) which contains policies reflecting the duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. The Council is currently preparing the Local Development Plan which will replace the UDP once adopted. The LDP must have a sound evidence base and a key issue for plan preparation will be landscape, especially its character and sensitivity to development, and its capacity to absorb change without detriment to its character. The Council is also reviewing the Management Plan for the Gower AONB a statutory 5-year management plan which sets out a vision for the AONB.

- 2.7 It is intended that the Landscape Character Assessment arising from this Study will form a Background Evidence Paper to support policies contained within the emerging LDP and, following appropriate public consultation, may form the basis of specific Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the LDP, once it has been adopted.
- 2.8 It must be recognised that the identification of areas which can accommodate new sites or the expansion of existing sites within this Study does not indicate a presumption in favour of such development. The Capacity Study provides only one material consideration (a *Landscape* Capacity Study) for assessing planning applications for caravan and camping sites, and many other issues will also be relevant, such as transport or utilities infrastructure.

3. The Study Brief

- 3.1 The Study has three main purposes:
 - (i) To assess the landscape sensitivity to, and capacity for, changes in caravan and camp site provision on and around Gower:
 - (ii) To provide a background paper for the Swansea LDP, which will inform the preparation of policy relating to caravan and camp site provision within Gower;
 - (iii) To provide baseline data, in conjunction with the Gower LCAS, to facilitate future monitoring of caravan and camp site provision and assessment of its impact on the Gower landscape.
- 3.2 The Study has built on work already undertaken on the Gower LCAS and consists of two key stages:
 - (i) Stage 1: A broad assessment of each Landscape Character Area, in terms of its landscape capacity to accommodate additional caravan and campsites without detriment to its landscape character and the identified special qualities of the AONB underpinning that character. The assessment takes into consideration the scope for

- mitigation measures.
- Stage 2: A more detailed evaluation of those Landscape additional caravan and campsite provision without general detriment to their landscape character. This includes observations on existing caravan and camp sites, identifying the most suitable locations (from a landscape perspective) for any expansion to their area, or for the development of new sites, appropriate to the LCA characteristics. This also includes an appraisal of temporary, small scale camping/caravan sites which could operate in peak periods in response to increase demand, noting whether such sites would have a less significant impact on the landscape, due to their temporary nature.

Details on mitigation measures required to accommodate such new sites or expansions are included, including a consideration of the visual impact of the additional infrastructure requirements to facilitate the additional provision, for example, highways widening, tree/ hedgerow removal, additional permanent on-site structures, etc.

- Stage 2 of the Study has taken account of the presence of three different kinds of sites occurring within Gower:
 - Permanent Sites for visitors only (non-residential) for camping and/or caravans;
 - (1-5 units), which could operate in peak periods in redue to their temporary nature and encourage agricul- data. tural diversification:
 - Residential Sites with de facto permanent occupation so-called 'static caravans'.

4. The Study Methodology

sensitivity, visual sensitivity and landscape value, and is defined relating generally to the provision of caravan and camping sites in by current research and guidance as follows:

type or area to that type of change, which will reflect the sensitivity of individual aspects of landscape character including landform, land cover, enclosure, form and pattern, tree cover, settlement form and pattern, and other characcharacter, including for example, its scale, complexity, and tion indicated]:

the Visual Sensitivity to that type of change, which will reflect, for each landscape type or area; general visibility, influenced by landform and tree and woodland cover, the • Landform - Level topography will generally have greater sensipresence and size of populations of different types, and po-tivity than rolling topography [VS4]; tential for mitigation of visual impacts, without the mitigation in itself causing unacceptable effects.

the Value attached to each landscape, which will reflect: national designations based on landscape value; other pattern/mosaic and woodland [VS5 and VS16]; iudgements about value based either on a 'Quality of Life . Scale - Small scale landscapes will generally have greater Assessment', or on consideration of a range of appropriate criteria relating to landscape value."

4.2 A desk-based exercise was undertaken in 2013, following Temporary Sites for seasonal occupation only. This the methodology outlined below, based upon the guidance set would include an appraisal of existing and potential new out in Topic Paper 6. Although this is guidance produced for temporary, small scale camping/touring caravan sites England and Scotland, there is no equivalent guidance for Wales. It included a review of the Gower LCAS, analysis of main sponse to increased demand, and whether such sites issues arising from the scrutiny of aerial photographs [both vertiwould have a less significant impact on the landscape, cal and oblique] and reference to current published LANDMAP

> 4.3 Targeted fieldwork was then carried out by a team of three experienced chartered landscape architects - John Campion CMLI, Tony Jellard CMLI and Rob Malcomson CMLI – in order to verify the finding of the desk study, and to inform the potential for landscape mitigation measures appropriate to each identified can-

didate Landscape Character Area. The fieldwork included visits to selected existing caravan and camping sites within Gower, and Character Areas identified as having some capacity for 4.1 Landscape capacity is a function of landscape character was key to analysing the significant landscape and visual issues Gower.

> "the Landscape Character Sensitivity of each landscape 4.4 The desk-based exercise primarily involved scrutiny of the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area data, to inform the following key criteria in determining landscape sensitivity, visual sensitivity, and evaluation, as detailed below [with the correspondteristic elements, and the aesthetic aspects of landscape ing LANDMAP Collector Visual & Sensory - VS - data capture sec-

Landscape Sensitivity

- Land cover and pattern Open land largely devoid of high cover will generally have a greater sensitivity than a regular field
- sensitivity than large scale landscapes [VS8];
- Enclosure Open landscapes will generally have greater sensitivity than enclosed landscapes [VS9];
- Sense of Place Areas identified as having a strong sense of place/character will generally be more sensitive than those with a weak sense of place [VS25].

It should be noted that under the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (April 2013) landscape sensitivity equates to the term susceptibility.

Visual Sensitivity

- Scenic Quality Areas of high scenic quality are more visually sensitive [VS46];
- Residential Receptors the presence of these in any given area will increase visual sensitivity, since residential receptors are

ascribed inherent high sensitivity in landscape and visual impact round). These include so-called 'static caravans' - which would en- sited poorly without suitable landform design as mitigation; assessment:

nated Open Access Land.

Value

- Evaluation High values will decrease the overall landscape capacity. Although this is primarily based upon the Visual & Sensory Aspect Area values, all other Aspect Area data is taken into consideration, especially the Historical Landscape data, which in 4.6 It follows that there may be some capacity for small scale 5.1 The following concise Landscape Character Area dethemselves take account of Registered Historic Landscapes in Gower and other heritage assets. It should be noted that much of Gower's Cultural Landscape value is assessed as being outstanding or high, and so we do not regard Cultural Landscape value in itself to be a determining factor of high value and therefore an indicator of low landscape capacity in itself.
- 4.5 Topic Paper 6 notes in paragraph 3.5 that 'capacity studies' must be specific to a particular type of change or development.' It is therefore necessary to specify key aspects of the specific change or development that are likely to have an impact on the landscape. The potential effects arising from caravan and camping sites on the Gower landscape relate directly to the siting, massing, scale and colour of caravan sites and the duration of their positioning at the respective site. The assessment of the can occur; landscape capacity of any given Landscape Character Area to ac- • Creation of an urban-type sprawl, with no defined settlement cept caravan and camping sites requires a judgement to be made edge; which requires no detriment to landscape character, or to the . Creation of significant light pollution in otherwise substantially identified AONB Special Qualities. This assumes that significant tranquil areas; adverse landscape and visual effects result from larger caravan • Pale colours and reflective finishes which draw the eye and site, finished in pale colours and reflective finishes, and placed tion backdrops; permanently on the site (though not necessarily occupied all year • Sites not being assimilated into the surrounding topography, or

compass chalet-type developments - where the form of such . No use of natural or planted screening or, where vegetated • Recreational Receptors – the presence of these will increase structures is effectively the same as a small bungalow, with the boundaries exist, these are in poor condition, poorly managed and visual sensitivity - particularly National and Regional Trails, pro- consequence that they have the potential for an urbanising effect lacking hedgerow trees and appropriate evergreen components; moted viewpoints - together with public rights of way and desig- if closely spaced. Larger touring caravans placed on sites for sev- • Sited too near to the coastal edge, so that they form the skyeral weeks or months at a time have similar potential impacts, line in coastal views, especially when viewed from lower elevawhereas small touring caravans parked for limited periods - and tions, such as on beaches and lower cliff paths; tented camp sites - have far less potential for adverse landscape . Over-engineered entrances which are discordant in relation to and visual impacts and can be more widely accommodated with- local landscape character or scenic quality. out adverse impacts, depending upon their individual scale, siting and designed mitigation measures.

- and visual mitigation measures are built into the proposed devel- the Landscape Character Areas under consideration. opment. This is a topic for Stage 2 of the Capacity Study.
- 4.7 Set out below is a Summary of the Key Landscape and Visual Issues arising from Existing Caravan Sites:
- Massing they are frequently packed into fields with no internal structure planting to break- up the mass, and often caravans of chalets are sited hard up against the boundaries, affording no buffering effects against adjoining land;
- 'Stacking' up hillsides often to a great extent thus increasing the incongruous and intrusive landscape and visual effects which

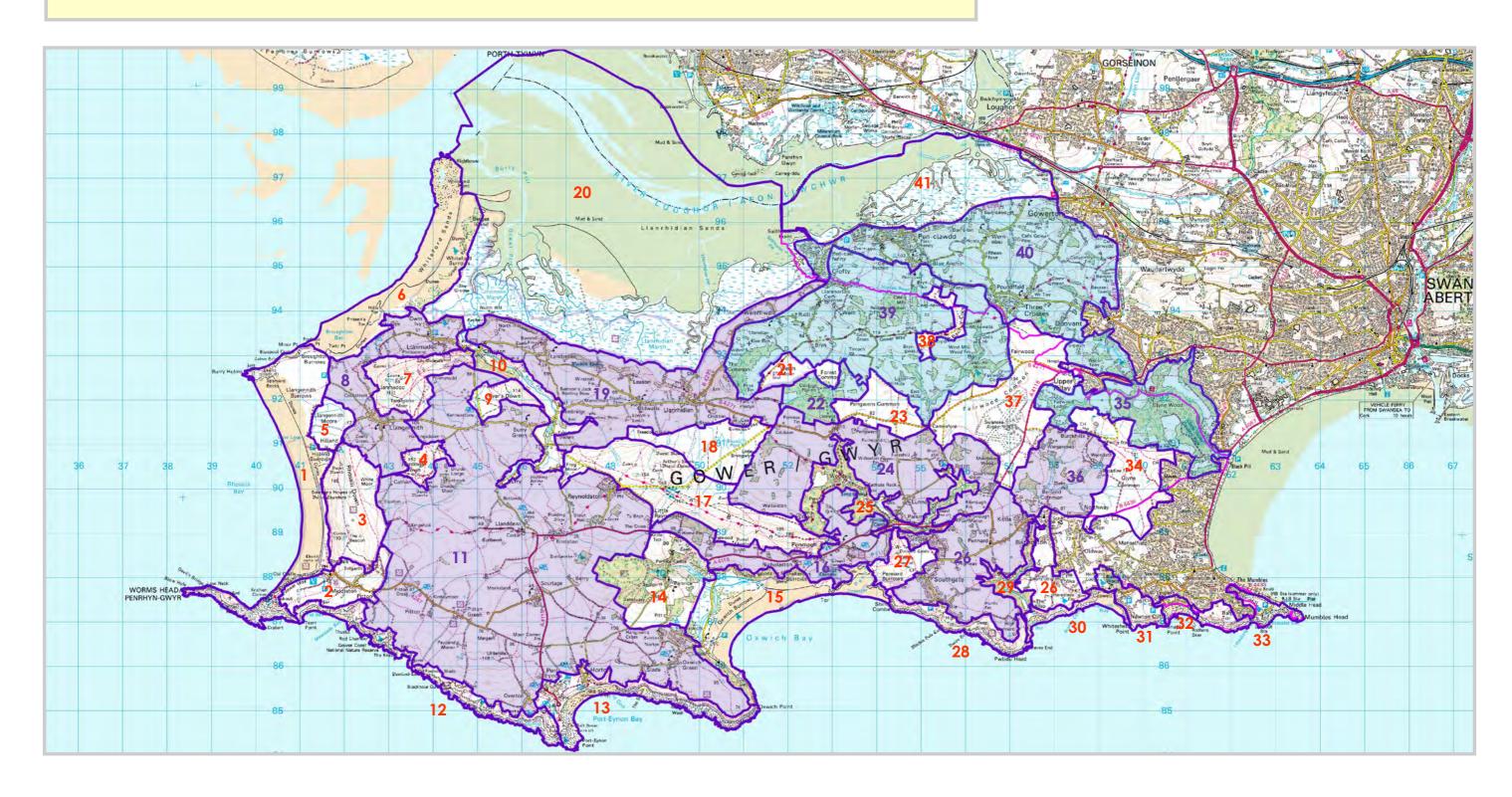
- sites which have the biggest caravans, closely spaced within the stand out, in stark contrast to the muted colours of land or vegeta-

5. Stage 1 Landscape Capacity Appraisal

- touring caravan sites with seasonal occupancy and tented camp- scriptions must be read in conjunction with the Final Gower ing sites within sensitive Landscape Character Areas with no ca- LCAS Report, together with the accompanying map of the pacity for large caravan sites, provided that substantial landscape Gower LCAS study area, which shows the disposition all of
 - 5.2 This boundary information has been fully digitised onto a 1:50000 Ordnance Survey map base.

The map overleaf shows the distribution and boundaries of the constituent Gower Landscape Character Areas. Each has been identified and coloured as to its level of potential capacity to accommodate additional caravan or camping sites without detriment to the conservation of the natural beauty of the **Gower AONB**

Landscape Capacity - Gower Landscape Character Areas











Landscape Character Areas - Landscape **Capacity Appraisal**

LCA 1 Rhossili Bay

5.3 This long arc of sandy beach, backed by the sharply rising popular visitor destination within Gower and has very attractive the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landlandform of Rhossili Down, and to the north by the sand dunes at outward views, especially to Worms Head. Llangennith Burrows, already partially contains a substantial and wise substantially tranquil area of Gower and visible from Rhossili recreational receptors with high visual sensitivity. itself. It has outstanding Visual and Sensory, Geological and Historical Landscape values and it lies wholly within the West Gower LCA 3 Rhossili Down section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Out- 5.7 A distinctive tract of prominent upland forming the western- in Wales. standing Importance in Wales.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.4 There is no capacity for extension to the Hillend site or for any new caravan and camping site development in this highly sensitive Landscape Character Area (LCA). The promoted Wales Coast Path is an important linear recreational receptor with high sensitivity, and there is a high degree of visibility into the area ern end of Rhossili Down. from the high Open Access Land on Rhossili Down adjacent to ing The Vile. The area is highly visible from the promoted Wales Coast Path and the Gower Way, important linear recreational receptors with high visual sensitivity. As an important landscape quality improvement measure, remedial landscape and visual mitigation measures need to be applied to the existing Hillend site.

LCA 2 Rhossili & Middleton

contain a permanently occupied caravan and camping site. It is with high visual sensitivity. It has outstanding Visual and Sensory, substantially unspoilt and the scenic quality is high. It is a highly Geological and Historic Landscape values and it lies wholly within

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

highly visible caravan and camping site at Hillend below the north- 5.6 It is not considered that there is any potential capacity for LCA 4 Hardings Down ern end of Rhossili Down. This large caravan and camping site is proposed sites, due to the potential intrusion on the important his- 5.9 This small inland LCA with rough grazing and a number of poorly sited and visually intrusive, since it has no apparent land- toric sites (especially The Vile) and the high scenic quality of this important prehistoric sites is an open, highly exposed hill landscape assimilation features - either planting or landform modelling. open landscape, which is a major visitor destination within Gower scape, with views into it from a wide area and a remote feel to it. In particular, the conspicuous densely-packed static caravans ap- AONB, the starting point of the Gower Way and which has iconic The area is substantially unspoilt and its scenic quality is high. pear to 'stack' up the lower slopes of Rhossili Down, resulting in a landforms and seascape elements. It also has outstanding Hishighly incongruous appearance. This creates an urbanising effect toric Landscape value and it lies wholly within the West Gower 5.10 It does not contain a caravan and camping site, and it is not in an otherwise highly rural location, with no nearby settlement section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Out- considered that there is any potential capacity for proposed sites. other than a scattering of farmsteads and houses. There are also standing Importance in Wales. The area is highly visible from the It is also designated as Open Access Land, thus affording a high concerns about light pollution from the caravan site in an other- promoted Wales Coast Path and the Gower Way, important linear degree of public accessibility and a resultant high level of recrea-

most high ground of the Gower peninsula. Providing the high backdrop to Rhossili Bay, there is a strong coastal sense of place LCA 5 Llangennith Moors in this area of open, exposed rough grazing grassland, which is 5.11 This is a distinctive area of rare lowland moorland within substantially common land. This area does not contain a perma- Gower, lying at the back of extensive dune systems at Broughton nently occupied caravan and camping site, but the large and con- and Hillend. The caravan parks in the wider locality that are conspicuous Hillend caravan site abuts the lower slopes at the north-spicuous in certain views are discordant elements in an otherwise

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

proposed sites, due to the highly open landscape and resulting madoc Hill. potential intrusion on the important historic sites and the high scenic quality of this area. It is also designated as Open Access 5.12 It is not considered that there is any potential capacity here

ern slopes are also highly visible from a long section of the pro-5.5 This gently rolling farmland with a coastal character does not moted Wales Coast Path, an important linear recreational receptor scape of Outstanding Importance in Wales.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

tional receptor sensitivity. It also has outstanding Historic Landscape value and lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance

balanced landscape, which is relatively flat, open and highly visible from surrounding areas, especially the Open Access Land on the east and from the promontory west of Rhossili village, includ- 5.8 It is not considered that there is any potential capacity for the higher ground of Rhossili Down, Hardings Down and Llan-

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

Land, thus affording a high degree of public accessibility and a for proposed sites, due to the potential intrusion on the qualities of resultant high level of recreational receptor sensitivity. The west- this small scale and relatively rare landscape of reclaimed and ceptor with high visual sensitivity.

form of the seasonally-occupied tented camping site to the north toric settlement known as The Bulwark. of the static caravan site, but also in the form of large permanent buildings which are communal site facilities and infrastructure. As 5.17 This distinctive upland area does not contain a caravan and noted for the Rhossili Bay LCA above, an important landscape camping site. It is not considered that there is any potential capacwhich is a topic for detailed design considerations.

LCA 6 Whiteford

which lies the Loughor Estuary, does not contain a caravan and in Wales. camping site. There are adjacent caravan parks - at Broughton Burrows and Whiteford Bay – and these are discordant elements LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc in certain views.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

the sand dunes. It has outstanding Visual and Sensory, Geologi- Broughton Burrows and Llanmadoc Camping and Caravan Site. cal and Historic Landscape values and it lies wholly within the tant linear recreational receptor with high visual sensitivity.

LCA 7 Llanmadoc Hill

drained wetland in Gower. It also has outstanding Historic Land- 5.16 This LCA is a distinctive upland area rising to 185m AOD scape value and lies wholly within the West Gower section of the which is strongly influenced by its coastal proximity. It has ex- 5.20 This Landscape Character Area has a landscape character Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance posed bracken and rough grazing grassland on a prominent hill sensitivity which ranges from medium to high. Its visual sensitivity in Wales. The area is highly visible from a nearby section of the near to the coast, from which there are accessible attractive views also ranges from medium to high. The resultant landscape sensipromoted Wales Coast Path, an important linear recreational re- out to sea, out onto Llanrhidian Marshes and the Loughor Estuary. tivity is medium-high and, when combined with the high landscape The area is substantially designated as Open Access Land. It is value, results in an overall landscape capacity which is low. The largely unspoilt and a number of small settlements at the base of key points are as follows:

5.13 It is noted that Hillend caravan site already encroaches onto the hill are not significant detractors. It includes at its eastern end, • the southern edge of the Llangennith Moors LCA, not just in the to the south west of Cheriton village, the imposing fortified prehis-

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

quality improvement measure would be remedial landscape and ity for proposed caravan and camping sites, due to the intrusion visual mitigation measures applied to the existing Hillend site, on the important historic sites and scenic qualities of this area. It is designated as Open Access Land, thus affording a high degree of public accessibility and a consequent high level of recreational receptor sensitivity. It also has outstanding Historic Landscape 5.14 This LCA is based upon its long sandy beach, backed by value and it lies wholly within the West Gower section of the sand dunes with distinctive belts of coniferous woodland, beyond Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance

coastal sense of place, with attractive long views out over the underlying LANDMAP data, including 'High' Visual and Sensory, 5.15 It is not considered that there is any potential capacity to ac- open sea to the west and north west, and over Whiteford Sands 'Outstanding' for Historical and Cultural Landscapes, and 'High' commodate any sites without unacceptable impacts on its special and Burrows and onto the Llanrhidian marshes along the Loughor for Geological Landscapes. qualities - especially views along the broad sandy beach and from Estuary. It has caravan and camping sites at Whiteford Bay, LCA 9 Ryer's Down

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape 5.19 Whilst there is a low capacity to accommodate additional camping site. There are no settlements and few significant visually of Outstanding Importance in Wales. The area is highly visible camping and caravan sites, there may be limited potential for ex- detracting elements. from a long section of the promoted Wales Coast Path, an, imporpansion at existing sites, provided that suitable landscape design and mitigation is embodied in the proposed development [e.g. at 5.21 It is not considered that there is any potential capacity for Llanmadoc Camp Site].

Overall Landscape Capacity

- A generally open character, with gently rolling landform and mosaic of vegetated field boundaries providing a limited sense of enclosure. There are scenic views that encompass parts of the Gower Coast and Loughor Estuary. The Visual & Sensory (V & S) Aspect Area data confirms that it 'has a strong sense of place'. These factors result in an overall medium-high landscape character sensitivity;
- Much of the area is visible from nearby settlements and a range of recreational receptors - Open Access Land (much of it at a high elevation overlooking the area), public roads and footpaths, and a short section of the Wales Coast Path promoted long distance route – which results in a mediumhigh visual sensitivity;

The 'high' scenic quality and strong sense of place detailed by the V & S Aspect Area as 'picturesque views of coast, distinctive landform' - together with few visual detractors - results in a high over-5.18 This well-contained, open rolling farmland, has a strong all landscape value. This is supported by the evaluations for the

5.20 This small and relatively unspoilt LCA is an area of exposed upland rough grazing which does not contain a caravan and

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

proposed sites, due to the potential intrusion into the special quali-

panoramic seascape and inland views. It has outstanding Historic Knelston, Scurlage and Pitton Cross. Landscape value and it lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Im- 5.25 Whilst there is a low capacity to accommodate further camp- 5.27 The Tears Point to Overton Mere LCA is an impressive portance in Wales.

LCA 10 Burry Pill

5.22 The Burry Pill LCA is strongly based upon the sinuous lowland river valley landform which, although not deeply incised in its 5.26 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity which ranges coast of cliffs and beaches. Unique in the Gower Landscape upper reaches, is set sufficiently below the surrounding rolling low- from medium to high - with the highest sensitivity along the Character Assessment, this LCA has outstanding values across land farmland to have a strong sense of place. This strong sense coastal slopes on its southern boundary. Its visual sensitivity also all five LANDMAP Aspects. of place emanates partly from its enclosed character, with riparian ranges from medium to high. The resultant landscape sensitivity is vegetation being an important defining element, and partly from medium-high and, when combined with the high landscape value, 5.28 This distinctive coastal edge Landscape Character Area the relationship of the built form to the configuration of the valley. results in an overall landscape capacity which is low. The key does not contain a caravan and camping site, and it is not consid-It is a narrow, small scale and rather intimate area with dispersed points are as follows: linear settlement spread along the valley floor and lower valley . sides, and limited views out of it.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.23 It has no capacity for additional caravan and camping sites. It is overlooked by the high ground of Llanmadoc Hill and Ryer's Down, adjacent to the west, both of which are Open Access Land. It has outstanding Historic Landscape value and it lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. There is also the presence of Grade II Registered Historic Parkland and garden at . Fairyhill. The upper extremity of the area is also visible from a short section of the promoted Wales Coast Path, an important linear recreational receptor with high visual sensitivity.

LCA 11 Llandewi and Reynoldston

ties of this area. It is designated as Open Access Land and is an by hedge banks that connects the isolated small settlements, of LANDMAP data, including important component of the West Gower Commons. From its ten characterised by a church tower. It does contain caravan and 'Outstanding' for Historical and Cultural Landscapes, highly accessible open land, there is an important experience of camping sites, notably at Horton, and Oxwich Green, and also at 'Outstanding' and 'High' for Geological Landscapes.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

ing and caravan sites, there may be limited potential for expansion stretch of coastal cliffs of indented form, partially covered by at some existing sites with suitable mitigation and design at exist- scrub, with rock outcrops, and backed by open rolling lowland ing settlements [e.g. at Scurlage].

Overall Landscape Capacity

- sult in an overall medium-high landscape character sensitiv- Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. ity,
- Much of the area is visible from the scattered settlements LCA 13 Port Eynon Bay edge – which results in a *medium-high visual sensitivity*;

'High' Visual and and

LCA 12 Tears Point to Overton Mere

farmland in the Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA. There is a strong coastal sense of place, with attractive views along the

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

ered that there is any potential capacity for proposed caravan and A generally open and large scale landscape, with gently un- camping sites, given its outstanding landscape quality. The area is dulating landform and a mosaic land cover pattern of field highly visible from a long section of the promoted Wales Coast boundaries providing a limited sense of enclosure. There are Path, an important linear recreational receptor with high visual scenic views that encompass parts of the Gower Coast from sensitivity. Much of it is designated as Open Access Land, thus Port Eynon Bay to Worms Head. The V & S Aspect Area affording a high degree of public accessibility and a consequent confirms that it 'has a strong sense of place' and is a largely high level of recreational receptor sensitivity. It also lies wholly balanced and harmonious rural landscape. These factors re- within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic

and a range of recreational receptors – Open Access Land, 5.29 Port Eynon Bay LCA has a curved sandy and shingle beach, public roads and footpaths, the Gower Way and a long sec- in the west backed by the tourist-influenced village and caravan tion of the promoted Wales Coast Path along its southern park of Port Eynon; and in the east backed by the sand dunes at Horton, with wooded cliff slopes above and beyond to the east. The 'high' scenic quality and strong sense of place detailed by V & The rocky headland of Port Eynon Point defines the south-5.24 This is a very extensive LCA, a gently rolling lowland open S Aspect Area as 'coastal views and proximity to coast' - together western end of the Bay, whilst the eastern end is formed by the farmland landscape on land ranging from 20m to 110m AOD, trav- with few visual detractors - results in a high overall landscape cliffs running along to Oxwich Point. Port Eynon and Horton vilersed by hedges, with a simple network of small roads bordered value. This is supported by the evaluations for the underlying lages on this southernmost point of Gower are so encompassed

by caravan and camping parks that they have all but coalesced LCA 15 Oxwich Bay into one settlement. Nevertheless, the picturesque and historic 5.33 This LCA has a unique composition within Gower, having a sites, notably at the back of Three Cliffs Bay and Nicholaston. It is cores of both have been designated as Conservation Areas, small area of enclosed wetland with distinctive elements, located a distinctive coastal landscape, close to the urban edge and poputhereby to an extent preserving their historicity and visual attrac- between a steep-sided wooded valley and wooded coastal slopes lar with the public, with its accessible attractive coastal views, tiveness. The static caravan parks intrude into this landscape to a and the dunes formed along the back of a broad sandy beach. It rocky shoreline and cliffs. very considerable degree.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.30 There is no capacity for additional caravan and camping sites in this Landscape Character Area without causing further detriment to landscape character and scenic quality - the area has reached saturation point. As an important landscape quality improvement measure, remedial landscape and visual mitigation measures need to be applied to the existing sites at the edges of both villages, which is a topic for detailed design considerations.

LCA 14 Penrice

a distinctive, highly visible, unique parkland character within along the lower cliff slopes through this section of the coast. The dium-high and, when combined with the high landscape value, re-Gower, which has minor coastal influences through glimpsed borrowed views. This lowland area is enclosed by landform and Landscape value and Geological Landscape value. dense woodland; it is small scale, sheltered and largely unspoilt. 5.35 As an important landscape quality improvement measure, • from public roads and local rights of way, and from the Open Acthe Forestry Commission.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.32 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The fields, which is a topic for detailed design considerations. area is small and substantially wooded and the open areas are visible from the A4118 main road and surrounding areas, espe- LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen cially to the east from the high ridge of Cefn Bryn, which is Open 5.36 This LCA is a relatively narrow band of rolling lowland farmapex, an important linear recreational receptor with high visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding Historic Landscape value, Cultural Landscape Value and Geological Landscape value.

has a strong sense of place, and there are picturesque views along the dunes and beaches to sea cliffs, and long views inland 5.37 Whilst there is a low capacity to accommodate further campup to the prominent ridge of Cefn Bryn. It is a highly popular visitor ing and caravan sites, there may be limited potential for expansion destination.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.34 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The standing Cultural Landscape, Geological Landscape and Historic inland area is small and substantially wetland or wooded, includ- Landscape values ing steep cliff slopes, and the open areas are visible from the public road and the dunes and cliff slopes. There is Open Access 5.38 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity which ranges Land designated at Oxwich Point. A substantial stretch of the pro- from medium to high - the coastal slopes on its southern boundmoted Wales Coast Path, an important linear recreational receptor ary have the highest sensitivity. Its visual sensitivity also ranges 5.31 The Penrice LCA is a planned, formal estate landscape with with high visual sensitivity runs along the back of the dunes and from medium to high. The resultant landscape sensitivity is mearea also has outstanding Historic Landscape value. Cultural sults in an overall landscape capacity which is low. The key points

There are accessible attractive views within and into this area, remedial landscape and visual mitigation measures need to be applied to the existing large caravan site at Oxwich Green, the cess Land designated within those woodland areas managed by eastern edge of which is highly conspicuous from within the Oxwich Bay LCA, even at low elevations. This highly intrusive element could be remedied by planting two intervening small open

Access Land, and the route of the Gower Way runs along its land, sandwiched between the break of slope along the coast above Oxwich Bay and the break of slope at the base of the rising common land of Cefn Bryn. It wraps around the eastern end of Cefn Bryn and runs north to meet the distinctive wooded valley at The 'high' scenic quality and strong sense of place detailed by the Parkmill, and east as far as the stream valley at Pennard Pill, with V & S Aspect Area data as having 'picturesque views to the coast'

Pennard Burrows beyond. It has existing caravan and camping

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

at existing sites, with suitable landscape mitigation and detailed design [e.g. above Three Cliffs Bay and Nicholaston]. It has out-

Overall Landscape Capacity

are as follows:

- A generally open landscape, with gently rolling landform and large scale field pattern mosaic of hedges providing a limited sense of enclosure. There are scenic views that encompass parts of the Gower Coast from Oxwich Bay to Three Cliffs Bay. The V & S Aspect Area data confirms that it 'has a strong sense of place' and is a generally unspoilt rural landscape. These factors result in an overall medium-high landscape character sensitivity;
- Much of the area is very visible from the scattered small settlements and a range of recreational receptors - Open Access Land, public roads and footpaths, promoted viewpoint and substantial stretch of the promoted Wales Coast Path which results in a *medium-high visual sensitivity*;

 together with few visual detractors - results in a high overall cal Landscapes.

LCA 17 Cefn Bryn

ary to the north, are significant contributors to the strong sense of Area of Conservation (SAC). place here.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

much of the peninsula.

LCA 18 Cefn Bryn Common

Bryn. It is mostly lower lying open grazing land, dominated by wet design [e.g. south of Llanrhidian]. heath and marshy grassland, with pockets of scrub and bracken, the underlying geology being more water-retentive than the higher ground of Cefn Bryn to the south. There are no settlements and 5.45 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity which ranges 5.47 The Welsh Moor and Forest Common LCA encompasses few visually detracting elements.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

derlying LANDMAP data, including 'High' V & S, 'Outstanding' for area is wide open and highly visible from public roads and sur- medium-high and, when combined with the high landscape value, Historical and Cultural Landscapes, and 'Outstanding' for Geologi- rounding areas, especially the route of the Gower Way which runs results in an overall landscape capacity which is low. The key along the apex of the adjacent Cefn Bryn ridge, an important lin-points are as follows: ear recreational receptor with high visual sensitivity. It also has • outstanding Historic Landscape value and Cultural Landscape 5.39 Cefn Bryn LCA is a broad, imposing open ridge of exposed Value. It is long-established common land and is designated as rough grazing grassland, ranging between 100m and 190mAOD, Open Access Land. Cefn Bryn is a major land mark feature of and highly visible from many parts of Gower and beyond to the west and central Gower, very visible from much of the peninsula. north. The highly accessible, attractive panoramic views out the It is also part of the large area of Gower lowland commons desigcoast to the south, and to the broad expanse of the Loughor Estu- nated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special

LCA 19 Llanrhidian

5.40 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The 5.43 Llanrhidian LCA is a substantial tract of rolling farmland landarea is wide open and highly visible from public roads and sur- scape, with small fields. There is coastal influence and a strong rounding areas, especially the route of the Gower Way which runs sense of place, with accessible picturesque views, especially out along its apex, an important linear recreational receptor with high across the Loughor Estuary towards Llanelli and along the north visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding Historic Landscape value coast of Gower. This is generally unspoilt rolling farmland and is and Cultural Landscape Value. It lies wholly within the Cefn Bryn comfortable settled countryside with slight maritime flavour. It The 'high' scenic quality and overall evaluation detailed by VS Assection of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Out- does not have any permanent caravan and camping sites, al- pect Area as 'visual unity/sense of place allied to picturesque standing Importance in Wales. It is long-established common land though the established Llanrhidian Holiday Park lies immediately views in generally unspoilt rolling farmland' - together with few and is designated as Open Access Land. Cefn Bryn is a major adjacent to the B4295 to the north east of Llanrhidian village. The visual detractors - results in a high overall landscape value. This is land mark feature of west and central Gower, very visible from main road entrance into this large caravan site is a discordant ele- supported by the evaluations for the underlying LANDMAP data, ment and out of keeping with the overall character of this LCA.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.44 Whilst there is a *low* capacity to accommodate camping and 5.41 Cefn Bryn Common LCA occupies the lower ground of the caravan sites, there may be limited potential for expansion at ex- LCA 20 Loughor Estuary open common land, below and to the north of the ridge of Cefn isting settlements with suitable landscape mitigation and detailed 5.46 This LCA is entirely estuarine, most of the land being located

Overall Landscape Capacity

the Loughor Estuary in the northern area. Its visual sensitivity also landscape value. This is supported by the evaluations for the un- 5.42 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The ranges from medium to high. The resultant landscape sensitivity is

- A generally open landscape, with gently rolling landform and a mosaic land cover pattern of field boundaries providing a limited sense of enclosure. There are panoramic views over the Loughor Estuary. The Visual & Sensory Aspect Area data confirms that it 'has a strong sense of place' and is a substantially unspoilt rural landscape, with notable local landmarks of Llanrhidian church, Weobley Castle and Cilifor Top. These factors result in an overall medium-high landscape character sensitivity;
- Much of the area is visible from Llanrhidian and scattered farmsteads, together with a range of recreational receptors -Open Access Land, public roads and footpaths, and a long stretch of the promoted Wales Coast Path along the edge of the Loughor Estuary – which results in a medium-high visual sensitivity;

including 'High' V & S, 'Outstanding' for Historical and Cultural Landscapes, and 'High' for Geological Landscapes.

well within the intertidal zone and sub-tidal zone, and so has no capacity to accept caravan and camping sites.

LCA 21 Welsh Moor & Forest Common

from medium to high-notably along the distinctive dip-scarp and two linked areas of lowland common land in close proximity which

enclosure at their southern boundaries by extensive tracts of The key points are as follows: woodland. This area is largely based upon the common land of • rough grazing which is surrounded by lowland farmland and forested areas. It has a strong sense of place, which emanates partly from its enclosed character, with land cover being an important defining element. There is no settlement within it, but there are • occasional farmsteads and smallholdings bordering the edges of the commons.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

area of Gower lowland commons designated as a Site of Special Landscapes. Scientific Interest and the Geological Landscape Value is outstanding.

LCA 22 Cilibion Plantation

tinuous tract of mixed woodland. It is comprised of a significant farmland to the north and south, and by a narrow belt of woodled lows. proportion of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, smaller areas farmland at Cartersford Bridge, which effectively visually sepaof plantation broadleaved woodland and significant plantation co-rates it from the adjacent Fairwood Common to the east. Although niferous woodland, with a small residual open element of marshy the V & S Aspect Area value is moderate, its open and exposed grassland. It does not contain caravan and camping sites.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.50 There is a *low to medium* capacity to accommodate camping and caravan sites, with potential for forest diversification through 5.53 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The integration into the forestry management.

Overall Landscape Capacity

5.51 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity of low. Its protection as a SSSI. visual sensitivity is medium. The resultant landscape sensitivity is low-medium and, when combined with the high landscape value, LCA 24 Lunnon

- landscape character sensitivity:
- which results in a *medium visual sensitivity*;

The overall evaluation detailed by the V & S Aspect – together suitable landscape mitigation and detailed design [e.g. in the ar-5.48 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. It is with few visual detractors - results in a high overall landscape eas adjacent to the existing chalet park at Cannisland Park]. It managed by The National Trust as an open grazed common. His- value. This is supported by the evaluations for the underlying has outstanding Geological Landscape and Historic Landscape torically, this area forms part of the Gower Lowland Commons As- LANDMAP data, including 'High' for V & S, Historical and Land- values. pect Area, which has outstanding value. It is also part of the large scape Habitats, and 'Outstanding' for Geological and Cultural

LCA 23 Pengwern Common

nature means that there is a distinctive sense of place, and there are long views to the east.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

caravan and camping site development, fully enclosed within the area is wide open and highly visible from the public road running. mixed woodland areas, with suitable landscape design and proper through it. It also has outstanding Geological Landscape value and Cultural Landscape value, especially as part of the Gower lowland commons. It also has high Landscape Habitats value and

are characterised by their distinctive open rough grazing land, and results in an overall landscape capacity which is low to medium. 5.54 This LCA is an extensive area of enclosed mosaic rolling farmland bordered along its southern boundaries by the distinctive An enclosed landscape, with rolling landform and an almost wooded valleys of Parkmill. It does not contain caravan and campcontinuous mixed woodland land cover providing a strong ing sites, although the existing large chalet development at Canissense of enclosure. These factors result in an overall low land Park is well screened by mature woodland and hedgerows.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

There are no residential receptors but there are a range of 5.55 There is an overall low capacity to accommodate camping recreational receptors - Open Access Land and footpaths- and caravan sites, however there may be limited potential for expansion in the southern area adjacent to the wooded valleys with

Overall Landscape Capacity

5.56 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity which ranges from medium to high - with lower sensitivity along the edges of the wooded valleys in the south. Its visual sensitivity is also me-5.52 Pengwern Common LCA is strongly based upon the area of dium to high. The resultant landscape sensitivity is medium to high grazed open common land, bounded by Cillibion Plantation in the and, when combined with the high landscape value, results in an 5.49 This LCA is an area characterised by a large, almost con- west, surrounded largely by improved grassland in the mosaic overall landscape capacity which is low. The key points are as fol-

- A generally medium scale landscape, with gently undulating landform and a mosaic land cover pattern of field boundaries providing a sense of enclosure - the wooded valleys to the south increase the sense of enclosure. There is no strong sense of place, although it is a largely unspoilt and tranquil rural landscape. These factors result in an overall mediumhigh landscape character sensitivity;
- Much of the area is visible from Lunnon and Parkmill and a range of recreational receptors - public roads and footpaths, and the Gower Way in the western area - which results in a medium-high visual sensitivity;

The 'high' scenic quality detailed by V & S Aspect Area – together with few visual detractors - results in a high overall landscape value. This is supported by the evaluations for the underlying

scapes.

LCA 25 Parkmill

5.57 Parkmill LCA has a very strong sense of place, which is readily discernible both from the public roads (including the main 5.60 There is an overall low capacity to accommodate camping A4118) and from the public rights of way within the valleys. It is and caravan sites, with limited potential for expansion adjacent to LCA 27 Pennard Burrows largely defined by its dry valley landform, cut into the underlying settlements, and in the southern area adjacent to woodland, with 5.62 Pennard Burrows LCA is one of the most distinctive and well limestone, and its mature woodland cover. The secluded and un- suitable mitigation and design. It has outstanding Geological -defined in Gower, with a very strong sense of place. It is comspoilt nature of the woodland in the valley gives the area a peace- Landscape and Historic Landscape values. ful feel of a wooded area that is not spoilt by strong urban influviews within the woodland.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

valleys with large areas of continuous woodland on the valley follows: sides. It also has outstanding Historic Landscape value, Cultural . Landscape value and Geological Landscape value. The extensive woodland habitats also have protection by designations as SSSI and SAC. Much of the western section is designated as Open Access Land and the Gower Way promoted long distance route passes through the western section of Park Woods, increasing the recreational receptor sensitivity.

LCA 26 Southgate and Pennard

5.59 This LCA is extensive and characterised by gently rolling settled farmland with discernible rural elements, but strongly urbaninfluenced along its western and eastern margins, at Southgate in the west and the edges of Kittle, Bishopston and Pyle in the east. It does not contain any permanent caravan and camping sites. Views of the coast or cliffs are obtained from some viewpoints to The 'high' scenic quality and strong sense of place - particularly cess Land and has accessible attractive coastal views - panothe south and west, and the coastal proximity at such locations along the coastal fringes - is described by the V & S Aspect Area ramic out to sea from Pwll Du Head - and there no detracting ele-

LANDMAP data, including 'High' V & S, 'Outstanding' for Historical greatly adds to the sense of place, which is not strongly apparent as 'picturesque views of coast'. Although there are locally intrusive and Cultural Landscapes, and 'Outstanding' for Geological Land- in many inland parts. The prevailing character of the more open urban edges and other detractors, it has a high overall landscape rural parts, centred on the attractive Pennard church with its dis-value. This is supported by the evaluations for the underlying tinctive form and colour, is that of comfortable settled countryside LANDMAP data, including 'High' V & S, 'Outstanding' for Historical with a slight maritime flavour.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

Overall Landscape Capacity

ences, even on the southern outskirts at the small village of Park- 5.61 This area has a landscape character sensitivity of medium - and east by the village of Southgate, and to some extent by Northmill with the busy A4118 road. There are attractive short range with lower sensitivity along the settlement edges and adjacent to hill Wood to the west. Much of the dunes area is exposed but well the wooded valley in the south east. Its visual sensitivity is me- vegetated and forms Pennard Burrows Golf Links. dium-high. The resultant landscape sensitivity is medium and, 5.58 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The when combined with the medium-high landscape value, results in 5.63 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. Much area is narrow and contained within a steep sided complex of river an overall landscape capacity which is low. The key points are as of the area is occupied by the golf course. The sand dune grass-

- 'has a strong sense of place' however the rural character Landscape value. It is also designated as Open Access Land. has been compromised to an extent by the intrusive urban edges of Kittle and Southgate. These factors result in an LCA 28 Pwlldu Head overall medium landscape character sensitivity;
- visual sensitivity:

and Cultural Landscapes, and 'Outstanding' for Geological Landscapes.

prised of an area of sand dunes extending inland from the sandy beach at Three Cliffs Bay, which is largely enclosed to the north

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

lands are important habitats with protection by SSSI designation. A generally open and large scale landscape, with gently un- The area is wide open and highly visible from public roads and dulating landform and a mosaic land cover pattern of field surrounding areas, especially the route of the Wales Coast Path boundaries providing a limited sense of enclosure - the which runs along its southern edge, an important linear recreawooded Bishopston Valley increases the sense of enclosure tional receptor with high visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding to the south east. The V & S Aspect Area confirms that it Visual & Sensory and Historic Landscape value and Cultural

5.64 Pwlldu Head LCA is an area of exposed indented coastal Much of the area is visible from the settlements and a range cliffs, partially covered by scrub, with rock outcrops and a rocky of recreational receptors – public roads and footpaths, and a foreshore, running along the coast from Shire Combe in the west section of the Wales Coast Path promoted long distance to Pwll Du Head in the east. This is an area of outstanding scenic route in the southern area – which results in a medium-high quality, with unspoilt, distinctive landform, including a wave-cut platform and associated rocky shore. It is designated as Open Acments within these views.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.65 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The Graves End near Pwll Du Point, and by Whiteshell Point in the Coast Path which runs along its southern edge, an important linarea is wide open and highly visible from surrounding areas, es- east, just beyond Caswell Bay. There are outstanding panoramic ear recreational receptor with high visual sensitivity. It also has pecially the route of the promoted Wales Coast Path which runs coastal views, within and along the coast from the exposed cliffs, outstanding Historic Landscape value and Cultural Landscape along its southern edge, an important linear recreational receptor which contribute to the strong sense of place and the outstanding value. The area is also partly designated as Open Access Land. with high visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding V & S value, overall V & S Aspect values. There are no detracting views other Geological Landscape value Historic Landscape value and Cul- than those of some tourist-related buildings. Coastal views are 5.72 The existing Summercliffe Chalet Park is already intrusive on tural Landscape value.

LCA 29 Bishopston Valley

its continuous woodland cover, giving a sense of seclusion and tats under the designation as a SSSI. tranquillity, largely visually separated from urban influences. There are attractive views within the unspoilt woodland along the stream LCA 31 Newton Cliff along the upper valley sides.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

values.

LCA 30 Pwlldu & Caswell Bays

Land around Pwll Du Point in the western part of the area.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.66 The Bishopston Valley LCA is defined by a distinctive nar- 5.69 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The measures need to be applied to the existing chalet park site, row, steep-sided and heavily-wooded stream valley running up area is narrow, wide open and highly visible from public roads and which is a topic for detailed design considerations. from the sea at Pwll Du Bay inland as far as the village of Kittle. It surrounding areas, especially the route of the Wales Coast Path is surrounded by open rolling lowland farmland for the most part, which runs along its southern edge, an important linear recrea- LCA 32 Langland and largely unaffected by urban influences, in spite of the close tional receptor with high visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding 5.73 This very distinctive small coastal LCA is founded upon proximity of several villages, especially Bishopston and Kittle. Geological Landscape value, Historic Landscape value and Cul- Langland Bay, with its strong definite sense of place as an estab-This is due to the steep-sided, enclosed nature of the valley and tural Landscape value. Much of the area also has protected habi- lished seaside settlement, backed by well-wooded cliffs and

at the valley floor and across the valley from higher level footpaths 5.70 This coastal LCA is situated on Newton Cliff, between 5.74 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The 5.67 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The the urban edge and to the south by coastal cliffs and a rocky fore- areas, especially the route of the promoted Wales Coast Path area is a narrow, steep-sided and heavily-wooded river valley. It shore. It is mostly an exposed, unspoilt area with a strong sense which runs along the southern edge of the area, an important linis protected by the designation as SSSI and is managed by The of place and attractive coastal views, both out to sea and along ear recreational receptor with high visual sensitivity. It also has National Trust and it is highly accessible to the public from nearby the coast. There are no detracting elements on the coastal edge outstanding V & S Landscape value, Geological Landscape and urban areas and the Wales Coast Path. It has outstanding Geo- but the established chalet park alongside the main road at Sum- Historic Landscape value. logical Landscape, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape mercliffe is incongruous. Bishop's Wood at the northern end of the area is a local nature reserve in a sheltered wooded valley running inland from the edge of Caswell.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

coastal cliffs partially covered by scrub, with sand and shingle area is mostly wide open and highly visible from public roads and beaches enclosed by rocky foreshore. It is defined in the west by surrounding areas, especially the route of the promoted Wales

easily accessible along the Coast Path and from the Open Access the landward side of the area, fronting the public road between Langland and Caswell Bay. As an important landscape quality improvement measure, remedial landscape and visual mitigation

slopes. There are fine picturesque views within the bay and out to sea, but some detracting views of the urban edge.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

Whiteshell Point in the west and Snaple Point in the east. It is an area is substantially developed except at its extremities, which are area of common land and golf course, enclosed to the north by steeply sloping and are visible from public roads and surrounding

LCA 33 Limeslade

5.75 Limeslade LCA is an area of exposed common land, enclosed to the north by the urban edge and to the south by the in-5.68 Pwlldu & Caswell Bays LCA is a locally distinctive area of 5.71 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The dented coastal cliffs, with small sand and shingle beaches en-

closed by a rocky foreshore. The prominent and distinctive rocky landform of Mumbles Head marks the south-eastern extremity, LCA 35 Clyne Valley the Langland LCA.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

area is highly accessible to the public, wide open and highly visiurban edge of south-western Swansea.

LCA 34 Clyne Common

courses, but demarcated by the wooded farmland of the outer ar- tions. eas of the Clyne Valley in the north; by the hard urban edges of and the area is designated as Open Access Land.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.78 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The area is wide open and highly visible from public roads and surrounding areas, and highly accessible from large parts of the urban south-western edge of Swansea. A substantial section of the northern part of the Common is occupied by golf courses. It also has outstanding Geological Landscape value and Cultural Landscape Value. The area includes features that are historically rare • in a regional context.

wooded valley that runs along the Clyne River, adjacent to the ur- intrusive urban edges, overall it has a medium-high overall landban area of Swansea, with the course of a dismantled railway line scape value. This is supported by the evaluations for the underly-5.76 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The on the western side of the river and the southern edge of Upper ing LANDMAP data, including 'High' and 'Outstanding' values for Killay forming the AONB boundary. The western and central areas Historical and Cultural Landscapes, and 'Outstanding' value for ble from public roads and surrounding residential and open areas, of this LCA are part of the Clyne Valley Country Park. Its northern Geological Landscapes. especially the route of the promoted Wales Coast Path which runs and eastern boundaries are defined by the urban edges of Dunalong its edge, an important linear recreational receptor with high vant, Killay and Lower Sketty. In the west, the boundary is demar- LCA 36 Barland visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding Geological Landscape cated by the urban area of Upper Killay and the edges of the 5.82 This LCA is largely defined by the characteristics of all of the and Historic Landscape values. Much of the cliff top common land northern section of Fairwood Common. It has an existing caravan adjoining areas. It is not accessible by public roads and is quite area is designated as Open Access Land. It is very close to the site in the western area adjacent to Fairwood Park Golf Course at enclosed by woodland and mature field boundary hedgerows with Blackhills.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.80 There is an overall *low to medium* capacity to accommodate cent to Fairwood Park Golf Course. 5.77 Clyne Common LCA is the easternmost of the extensive camping and caravan sites, with limited potential for expansion Gower commons. It is primarily defined by its large tract of open adjacent to existing sites with suitable landscape mitigation and 5.83 There is an overall low capacity to accommodate camping rough grazing grassland and the Blackhills and Clyne golf detailed design, which is a topic for detailed design considera- and caravan sites, with limited potential for expansion adjacent to

Overall Landscape Capacity

Mayals to the east, and Newton and Murton to the south; and by 5.81 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity of medium. enclosed wooded farmland to the west in the adjacent Barland LC Its visual sensitivity is also medium. The resultant landscape sen- 5.84 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity of medium. A. There is a strong sense of place, and accessible views are eas- sitivity is medium and, when combined with the medium-high land- Its visual sensitivity is medium-high. The resultant landscape senily obtained from the public rights way and the B4436 public road, scape value, results in an overall landscape capacity which is low sitivity is medium and, when combined with the high landscape to medium. The key points are as follows:

- A steep sided enclosed river valley with wooded slopes pro- key points are as follows: vides a strong sense of enclosure. To the west the landform • is more gently sloping with less dense woodland. The V & S Aspect Area confirms that it 'has a moderate sense of place' - however the character has been compromised to an extent by the intrusive urban edge of Swansea. These factors result in an overall medium landscape character sensitivity;
- Parts of the area are visible from recreational receptors public roads and footpaths, and a popular cycle route along

the valley – which results in a *medium visual sensitivity*;

The 'moderate' scenic quality and moderate sense of place are whilst the western end is marked by Rothers Torr at the edge of 5.79 This urban edge LCA is a large and distinctive, steep-sided defined by the V & S Aspect Area and, although there are locally

trees which prevent long range views into or out of it. It does contain caravan and camping sites in the extreme northern area adja-

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

existing sites and in the areas with greater woodland cover, with suitable landscape mitigation and detailed design.

Overall Landscape Capacity

value, results in an overall landscape capacity which is low. The

A gently undulating farmland with a mosaic land cover pattern of hedgerow field boundaries providing a sense of enclosure – the wooded area around Hams Wood increases the sense of enclosure to the south east. The V & S Aspect Area confirms that it 'has a strong sense of place' - however the rural character has been compromised to an extent by the intrusive urban edges of Kittle and Murton Green. These factors result in an overall landscape character sensitivity of medium:

Some of the area is visible from nearby settlements and a range of recreational receptors - public roads, open access LCA 38 Mynydd Bach y Cocs land and footpaths – which results in a medium-high visual 5.87 The small but distinctive Mynydd Bach v Cocs LCA is based low to medium. The key points are as follows: sensitivity.

by the evaluations for the underlying LANDMAP data, including tracting elements and there is a strong sense of place. 'High' Visual and Sensory, 'Outstanding' for Historical and Cultural Landscapes, and 'Outstanding' for Geological Landscapes.

LCA 37 Fairwood Common

Swansea Airport in the south eastern corner. It is substantially Landscape, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape values. open, affording some pleasant long views from the public road (B4271) along the long axis of the common from the west, but lo- LCA 39 Llanmorlais cally detractive views up to Three Crosses in the north and be- 5.89 Llanmorlais LCA is an extensive tract of rolling lowland farmyond to the urban edge of Swansea (A4118 and part of B4271 from the public rights way and the B4271, and the area is desig- camping sites in the extreme western area at the large Llanrhidian nated as Open Access Land.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.86 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The area is wide open and highly visible from public roads and surrounding areas, and highly accessible from large parts of the urban western edge of Swansea. A substantial section of the southern part of the Common is occupied by Swansea Airport. It also has outstanding Geological Landscape value and Cultural Landscape value. The area includes features that are historically rare

in a regional context.

upon another area of rough grazing common land, but it is small • The 'high' scenic quality and strong sense of place is defined by scale and different in form and appearance from most of those in the VS Aspect Area. However, although there are locally intrusive Gower. It has a narrow linear and sinuous form, based largely urban edges and other detractors, overall it is a largely unspoilt upon the land cover resulting from its management as common landscape with a high overall landscape value. This is supported land. There are no settlements and few significant visually de-

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.88 It has no capacity for new caravan and camping sites. The area is very narrow, highly visible from public roads and surrounding areas, especially the route of the Gower Way which runs 3.85 Fairwood Common LCA is an extensive area of gently rolling, through the central section, an important linear recreational receprough grazing common land that rises to 104m AOD. It includes tor with high visual sensitivity. It also has outstanding Geological

land in north Gower, lying between 20m and 120m AOD, with a and the minor road to Three Crosses). There are important low- mosaic pattern of hedges, and a noticeably wooded character, deland heathland habitats of international importance. There is a rived from the scattered copses, broadleaved woodlands and strong sense of place, and accessible views are easily obtained conifer plantations within the area. It has existing caravan and Holiday Park.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

camping and caravan sites, with limited potential for expansion eastern area, where the urban edge encircles the rural area. The adjacent to existing sites and in the areas with greater woodland western area includes the coastal settlements of Crofty and Pencover, with suitable mitigation and design.

Overall Landscape Capacity

5.91 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity of medium.

Its visual sensitivity is medium-high. The resultant landscape sensitivity is medium and, when combined with the medium to high landscape value, results in an overall landscape capacity which is

- A gently rolling farmland with a mosaic land cover pattern of hedgerow field boundaries and scattered copses providing a sense of enclosure and a wooded character. The V & S Aspect Area confirms that it 'has a moderate sense of place' however the rural character has been compromised to an extent by the intrusive urban edges of Crofty and Three Crosses. These factors result in an overall landscape character sensitivity of medium;
- Much of the area is visible from the settlements and a range of recreational receptors - public roads, open access land, footpaths and the Gower Way in the southern area - which results in a medium-high visual sensitivity;

The 'moderate' scenic quality and sense of place is defined by the V & S Aspect Area data, although the landscape is largely unspoilt beyond the village edges and caravan sites and has a mediumhigh overall landscape value. This is supported by the evaluations for the underlying LANDMAP data, including 'Moderate' value for V & S, 'Outstanding' value for Historical Landscapes, 'High' and 'Outstanding' values for Cultural Landscapes, and 'Outstanding' and 'Moderate' values for Geological Landscapes.

LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses

5.92 This LCA, lying to the north of the AONB boundary, is an 5.90 There is an overall low to medium capacity to accommodate area of rolling lowland farmland, with an urban influence in the clawdd. Throughout the area, disused mine adits and spoil heaps are remnant of its coal mining history. It does not contain caravan and camping sites.

Potential Capacity for Caravan and Camping Sites

5.93 There is an overall low to medium capacity to accommodate

GOWER LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY STUDY FOR CARAVAN & CAMPING SITES

camping and caravan sites, with limited potential for expansion well within the intertidal zone and sub-tidal zone, and so has no adjacent to settlements, and in the areas adjacent to woodland, capacity to accept caravan and camping sites. with suitable landscape mitigation and detailed design, which is a topic for detailed design considerations.

Overall Landscape Capacity

Its visual sensitivity is medium-high. The resultant landscape sen- camping site provisions, subject to more detailed assessment: sitivity is medium - high and, when combined with the medium landscape value, results in an overall landscape capacity which is • low to medium. The key points are as follows:

- A generally open and medium scale landscape, with gently undulating landform and a mosaic land cover pattern of field . boundaries providing a limited sense of enclosure - scattered areas of woodland and scrub increase the sense of enclosure. The V & S Aspect Area data confirms that it 'has a . moderate sense of place' - however the rural character has . been compromised to an extent by the intrusive urban edges. of Three Crosses and Penclawdd, together with the removal • of traditional field boundaries. These factors result in an . overall medium landscape character sensitivity;
- Much of the area is visible from the settlements and a range of recreational receptors - public roads and footpaths, and the Gower Way in the south eastern area - which results in a medium-high visual sensitivity;

The 'high' scenic quality and moderate sense of place – particularly along the coastal fringes - is described by the V & S Aspect. However, there are locally intrusive urban edges and other detractors – and overall it has a *medium overall landscape value*. This is supported by the evaluations for the underlying LANDMAP data, including 'Moderate' Visual and Sensory, and 'High and 'Outstanding' for Historical Landscapes, 'Outstanding' to 'Low' for Cultural Landscapes, and 'Moderate' for Geological Landscapes.

LCA 41 Dalton's Point

5.95 This LCA is entirely estuarine, most of the land being located

Conclusion

5.96 The following LCAs have been identified in Stage 1 of the 5.94 This LCA has a landscape character sensitivity of medium. Capacity Study as having some potential for additional caravan or

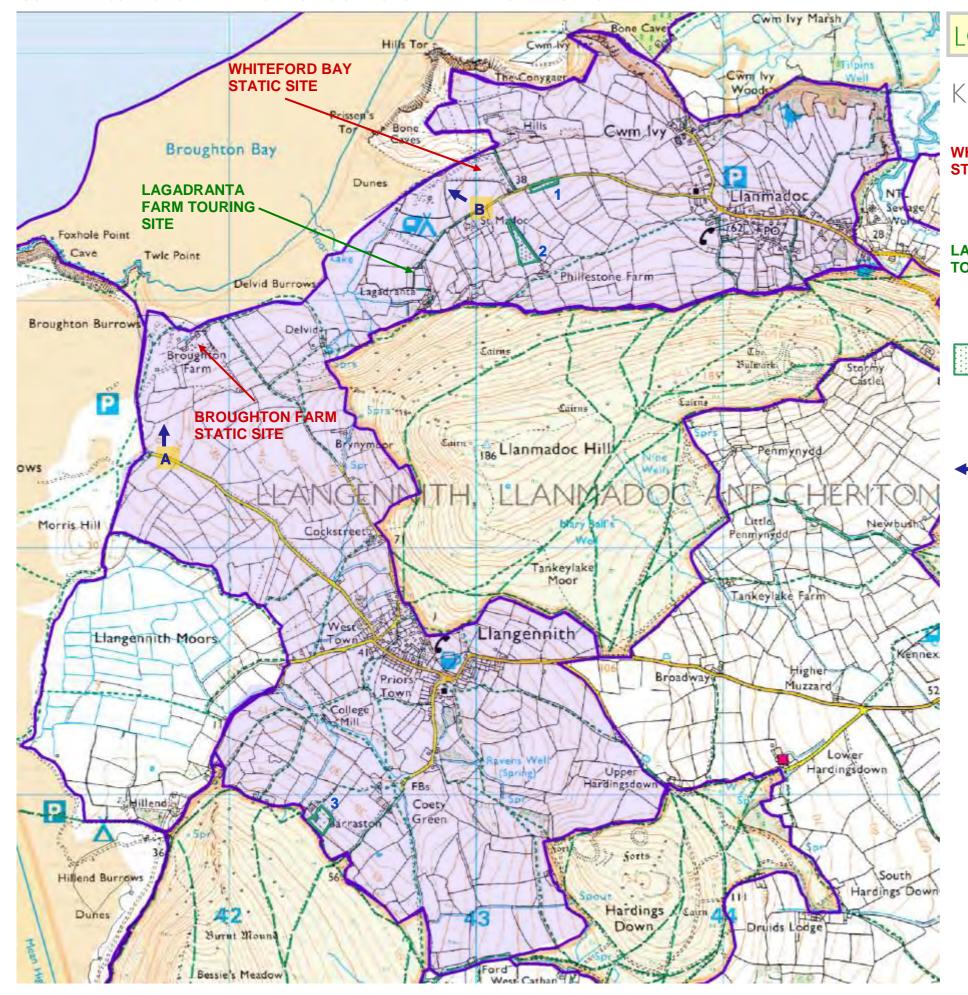
- LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc
- LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston
- LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen
 - LCA 19 Llanrhidian
- LCA 22 Cillibion
- LCA 24 Lunnon
- LCA 26 Southgate and Pennard
 - LCA 35 Clyne Valley
 - LCA 36 Barland -
 - LCA 39 Llanmorlais
 - LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses

6. Stage 2:

Assessment of identified Landscape Character Areas with potential Landscape Capacity

- ity for the provision of additional caravan and/or camping facilities, without general detriment to their landscape character. These are:
- LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc low capacity, with areas of search in due course. some scope for additional provision around the existing sites and provision of small sites
- LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston low capacity, with some scope for additional provision around the existing sites and provision of small sites within the inland areas of this large LCA
- LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen low capacity, with some scope for additional provision around existing sites and provision of small sites
- LCA 19 Llanrhidian low capacity, with scope for additional provision of small sites within the inland areas
- LCA 22 Cillibion low-medium capacity, with scope for a new site located wholly within existing mature forestry plantations
- LCA 24 Lunnon low capacity, with some scope for additional provision around exiting sites and provision of small sites adjacent to woodland edge
- LCA 26 Southgate and Pennard low capacity, with scope for additional provision around existing site and provision of new small sites adjacent to settlement edges and woodland
- LCA 35 Clyne Valley low-medium capacity for expansion around the existing site and potential new area within valley
- LCA 36 Barland low capacity for additional provision around existing sites and provision of small sites
- LCA 39 Llanmorlais low-medium capacity for expansion around the existing site at Llanrhidian Holiday Park and potential for new sites inland
- LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses low-medium capacity for new sites within hinterland between Dunvant and Gowerton

6.1 Stage 1 identified 11 LCAs as having some potential capac- N.B. Only key locations for expansion/areas of search have been highlighted, founded upon the current baseline condition of existing sites. Appropriate design mitigation measures may create further capacity for expansion at other sites and



LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc

KEY

WHITEFORD BAY STATIC SITE

Existing Residential Site

LAGADRANTA FARM TOURING SITE

Existing Permanent Site



Existing Temporary Site (1-3) [see Section 7 for details]



Photographic Locations for fixed-point monitoring

LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc



BROUGHTON BAY CARAVAN PARK

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Caravan parks are an established feature at the coastal edge, notably at Broughton Bay and Whiteford Bay. They are conspicuous in certain views, from public roads and higher ground and beach viewpoints. They are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious naturalistic coastal landscape and are especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity, through increased levels of overhead lighting
- Attractive villages with distinctive historic church towers as local landmarks at Llangennith and Llanmadoc, benefitting from a fine hill backdrop formed by the juxtaposition of Llanmadoc Hill, Rhossili Down and Hardings Down
- Protect the extensive sea views in an arc from west to north which are a key characteristic, and reinforce the strong coastal
 sense of place. Maintain adequate separation between the caravan
 and camping sites to ensure that these special qualities are not
 compromised



Photograph Location A [OSGR SS 417 924]: Broughton Caravan site has minimal integration within the landscape apart from its siting adjacent to Broughton Burrows to the northwest. Reinforce existing field boundaries along south and eastern site, improve internal layout and density to make site less incongruous and intrusive



Photograph Location B [OSGR SS 429 934]: The impact of this area of Whiteford Bay Static Site is reduced by the adjacent burrows, a partially vegetated field boundary [in need of management and reinforcing planting] and the use of cutting into sloping landform to set the caravans lower in this view



Photograph Location B [OSGR SS 429 934]: White-ford Bay Static Site is viewed from the south against a landform backdrop. This higher landform provides screening from northerly views, but there is no screening by landform or vegetation in this close view from the minor public road to the south



WHITEFORD BAY CARAVAN SITE and LAGADRANTA CARAVAN & CAMP SITE

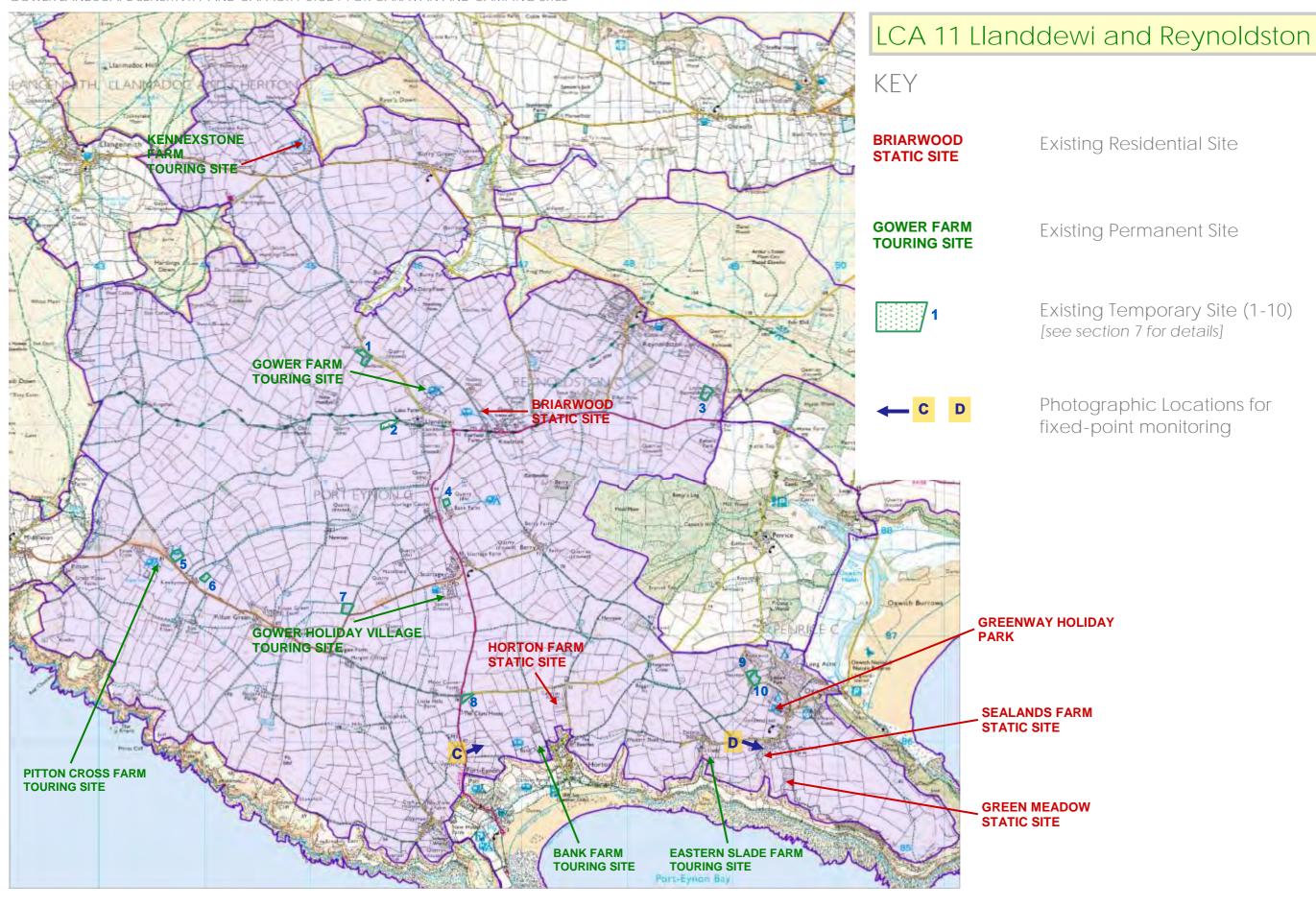
Opportunities:

Opportunities at Whiteford and Broughton:

- Improve site layout and screening through internal and boundary planting, and/or use of existing woodland or hedgerows
- Promote changes to colours of caravans which cannot be effectively screened or assimilated by other means
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity at Lagadranta:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland and landform,
 combined with a low incidence of visual receptors
- Opportunity to incorporate 2 fields to the west and south-west of the
 existing Touring Site for caravans. Maintain caravan density as existing. Manage woodland to maintain screen and separation from
 Llanmadoc Hill. Manage existing hedges to maximise screening for
 adjacent 250-tent site to north, particularly to minimise any potential
 cumulative effects and perceived coalescence with Whiteford Bay
 Static Site



LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston



Photograph Location C, on A4118 [OSGR SS 464 859]: Horton Farm Caravan Park is partially set within a framework of existing hedgerows. Reinforce existing field boundaries and pull back caravans that are hard up against hedges; improve internal layout and density to make the site less intrusive within this generally open landscape

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Caravan and camping sites are an established feature at the coastal edge, notably around Horton and Oxwich Green. They are conspicuous in certain views, from public roads and higher ground and beach viewpoints. They are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious naturalistic coastal landscape - and especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity, through increased levels of overhead lighting
- Retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new development and minimise any potential landscape and visual impacts
- The extensive sea views are a key characteristic and reinforce the strong coastal sense of place, so maintain adequate separation between the caravan and camping sites to ensure that these special qualities are not compromised



GOWER HOLIDAY VILLAGE

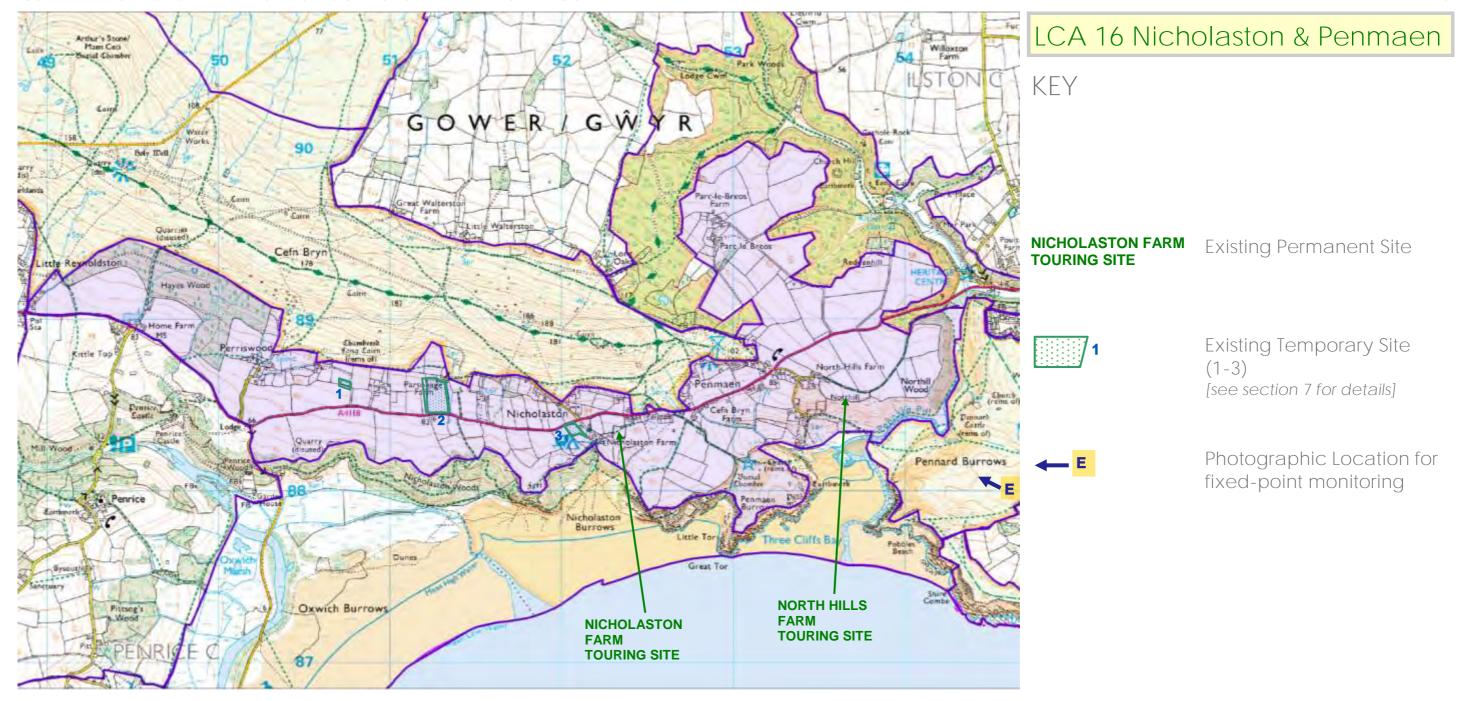
Opportunities:

Opportunities at the larger sites - including Horton Farm and Bank Farm

- Improve site layout and screening through internal and boundary planting, and/or use of existing woodland or hedgerows
- Promote changes to colours of caravans which cannot be effectively screened or assimilated
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity at Gower Holiday Village, Scurlage:

- Resulting from screening from the existing hedges and existing built form, combined with a low incidence of visual receptors - apart from road users on B4247, whose views are partially screened by the roadside hedgerow
- Opportunity to incorporate 2 fields to the west and of existing touring site for caravans. Maintain caravan density as existing. Manage existing hedges to maximise screening, particularly to minimise any potential cumulative effects and views from the B4247, a popular tourist route



LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen



NICHOLASTON FARM CARAVAN & CAMPING SITE

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Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Caravan and camping sites are an established feature at Nicholaston and North Hills Farm. They are visible in certain views from higher ground viewpoints, and are potentially discordant elements in a largely balanced and unspoilt coastal landscape - and are particularly intrusive on night-time tranquillity, through increased levels of lighting
- A band of farmland lying between the coastal edge and Cefn Bryn, with a strong sense of place and impressive coastal views, especially to Three Cliffs Bay
- Accessible through its network of public rights of way, the Wales Coast Path and areas of Open Access Land
- Maintain and conserve, through the use of traditional management techniques, the distinctive field boundary hedgebanks and the resulting field pattern

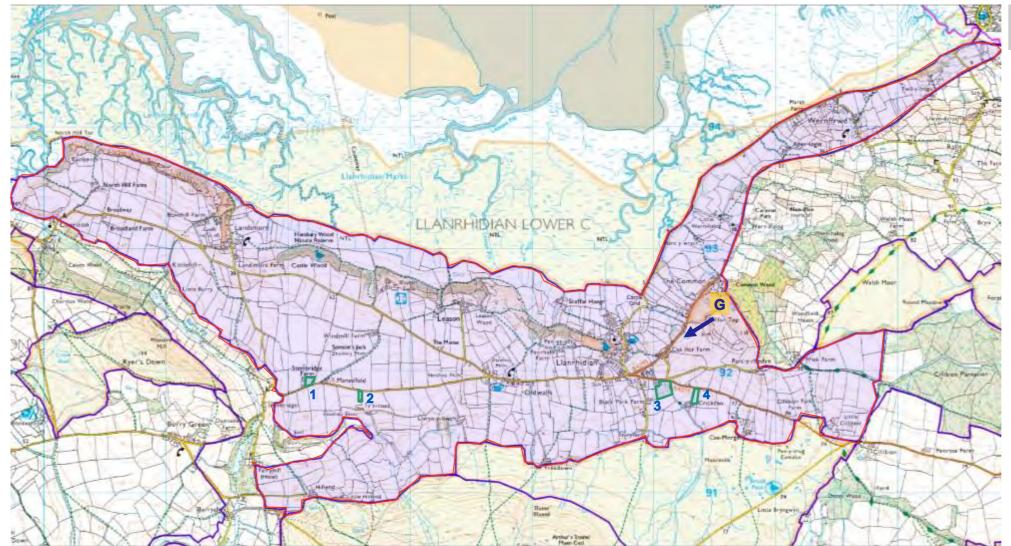
Opportunities:

Opportunities at Nicholaston Farm:

- Improve site layout and density through internal and boundary planting
- Manage existing hedgebanks and woodland to maintain separation and screen from coastal views
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity at Nicholaston Farm:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland
- Opportunity to incorporate 1 field to the southwest of existing touring site for caravans. Maintain caravan density as existing. Manage woodland to maintain screen and separation from coast



LCA 19 Llanrhidian

KEY



Existing Temporary Site (1-4) [see section 7 for details]



Photographic Location for fixed-point monitoring

LCA 19 Llanrhidian



View north east from common land south of Cheriton. Manage and retain existing field boundaries to maintain the mosaic pattern of farmland.

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Long escarpment along Loughor Estuary is a locally distinctive landform,
 with a strong sense of place, influenced by the panoramic views over the
 adjacent Loughor Estuary
- Accessible through its network of roads and public rights of way, the
 Wales Coast Path and the Gower Way
- Unspoilt settled farmland, with a distinct fieldscape pattern that is vulnerable able to change brought about by boundary hedgerow removal or neglect
- Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions within this
 LCA and adjacent areas to prevent adverse landscape and visual effects



View north west from common land on Cefn Bryn across the generally unspoilt mosaic fieldscape with scattered farmsteads to the distinctive escarpment that lies adjacent to the Loughor Estuary. The strong field pattern provides some capacity for small sites within this LCA.

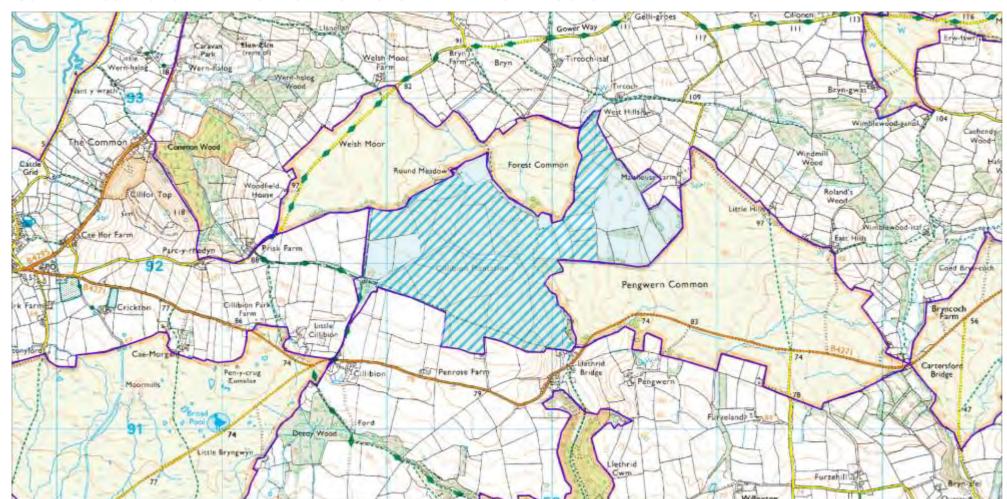
Opportunities:

Opportunities at Llanrhidian Holiday Park in immediately adjacent LCA to northeast:

• Improve site layout and density through internal and boundary planting in central and western area, and use of existing woodland or hedgerows

Potential Landscape Capacity within LCA 19:

- Generally unspoilt farmland with a distinctive mosaic pattern; medium-high level recreational receptors with elevated views from adjacent common land at Cefn Bryn
- Potential landscape capacity limited to small sites [refer to Section 7 for details]



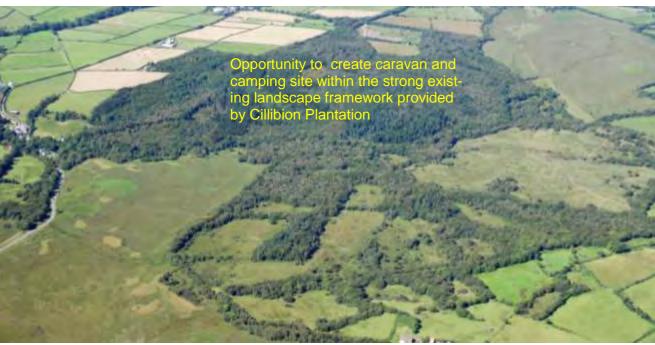
LCA 22 Cillibion Plantation

KEY



Area of Search with potential landscape capacity for new caravan and camping sites

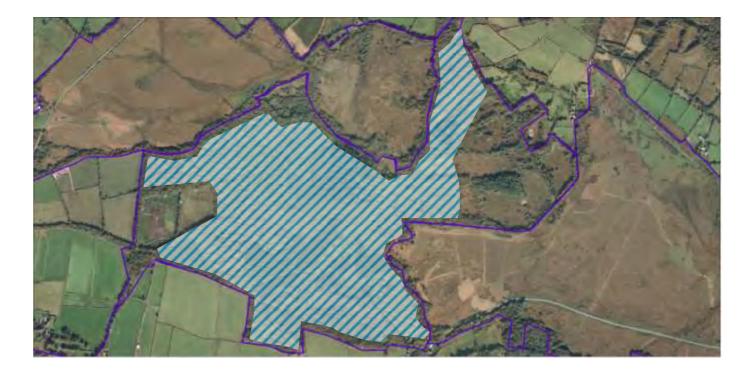
LCA 22 Cillibion Plantation



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Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

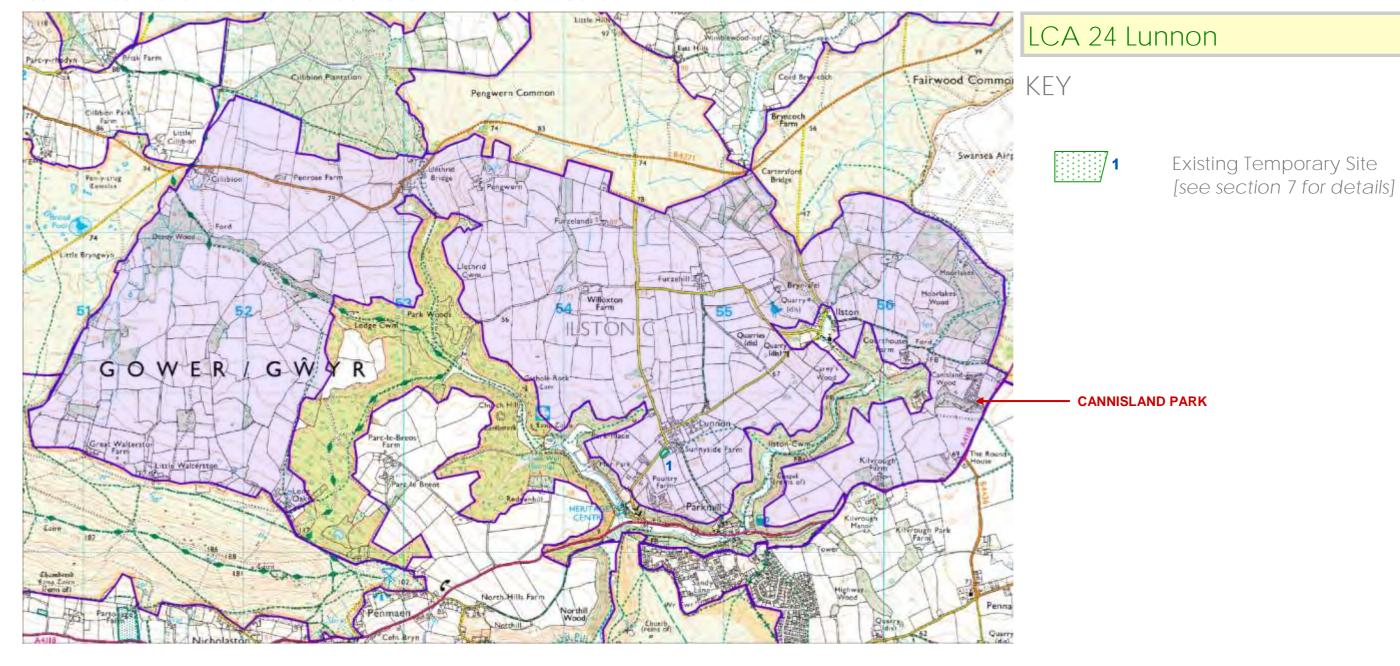
- Sympathetic forest management to conserve and enhance the appearance and accessibility of the woodland areas; conserve the interspersed open habitats
- Identify the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- The area lies adjacent to areas of lowland common land to north west, north east and east. New development should respect the traditional relationship of adjacent built form to the edges of the common and ensure that the setting of the common land is not compromised
- High level of tranquillity, due to the absence of settlement and the screening effects of dense coniferous woodland



Opportunities:

Potential Landscape Capacity at Cillibion Plantation:

- Area of search within established woodland of Cillibion Plantation; its landscape capacity is derived from the strong framework of woodland, scrubland and mature hedgerows, set within rolling landform
- Opportunity for caravan and camping site development, fully enclosed within the dense coniferous woodland areas and designed to be properly integrated into the forest and its productive management
- Protect and manage existing boundary hedgebanks to both the adjoining commons, together with other visually significant hedgebanks



LCA 24 Lunnon



View across small- to medium-sized fields bounded by mature hedgerows, surrounded by established mature woodland, which provide enclosure and limit long views across this rural landscape.

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- · Largely unspoilt mosaic farmland, enclosed by mature woodland
- High level of tranquillity results from the sparse settlement pattern, combined with limited accessibility from the local public roads and rights of way network
- Use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new development and minimise any potential landscape and visual impacts
- Little existing provision for caravan or camping apart from the small temporary site at Great Lunnon Farm



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CANNISLAND PARK CHALET SITE

Opportunities:

Opportunities at Cannisland Park in immediately adjacent LCA to northeast:

- Improve site layout and density through internal planting
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity at Cannisland Park:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland and landform, combined with a low level of visual receptors
- Opportunity to incorporate at least 1 field to the north of existing chalet site for caravans. Manage
 woodland to maintain screen and separation from the more open fieldscape of Lunnon to the north
 west, and from the more distant Fairwood Common to the northeast



LCA 26 Southgate & Pennard

KEY

FAIRFIELD CARAVAN Existing Residential Site PARK STATIC SITE



Photographic Location for fixed-point monitoring

LCA 26 Southgate and Pennard



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Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape
- Accessible from local public roads, rights of way network and the Wales Coast Path
- Use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new development and minimise any potential landscape and visual impacts



FAIRFIELD CARAVAN PARK

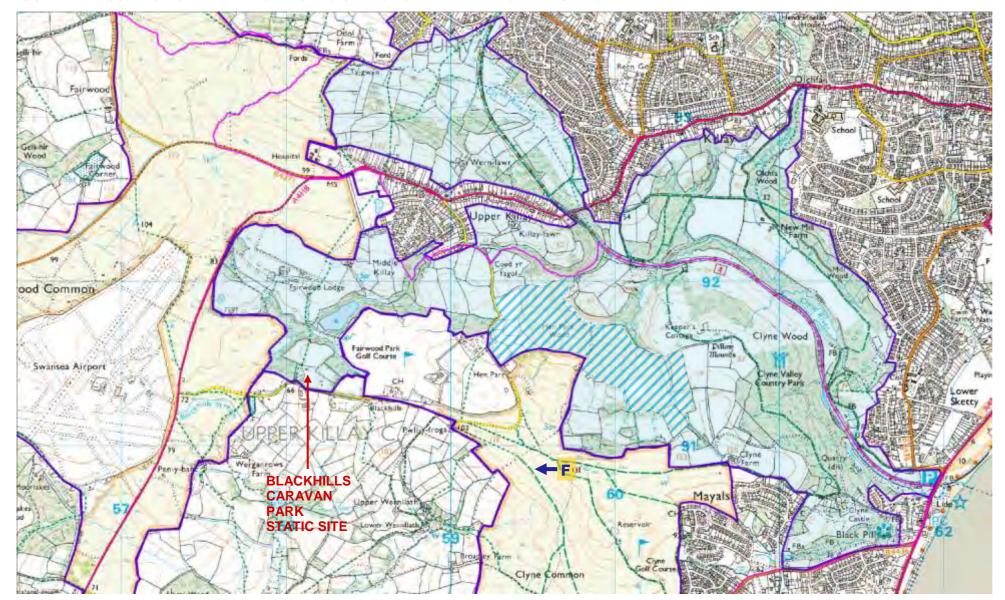
Opportunities:

Opportunities at Fairfield Caravan Park:

- Improve site layout and reduce density through internal and boundary planting, with management of existing hedgerow along boundaries
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity at Fairfield Caravan Park:

- · Resulting from screening from the existing hedgerows
- Opportunity to incorporate 1-2 fields to the north east of existing site as a potential expansion area of the site.
 Reduce caravan density.
- Opportunity for new touring site for caravans and camping. Manage existing hedges to maximise screening, particularly to minimise any potential visual effects from surrounding residential area of Southgate



LCA 35 Clyne Valley

KEY

BLACKHILLS CARAVAN PARK STATIC SITE

Existing Residential Site

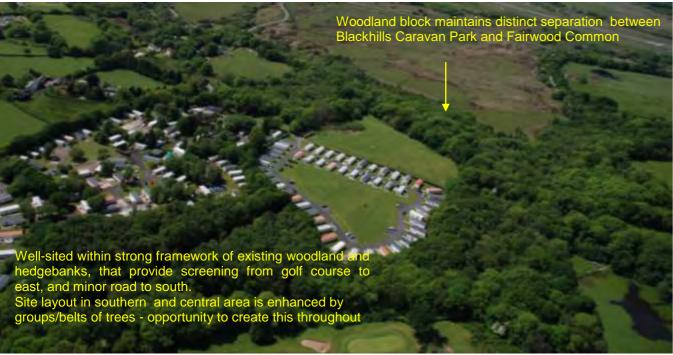


Photographic location for fixed-point monitoring



Area of Search with potential landscape capacity for new caravan and camping

LCA 35 Clyne Valley



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BLACKHILLS CARAVAN PARK

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- A large-scale, attractive, wooded river valley landscape, with no settlements.
- A strong sense of place, recovering from an industrial past and influenced by the presence of the urban edge of Swansea along the eastern skyline
- Highly accessible, through its management as a Country Park and close proximity to urban areas, via National Cycle Route 4 and the local network of public rights of way
- Acts as a buffer zone to the AONB against urban influences from the westward development of this area of Swansea

Area of search to the north west of Mayals /south east of Upper Killay with landscape capacity derived from strong framework of woodland and mature hedgerow on rolling landform within valley



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Opportunities:

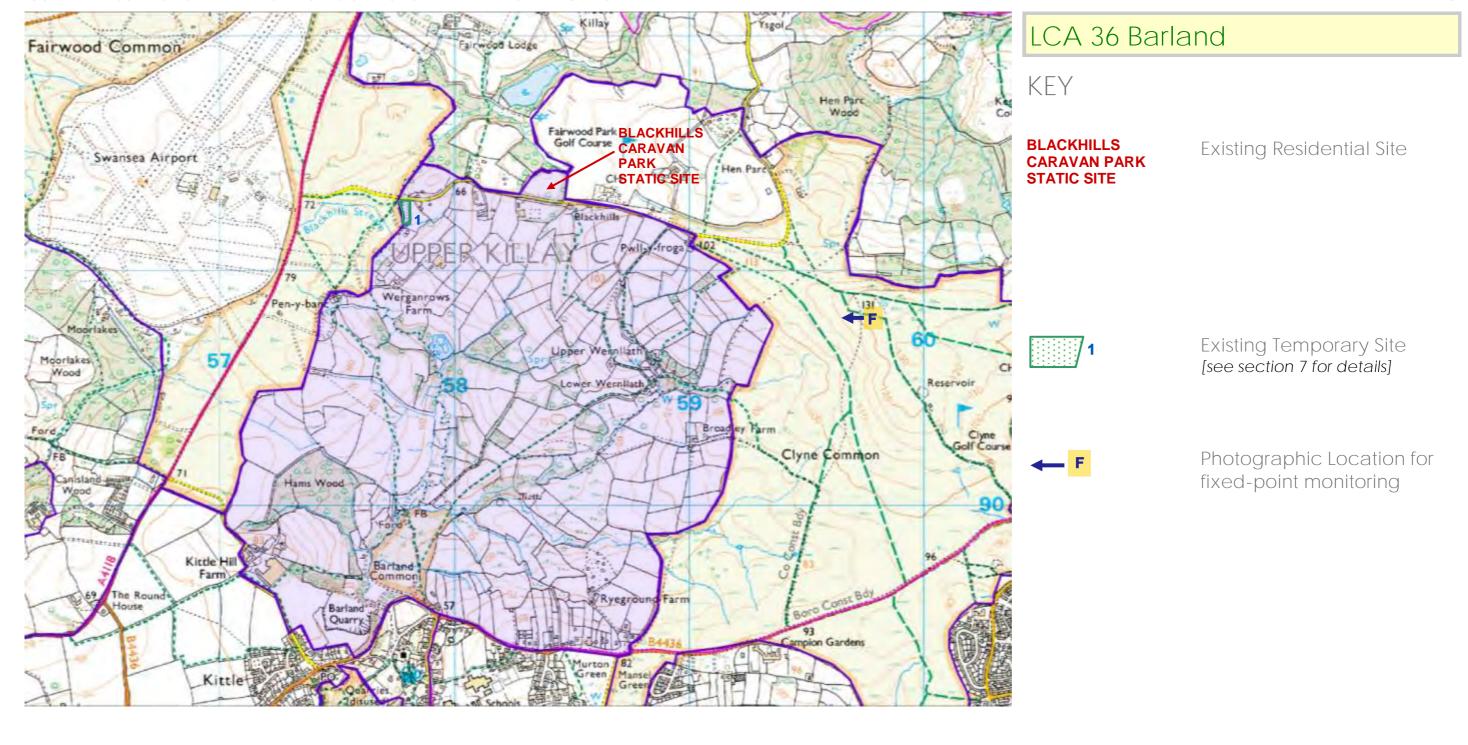
Opportunities at Blackhills Caravan Park:

- Improve site layout and density through internal and boundary planting, within southern and central areas
- Manage woodland to maintain separation and screen from Fairwood Common
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity for expansion at Blackhills Caravan Park: [refer to LCA 36 Barland for details]

Potential Search Area with Landscape Capacity north west of Mayals:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland and valley landform, combined with a low level of visual receptors, apart from a local right of way that passes north-south through Hen Parc Wood - however, woodland and landform will combine to effectively screen wider views.
- Opportunity for new touring site for caravans and camping. Manage woodland to maintain screen and buffer from lowland common land to south. Manage existing hedges to maximise screening, particularly to minimise any potential visual effects from surrounding residential areas of Mayals and Upper Killay, and from recreational receptors within the Country Park



LCA 36 Barland



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BLACKHILLS CARAVAN PARK

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Largely unspoilt enclosed wooded farmland, with a high level of tranquillity
- Very accessible via Open Access Land, the local network of public rights of way and minor roads; proximity to settlement.
- Maintain the open character of Barland Common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Vulnerable to landscape and visual effects arising from potential expansion of caravan park, if the existing strong vegetation framework is not retained and conserved

Potential Landscape Capacity to the south west of existing Blackhills Caravan Park



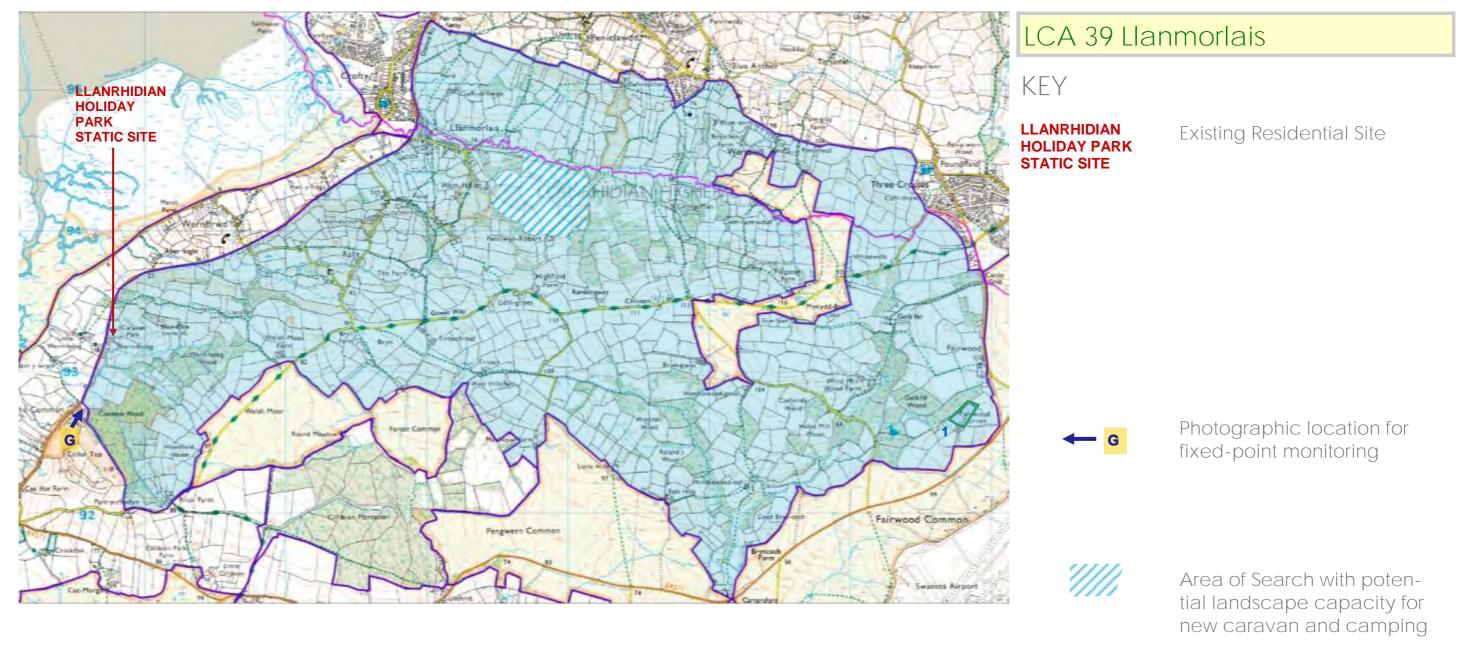
Opportunities:

Opportunities at Blackhills Caravan Park:

- Improve site layout and density through internal and boundary planting, within the southern and central areas
- Manage woodland to maintain separation and screen from Fairwood Common
- Install low-level lighting that directs the glow downwards, and avoid the yellow sodium range

Potential Landscape Capacity at Blackhills Caravan Park:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland and landform combined with a low level of visual receptors
- Opportunity to incorporate 1 field to the southwest of existing touring site for caravans. Maintain caravan density as
 existing, particularly in southern/central areas. Manage woodland to maintain screen and separation from Fairwood
 Common. Manage existing hedges and reinforce understorey in woodland to maximise screening and minimise any
 potential landscape and visual effects from the adjacent area of Fairwood Common, and from the more distant
 Clyne Common



LCA 39 Llanmorlais

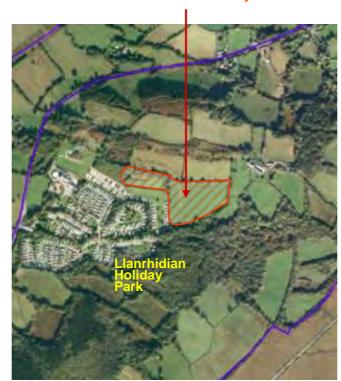


LLANRHIDIAN HOLIDAY PARK

Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions so that intrusive visual effects are prevented
- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation
- Landscape has a strong sense of place and a settled feel
- Long attractive views out to the south and west, in particular from the higher open ground
- Small areas of lowland common land with the traditional farmstead settlement pattern around them. New development should respect the traditional relationship of adjacent built form to the edges of the common and ensure that the setting of the common land is not compromised

Potential Landscape Capacity for extension to the north and east of Llanrhidian Holiday Park



LLANRHIDIAN HOLIDAY PARK

Area of search to the east of Llanmorlais with landscape capacity



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Opportunities:

Opportunities at Llanrhidian Holiday Park:

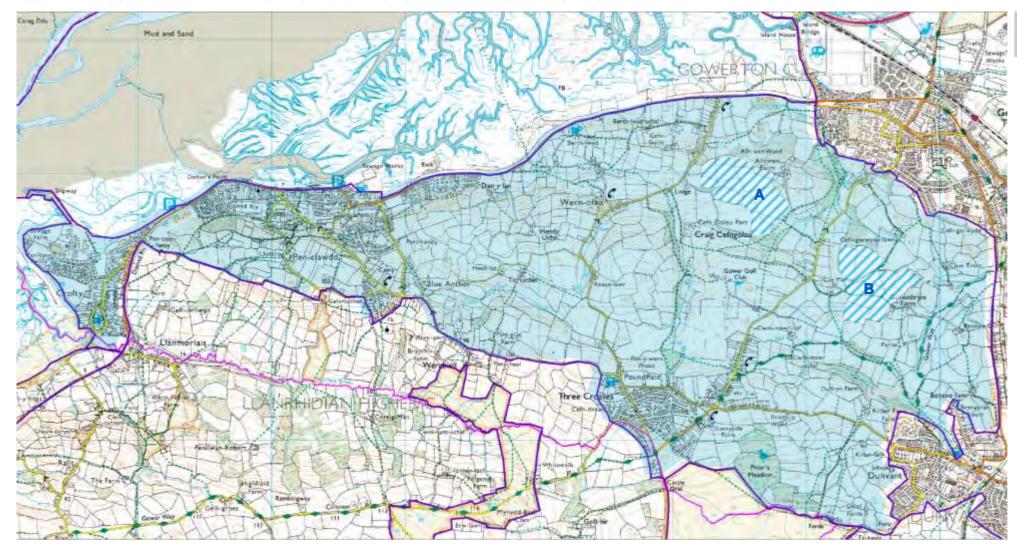
 Improve site layout and density through internal and boundary planting in central and western area, and use of existing woodland or hedgerows

Potential Landscape Capacity at Llanrhidian Holiday Park:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland and landform combined with low level of visual receptors
- Opportunity to incorporate 2 fields to the north and east of existing site as a potential expansion area of the site. Maintain caravan density as existing in easternmost fields
- Manage woodland to maintain screen and assimilation into the wider landscape. Manage existing hedges to maximise screening for adjacent 250 tent site to north, particularly to minimise any potential cumulative effects, and visual effects from open access land at Cilifor

Potential Search Area with Landscape Capacity east of Llanmorlais:

- Derived from strong framework of woodland and mature hedgerows on gently sloping north-facing valley side, combined with low level of visual receptors, apart from the Gower Way that passes along a minor road approximately 0.5km south. However, the roadside hedge, hedgerow field boundaries and landform combine to effectively screen views.
- Opportunity for new touring site for caravans and camping. Manage woodland to maintain screen and buffer from lowland common land. Manage existing hedges to maximise screening, particularly to minimise any potential visual effects from Llanmorlais



LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses

KEY





Area of Search with potential landscape capacity for new caravan and camping sites

LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses

A. Area of search southwest of Gowerton with landscape capacity derived from strong framework of woodland and hedgerow on rolling landform



Key Landscape and Visual Issues:

- Maintain and conserve, through the use of traditional management techniques, the distinctive field boundary hedgebanks
- Attractive views out over the Loughor Estuary
- Accessible from local public roads, the public rights of way network and the Gower Way
- Use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new development and minimise any potential landscape and visual impacts

B. Area of search to the south of Gowerton with landscape capacity derived from the strong framework of woodland and mature hedgerow on rolling landform



Opportunities:

Potential Search Area A with Landscape Capacity south west of Gowerton:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland and hedgebanks and landform, combined with a low level of visual receptors
- Opportunity for new touring site for caravans and camping [not all of the area may be suitable, due to sloping landform]. Manage woodland and existing hedges to maximise screening, particularly to minimise any potential visual effects from Gower Golf Club and public rights of way.

Potential Search Area B with Landscape Capacity south of Gowerton:

- Resulting from screening from the existing woodland, hedgebanks and landform, combined with low level of visual receptors, apart from the Gower Way, which passes along a minor road approximately 0.25km south. However, the road-side hedge, hedgerow field boundaries and landform combine to effectively screen views [not all of the area may be suitable due to sloping landform]
- Opportunity for new touring site for caravans and camping [not all of the area may be suitable due to sloping landform]. Manage woodland and existing hedges to maximise screening, particularly to minimise any potential visual effects from the Gower Way

GOWER LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY STUDY FOR CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

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7. Stage 2: Assessment of Small Sites with Temporary

Planning Permission

- 7.1 Stage 1 identified 11 Gower LCAs as having some potential for new caravan and camping sites, or for the expansion of existing facilities.
- 7.2 Of these 11 LCAs, the following 7 LCAs contain small sites (of between 1-5 units) which have temporary planning permissions:
- LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc
- LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston
- LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen
- LCA 19 Llanrhidian
- LCA 24 Lunnon
- LCA 36 Barland
- LCA 39 Llanmorlais

LCA 8 Llangennith & Llanmadoc



Small Sites:

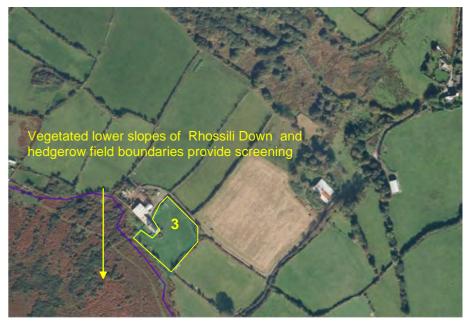
- 1. Orchard Park Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.28-hectare field. The site is adjacent to the minor public road, bounded by a roadside hedge, with mature hedgerows on the remaining 3 sides. There are potential cumulative effects particularly for road users which would be partially visible above the roadside hedge on the rising ground within the site, and the Whiteford Bay Static Site, situated approximately 0.1km to the north west
- 2. Phillistone Farm has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.7-hectare field. The site is not adjacent to the minor public road and, although it is situated on rising land to the south, there is potential for sufficient screening from close-range views and enclosure provided by the mature hedgerows which form the field boundaries. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 3. Barraston Hall has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.62-hectare field. The site is bounded by mature hedgerows on all sides, and contained by the rising landform of Llanmadoc Hill to the south. A public footpath runs along the northern boundary, but there is sufficient screening from close range views provided by farm buildings and mature hedgerows along the field boundaries. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism



Orchard Park Farm Caravan Club Site



Phillistone Farm



Barraston Hall

LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston [north]



Small Sites:

- 1. Betlands Farm has a temporary planning permission for 5 tents, within a 0.9-hectare field. The site is adjacent to the farm buildings and a minor road, bounded by a roadside hedgerow, with hedges along the remaining field boundaries. The site is generally visually contained and could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 2. Sunnyside Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.8-hectare field. The site does not lie along the adjacent public road and is bounded by mature hedgerows on all sides. A public right of way runs along the northern boundary, but there is sufficient screening and enclosure provided by the mature hedgerows forming the field boundaries. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 3. Little Reynoldston Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 1-hectare field. The site is bounded by mature hedges and built form to the east. It is partially screened from A4118 by a roadside hedge, and from the more elevated views from Cefn Bryn by a combination of vegetation and built form. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 4. Bank Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.3-hectare field. The site is bounded by mature hedges on all sides, and built form to the south. A public right of way runs approximately 50m from its western boundary adjacent to the A4118 but field boundaries and rising landform effectively screen close-range inward views. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism



Betlands Farm



Sunnyside Farm



Little Reynoldston



Bank Farm, Scurlage Castle

LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston [south]











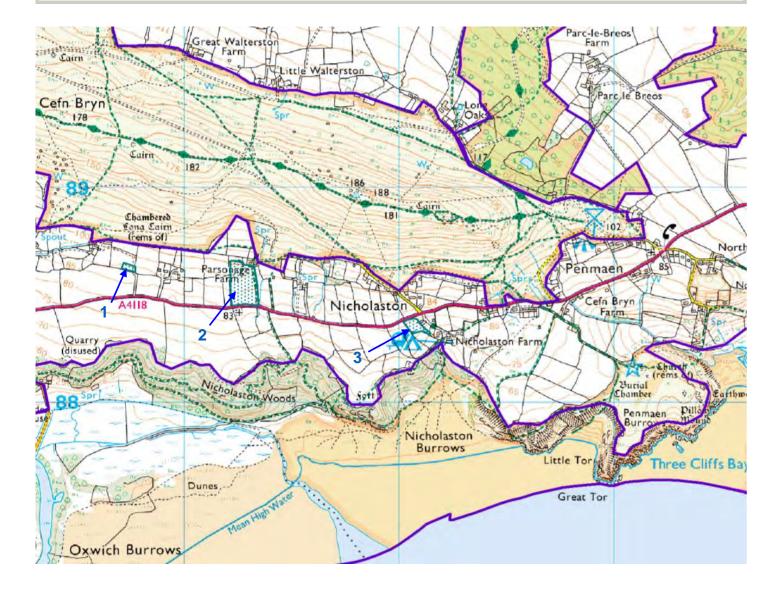
Moor Corner Farm

Small Sites:

- 5. Pitton Moor Stables has a temporary planning permission for 5 tents and 5 touring caravans within a 0.9-hectare field. The site is adjacent to farm buildings and the B4247 road to Rhossili, bounded by a roadside hedge and tree belt, with hedges along the remaining field boundaries. The site is generally visually contained and could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries [particularly the south eastern] are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 6. Eastmoor Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.4-hectare field. The site is adjacent to the B4247 road. Only the northern and western site boundaries are defined by mature hedgerows. Whilst the field within which the site lies has hedgerow field boundaries to the south and east, these do not currently screen views sufficiently from the public road [a major tourist route] to minimise the landscape and visual effects
- 7. Newton Lodge has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.7-hectare field. The site does not lie along the adjacent minor public road and is bounded by mature hedgerow on 3 sides. However, a public footpath runs along the southern boundary, and there are no vegetated field boundaries to screen views sufficiently to minimise the landscape and visual effects
- 8. Moor Corner Farm has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.5- hectare field. The site is bounded by mature hedges on all sides, and built form opposite to the north and to the south. The site is adjacent to the A4118 road - but field boundaries partially screen views. The site is generally visually contained and could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries [particularly western] are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 9 & 10. 1 and 2 Norton Farm have de facto permanent occupation for 5 static caravans and 3 static caravans, within 0.4-hectare and 0.8-hectare fields respectively. The site is bounded to the south by a roadside hedgebank, mature hedgerows to north and east, and built form to the west - and strongly wooded slopes down to Oxwich provide further containment to the north. The hedgebank partially screens views from the adjacent minor public road. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism

Norton Farm 46 of 51

LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen

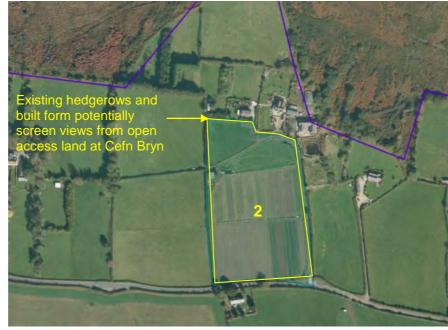


Small Sites:

- 1. Perriswood Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.16-hectare field. The site is located on rising land approximately 150m north of the A4118, with little boundary vegetation around the site to screen views. There are glimpsed views from the public road through gaps in roadside hedge. There are also potential landscape and visual effects on users of the open access land north of the site near Cefn Bryn
- 2. Heather Brae Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a large 2.4-hectare field. The site is adjacent to the A4118 and there are glimpsed views from the public road through gaps in the roadside hedge. Although it is situated on rising land to the north, there is screening and enclosure provided by the mature hedgerow on the western boundary, and the existing built form along the north. The north western area of the site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 3. Ivy Cottage Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.48-hectare field. The site is bounded by mature hedgerow on the western and southern boundaries, and by a roadside hedgebank along the A4118 to the north existing buildings provide further screening to the north east. The site is generally visually contained and could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism



Perriswood Farm





Heather Brae

Ivy Cottage Farm

LCA 19 Llanrhidian



Small Sites:

- 1. Stembridge Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.46-hectare field. The site is adjacent to the farm buildings and a minor public road, bounded by a roadside hedge, with a hedgerow along eastern boundary existing farm buildings provide additional enclosure to the west. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries [in particular the roadside hedge] are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 2. Tyrcoed Farm has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.2-hectare field. The site is adjacent to a minor public road, bounded by a roadside hedge, with hedges along the eastern and western boundaries existing farm buildings provide additional enclosure to the south. The landform slopes southwards away from the road, and this, combined with the enclosure provided by the existing buildings, visually contains the central and southern site area. This site with the possible exception of the northern area could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 3. Stavel Dene Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 1.4-hectare field. The site is bounded by hedges and housing to the west. The convex landform means it is only partially screened from B4271 by the roadside hedge, and caravans in the northern area are viewed within the wider attractive view over the Loughor Estuary. However, the southern area is less intrusive and benefits from the enclosure from the southern boundary hedgerow. This site with the possible exception of the northern area could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries [particularly the roadside hedge] are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism
- 4. Springfield Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.6- hectare field. The site is level and bounded by a roadside hedge along the B4271, field boundary hedges to east and west, and built form to the south. This site could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism



Stembridge Farm



Tyrcoed Farm



Stavel Dene



Springfield

LCA 24 Lunnon



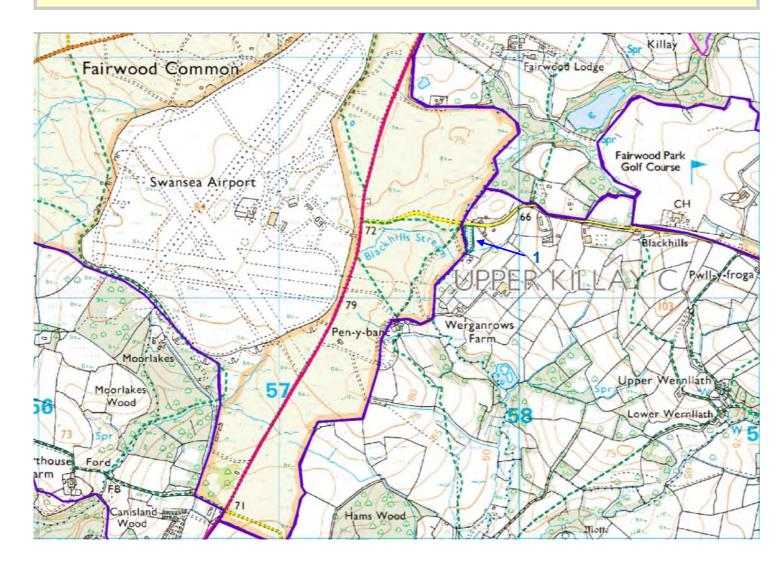


Great Lunnon Farm

Small Sites:

1. Great Lunnon Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.19-hectare field. The site is adjacent to the farm buildings and a minor road, bounded by a roadside hedgerow, with hedgerows along the remaining field boundaries. The site is generally visually contained and could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism

LCA 36 Barland



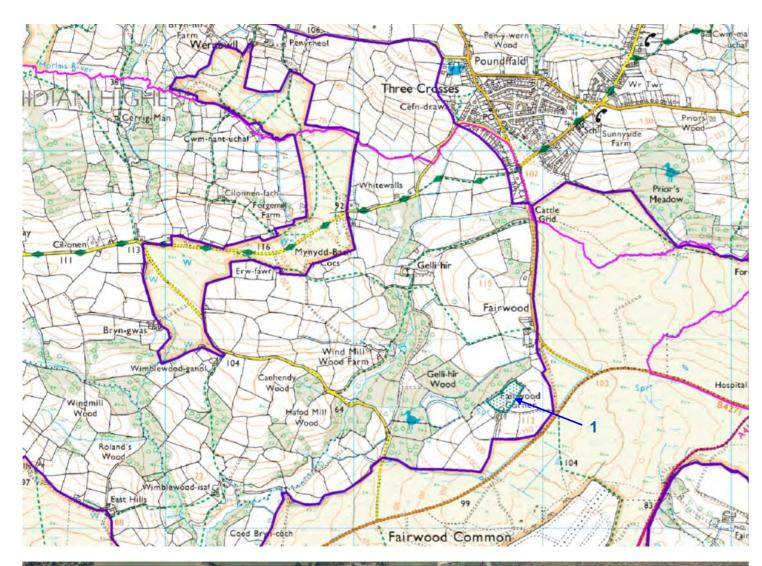


Blackhills Lane

Small Sites:

1. Blackhills Lane Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 0.35-hectare field. The site is adjacent to a minor public road, bounded by a gappy roadside hedgerow, with hedgerows along the eastern boundary. The remainder of the boundary is defined by woodland and scrub which restricts views inwards from the adjacent Fairwood Common designated as Open Access Land. The site is generally visually contained and could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism

LCA 39 Llanmorlais





Fairwood Corner Farm

Small Sites:

1. Fairwood Corner Farm Caravan Club Site has a temporary planning permission for 5 touring caravans, within a 2.4-hectare field. The site is not immediately adjacent to the nearby B4271, a major tourist route. The south-western boundary has a hedgerow and the southern boundary is formed by existing farm buildings. There is no vegetated boundary along the eastern site boundary, although there is a hedge that forms the field boundary to the north east. Beyond this hedgerow to the east is a further hedge with adjacent woodland scrub which forms the field boundary with Fairwood Common, designated as Open Access Land. The western boundary is defined by woodland and scrub. Views from the adjacent Fairwood Common are effectively screened by the existing vegetation. Whilst the site lies on a slightly convex landform, it is generally visually contained by the hedges, woodland scrub, and farm buildings adjacent to the south. It could therefore be granted full planning permission without detrimental landscape effects, provided that the existing field boundaries are managed appropriately, which should be secured by an appropriate planning mechanism