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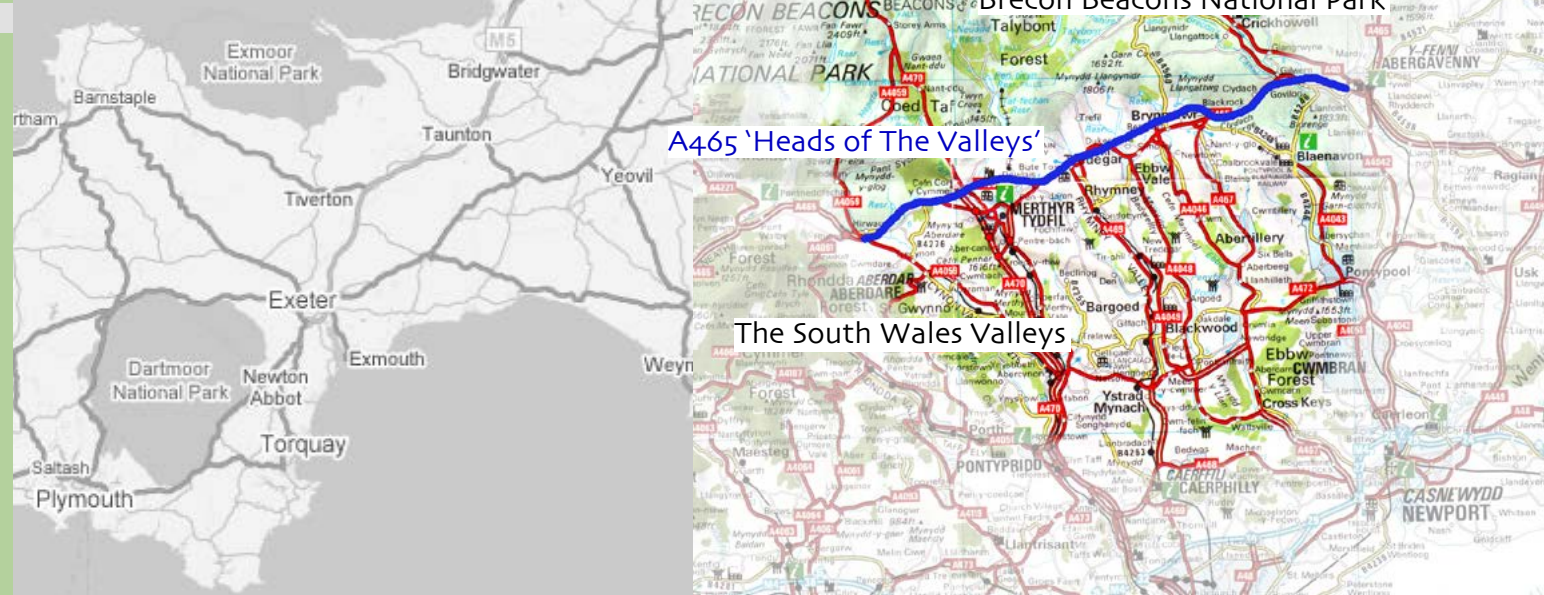
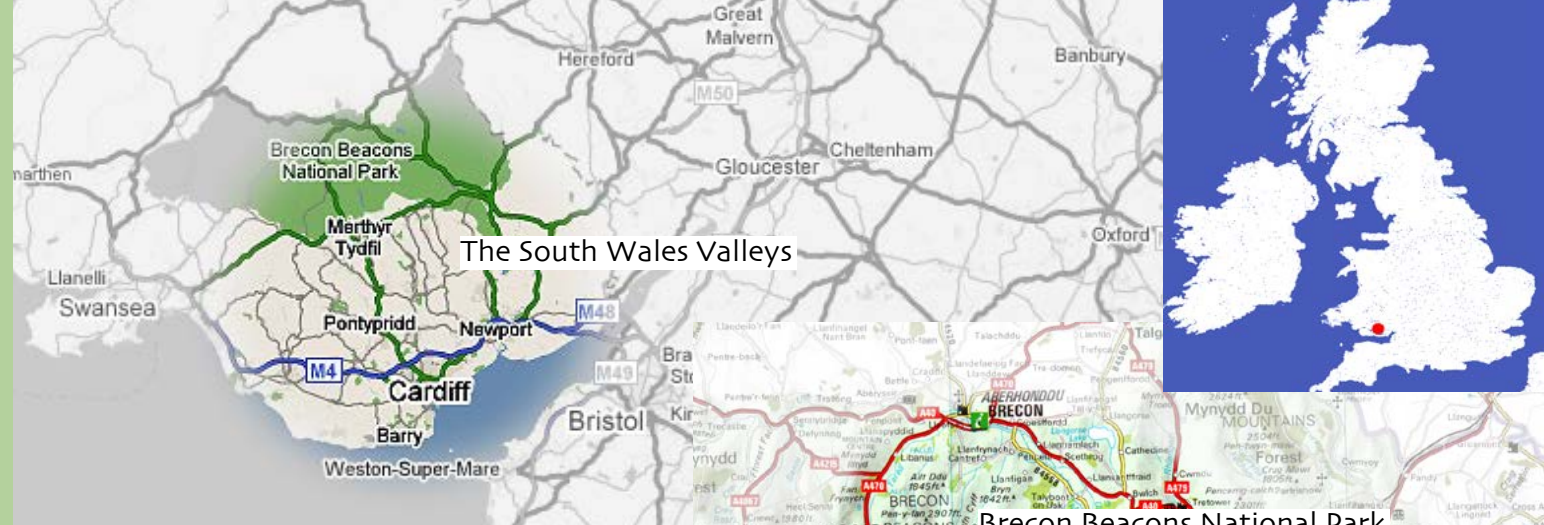
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A visioning study for site-specific art near A465 & "The Heads Of The Valleys"  
commissioned by Public Art Wales (C-BaT), Cardiff



THUMBNAILED

Paul de Kort







By its geographical position A465 'HEADS OF THE VALLEYS' shows the opposition of 'scratching and blessing'.

It's northern side stands for 'the blessed side'.  
It's southern side stands for 'the scratched side'.

Besides site specific-artworks, the cross-sections, the furnishing and equipments of the dualled A465 can emphasize, intensify and dramatize this asymmetry.

## A465 / 'THE HEADS OF THE VALLEYS' IS ASYMMETRICAL

The planning proces of HEADS OF THE VALLEYS A465 tells this story of blessing and scratching too.  
On the one hand we 'scratch' a new or wider road through the landscape.  
On the other hand we are aware of our 'guardianship' of its surrounding.

We take consideration with high quality rivers while building, and afterwards.  
We are carefull with valuable geological traces and vulnerable vegetation.

By planning, designing and engineering most carefully and with vision this tract of road will be focussed on the sheer beauty of its surroundings, by showing the history of blessing and injuring, hurting and curing.

A465 'HEADS OF VALLEYS' can play a role in the (re)appreciation of our landscape and consequently it's protection.

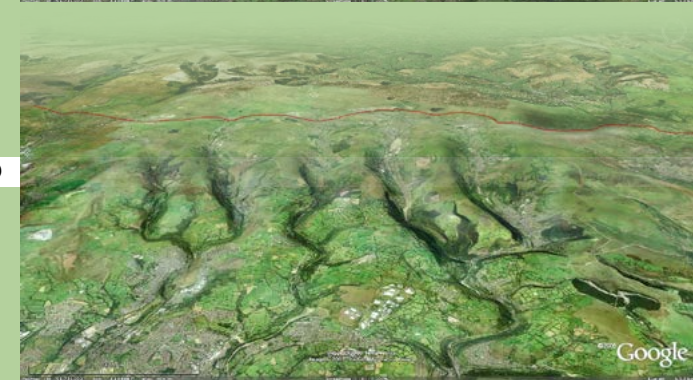
In the metaphor of the 'Hands' A465 is the line that connects the fingers.

I come up with this metaphor of 'the blessing and scratching hand' in order to make the landscape recognizable as a 'living body'.

## THE BLESSED LAND AND THE SCRATCHED LAND

In my research I was looking for places along the track, for moments and forms where this metaphor might turn into reality, into landart.

I did this by 'pin-pointing',  
putting the finger on the spot...,  
by 'archi-puncture' and  
by adding 'thumbnails'.





## SECTION 1

River Usk, Brecon Canal  
and loss of burial ground



suggestions;

In section 1 A465 crosses the river Usk and Brecon Canal.  
A natural and a cultural watercurrent in one glance. Natural on the northern side,  
cultural on the southern side underlining the noticed asymmetry.

River Usk



Near Gilwern there is a loss of burial ground due to the upgrading of A465.  
The remains will be relocated, but still this is a dramatic moment in the planning proces.  
Locals have buried their loveones here, their ancestors. Do not execute this as a cold procedure,  
but turn it into a graceful, ritual happening... Art can play a role in this.

Refer to this location of former burial ground in the design of the road,  
for this is a point where the 'blessing and injuring' joins hands dramatically.

Brecon Canal



## SECTION 2

Clydach Gorge

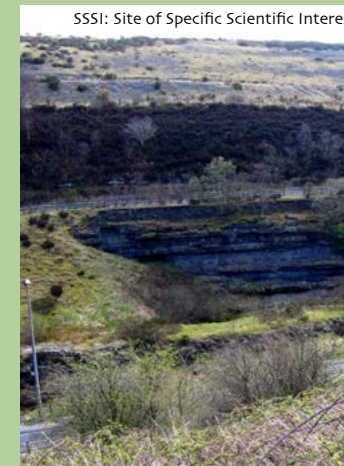


suggestions;

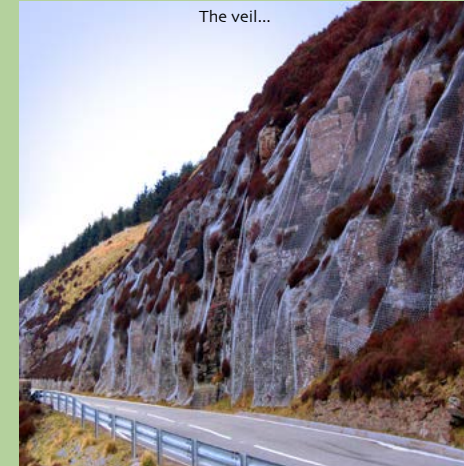
The nets that keep the rocks in place on the northern face  
of the gorge can be claimed as a design possibility.  
Turn this into attractive, graceful, 'female' element.  
Like for example a veil with 'diamants'...

Dramatize the fact that the SSSI-site  
at the southern face must be 'injured'.  
Show that this hurts.  
Make it weep...  
let it bleed!

SSSI: Site of Specific Scientific Interest



The veil...





## SECTION 3

the highest point,  
the Brecon Beacons,  
a reservoir  
and a bypass



suggestions;

In a very short period of time the scenery changes drastically from a claustrofobic narrow gorge into a wide and open view over the hills and the valleys.

Exploit the benefits of the bypass and the fact that this is the highest point, use the presence of the reservoir. Create a stopping point here with a observationpost near the highest point at 1,350 ft overlooking Brynmare, the valleys, the reservoir and a view on the Brecon Beacons.



new track of A465 passing the reservoir barrier



Observatorium; Rotterdam



Paolo L. Bürgi; Locarno



The reservoir is situated in 'the palm of the blessing hand' giving water to the 'scratched' valleys.

In moments of rainfall the water floods visibly from the reservoir to the valleys.



View to the south (left)  
overlooking the valleys and  
view to the north (right)  
overlooking the reservoir and  
the Brecon Beacons





## SECTION 4

Rihmney Valley,  
a dualled section,  
slag heaps  
and chances for  
temporary interventions



suggestions;

Take benefit of the coupures to stress the asymmetry of A465.  
Make the northern sides soft, green and grownover  
and let the southern sides (shadow) constantly being flooded,  
as they become green and brownish veils grown over with mosses.



more suggestions;

The temporary landforms can be used for temporary interventions. Simple and low-cost for example by scratching patterns in to the soil in the winter and blessing it with a sea of flowers in spring.



northern slag heap location



southern slag heap location



Royden Rabinowitch



A slag heap is a pile built of accumulated tailings, which are by-products of mining.  
On section 4 we encounter 2 slag heap locations on both sides of the road.  
This is another possibility for underlining the asymmetry in the landscape.

By adding 'thumbnails' as oval forms on the 'finger tips'  
the southern slag heap might get black iron 'nails', like holes,  
whilst the northern gets gleamy stainless steel 'nails', reflecting the sky.





Batti i Roig Arquitectes;  
reclaimed landfill as ecological test-area, Barcelona

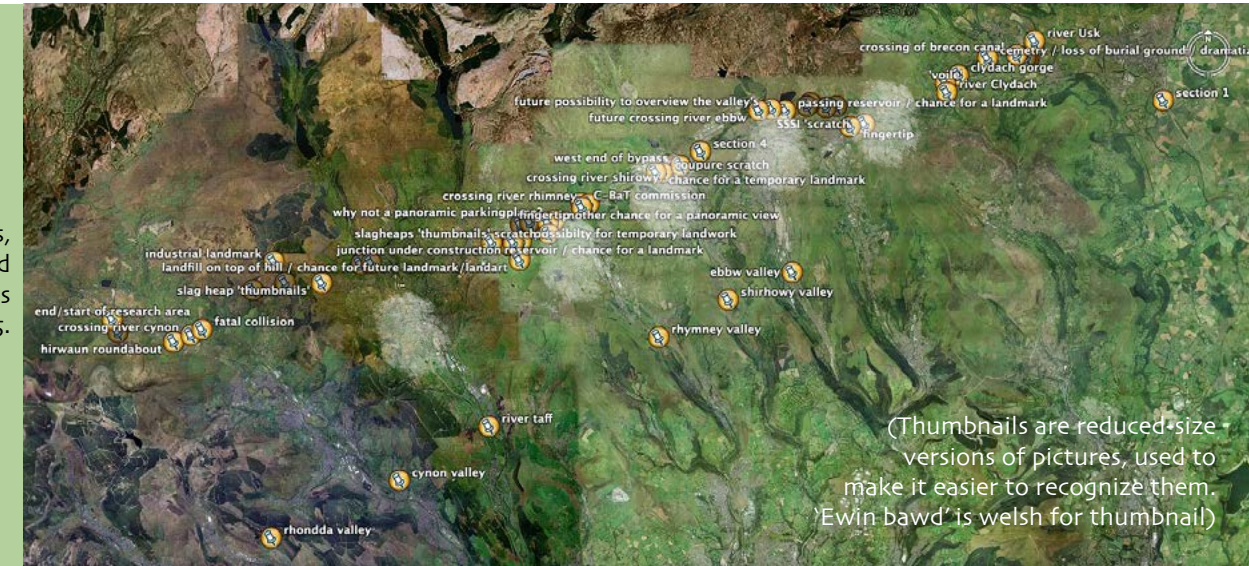
While crossing section 5 from the east a huge landfill area at the top of a mountain is looming up from a great distance.  
My suggestion is; take this chance as a marked opportunity for a prospective landmark.  
It is on the southern side, so on the 'scratched' side of A465.  
Don't hide, but show! Tell the story of the curing injuries.

## SECTION 6 + 7

from Merthyr Tydfil to Minwaur.  
This section is marked by two industrial sites; a huge gastank on top of a hill near Merthyr and a huge conveyor belt running through a valley.  
In the meanwhile we encounter pin-pointed landscapes like a extended area of slag heaps near Dowlays and a reservoir on the southern side of A465.



Pin-points,  
fingertips and  
thumbnails  
along A465.



(Thumbnails are reduced-size  
versions of pictures, used to  
make it easier to recognize them.  
'Ewin bawd' is welsh for thumbnail)