



**Cyfoeth
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Wales

Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore
wind farms in Wales:

Strategic assessment and guidance

Stage 3- Seascape and visual sensitivity assessment for offshore wind farms

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Report No 331

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1. Crynodeb Gweithredol

1.1. Cefndir a briff

Ym mis Tachwedd 2018, penodwyd White Consultants gan Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC) i gynnal asesiad strategol a pharatoi canllawiau ar gyfer sensitifrwydd morwedd a gweledol i ffermydd gwynt ar y môr yn ardaloedd Cynllun Morol drafft Cymru.

Mae i'r prosiect dair rhan ac, er cyflawnrwydd, dylid ystyried y rhain gyda'i gilydd. Yr adroddiad hwn yw'r drydedd ran ac mae'n cynnwys asesiad o sensitifrwydd morwedd.

Roedd y briff yn gofyn am asesiad desg gofodol syml o forwedd Cymru ar gyfer tyrbinau o wahanol uchderau hyd at 350m o uchder gan roi ystyriaeth i ardaloedd sydd wedi'u mapio'n barod fel Parciau Cenedlaethol ac Ardaloedd o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol (AHNEoedd), ardaloedd cymeriad morwedd (sy'n gyfyngedig i ardaloedd gyda'r glannau – hyd at 12 milltir forol) a gwaith mapio gweledol presennol yn cynnwys yr ymchwil cyfrifydd parod (Cam 1 o'r astudiaeth hon).

Y prif ysgogwyr polisi yw'r Datganiadau Polisi Cenedlaethol EN-1 ac EN-3. Mae'r rhain yn ymdrin â chynllunio seilwaith cenedlaethol mewn perthynas ag ynni adnewyddadwy, yn cynnwys ffermydd gwynt ar y môr ag allbwn sydd uwchlaw 100MVW. Cydnabyddir bod gan dirweddau a ddynodwyd yn genedlaethol y statws uchaf o warchodaeth a dylid rhoi ystyriaeth i'w dibenion statudol.

1.2. Dull Gweithredu

Y nod yw osgoi effeithiau andwyol sylweddol ar dderbynyddion morwedd sensitif iawn. Y rhagosodiad yw mai'r effaith bwysicaf o ran ffermydd gwynt ar y môr yw'r effaith ar y canfyddiad o gymeriad morwedd o'r arfordir neu'r ynysoedd cysylltiedig h.y. y berthynas rhwng unrhyw ddatblygiad arfaethedig a chymeriad morwedd arfordirol pan ystyrir eu bod mewn cyfosodiad â'i gilydd. Mae hyn yn golygu mai'r prif ysgogwyr yw'r pellter oddi ar yr arfordir a chymeriad a gwerth y forwedd arfordirol a'i derbynyddion sensitif cyfansoddol. Felly cafodd gwahanol barthau morwedd eu clustnodi at y diben hwn yn unig – ni ddylent gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion eraill lle gallai fod angen cynnal cymeriadaeth lawn o forwedd gan roi ystyriaeth i brosesau naturiol a diwylliannol cynhenid a nodweddion eraill.

Mae'r astudiaeth gyffredinol yn canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar y byfferau argymelledig posibl ar gyfer Parciau Cenedlaethol ac AHNEoedd. Fodd bynnag, rhoddir ystyriaeth i dderbynyddion sensitif eraill yn y rhan hon o'r astudiaeth gan eu bod yn cyfrannu at gymeriad morwedd a'r canfyddiad ohoni. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys Arfordiroedd Treftadaeth, Safleoedd Treftadaeth y Byd a nodweddion fel henebion rhestredig e.e. caerâu arfordirol.

Mae'r forwedd wedi'i rhannu'n bymtheg parth ar sail:

- Ehangder y byfferau gweledol sy'n gysylltiedig â'r ardaloedd tirwedd dynodedig – mae'r rhain yn pennu pellterau'r parthau oddi wrth yr arfordir.

- Presenoldeb ffermydd gwynt presennol, neu beidio, sy'n effeithio ar gymeriad morwedd.
- Geometreg arfordir Cymru, gan roi ystyriaeth i'r prif bentiroedd, prif faeau a chymeriad yr arfordir.

Dangosir y parthau yn Ffigur 1.

1.3. Asesiad o sensitifrwydd

Mae sensitifrwydd parth i ffermydd gwynt ar y môr yn seiliedig ar gyfres o feini prawf sy'n cydymffurfio â'r canllawiau a baratowyd yng Ngham 2. Mae'r meini prawf yn grwpio'r ffactorau yn werth, rhagdueddiad morwedd a rhagdueddiad gweledol. Rhoddir crynodeb o sensitifrwydd pob parth mewn perthynas â datblygu ffermydd gwynt ar y môr, ac mae'n cynnwys argymhellion i leihau eu heffeithiau gweledol.

Rhoddir diffiniad isod o'r trothwyon ar gyfer sensitifrwydd tirwedd a gweledol. Mae'r raddfa pum pwynt yn adlewyrchu'r gwahaniaeth main rhwng cymeriad pob morwedd.

<i>Lefel</i>	<i>Diffiniad</i>
Isel	Mae nodweddion gweledol ac/neu forwedd y parth yn gadarn neu wedi'u diraddio ac/neu mae ei werthoedd yn isel a gall ymaddasu i'r math perthnasol o ddatblygiad heb newid ei gymeriad yn sylweddol neu weld effeithiau andwyol. Mae'r trothwyon ar gyfer newid sylweddol yn uchel iawn.
Canolig/ isel	Mae nodweddion gweledol ac/neu forwedd y parth yn gallu gwrthsefyll newid ac/neu mae ei werthoedd yn ganolig/isel neu'n isel a gall ymaddasu i'r math perthnasol o ddatblygiad mewn llawer o sefyllfaoedd heb newid ei gymeriad yn sylweddol neu weld effeithiau andwyol. Mae'r trothwyon ar gyfer newid sylweddol yn uchel.
Canolig	Mae nodweddion gweledol ac/neu forwedd y parth yn gymedrol ragdueddol i newid ac/neu mae ei werthoedd yn amrywio o ganolig/isel i uchel/canolig ac/neu <i>gallai</i> fod iddo botensial i ymaddasu i'r math perthnasol o ddatblygiad mewn rhai sefyllfaoedd <i>diffiniedig</i> heb newid ei gymeriad yn sylweddol neu weld effeithiau andwyol. Mae'r trothwyon ar gyfer newid sylweddol yn ganolradd.
Uchel/ canolig	Mae nodweddion gweledol ac/neu forwedd y parth yn rhagdueddol i newid ac/neu mae ei werthoedd yn ganolig i uchel (er nad yw'r lefel hon o werth yn hanfodol pan fod rhagdueddiad gweledol ac/neu dirwedd yn faterion allweddol). Mae'n bosibl y gallai'r parth morwedd ymaddasu i'r math perthnasol o ddatblygiad, ond mewn sefyllfaoedd cyfyngedig yn unig, heb newid ei gymeriad yn sylweddol neu weld effeithiau andwyol. Mae'r trothwyon ar gyfer newid sylweddol yn isel.
Uchel	Mae nodweddion gweledol ac/neu forwedd y parth yn

rhagdueddol iawn i newid ac/neu mae ei werthoedd yn uchel neu'n uchel/canolig ac mae'n methu ag ymaddasu i'r math perthnasol o ddatblygiad heb newid ei gymeriad yn sylweddol neu weld effeithiau andwyol. Mae'r trothwyon ar gyfer newid sylweddol yn isel iawn.

Rhoddir crynodeb isod o'r casgliadau sensitifrwydd morwedd a gweledol ar gyfer pob parth ac fe'u dangosir yn Ffigurau 7 ac 8.

Crynodeb o sensitifrwydd

Rhif yr Ardal:	Enw'r Ardal:	Sensitifrwydd
1	Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru Gyda'r Glannau	Canolig
2	Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru Ar y Môr	Canolig/isel
3	Gogledd Cymru a Gogledd Ynys Môn Gyda'r Glannau	Uchel
4	Gogledd Cymru a Gogledd Ynys Môn Ar y Môr	Canolig
5	Gogledd Cymru ac Ynys Môn Ar y Môr Allanol	Canolig/isel
6	Bae Caernarfon Gyda'r Glannau	Uchel
7	Bae Caernarfon Ar y Môr	Uchel/canolig
8	Bae Ceredigion, gogledd Gyda'r Glannau	Uchel
9	Bae Ceredigion, canolog Gyda'r Glannau	Uchel/canolig
10	Bae Ceredigion Ar y Môr	Uchel/canolig
11	Culfor San Siôr Ar y Môr	Canolig
12	Arfordir Sir Benfro Gyda'r Glannau a Bae Caerfyrddin	Uchel
13	Arfordir Sir Benfro Ar y Môr	Uchel/canolig
14	Y Môr Celtaidd	Canolig/isel
15	Môr Hafren ac Aber Afon Hafren	Uchel

1.4. Casgliadau cyffredinol

At ei gilydd, mae morwedd Cymru yn sensitif iawn mewn llawer o ardaloedd gyda chyfran fawr ohoni o fewn lleoliad dynodiadau tirwedd cenedlaethol ac yn cyfrannu at eu nodweddion arbennig. Ystyrir y parthau mewn grwpiau o hyd at 22.6km, 22.6 – 44km, a thu hwnt i 44km oddi ar yr arfordir:

- Yn gyffredinol ystyrir bod y sensitifrwydd yn uchel ar gyfer **hyd at 22.6km** oddi ar y lan o ran datblygu ffermydd gwynt, ac eithrio arfordir y gogledd ddwyrain (**Parth 1**) sydd â datblygiad ffermydd gwynt presennol yn barod. Yma, gallai fod

posibilrwydd o estyniad bach o ran ffermydd gwynt ond mae'r cwmpas yn gyfyngedig.

- Pan fydd **rhwng 22.6km a 44km** oddi ar y lan, mae'r lleoliad posibl ar gyfer ynni gwynt yn ddibynnol ar uchder y tyrbîn ac ehangder tebygol y fferm wynt gyfan. Ym mharth 4, gallai datblygiad wedi ei ddylunio'n dda fod yn bosibl ac ym **Mharth 2** byddai datblygiad y tu hwnt i Wynt y Môr yn dueddol o gyfyngu ar y niwed. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, fel ar Arfordiroedd Sir Benfro a Llŷn, ystyrir bod caniatáu datblygiad yn y parthau hyn (**7, 10 a 13**) yn niweidiol gan fyddai'r datblygiad yn weladwy ac yn cael effaith andwyol ar y nodweddion arbennig, yn cynnwys lleoliad, llonyddwch a gwylltineb ymddangosiadol yr arfordiroedd gorllewinol anghysbell hyn.
- Mewn lleoliadau **y tu hwnt i 44km** oddi ar y lan, byddai effeithiau tyrbînau gwynt o bron bob maint yn gyfyngedig er y gallent fod yn weladwy dan amodau golau a thywydd penodol. Gallai datblygu ym **Mharth 5** fod yn bosibl yn enwedig i'r gogledd ddwyrain. Gallai datblygu ym **Mharth 11** fod yn bosibl er y byddai'n rhaid rhoi ystyriaeth ofalus iawn i'r effeithiau arfaethedig ar Ynys Enlli a phen pellaf penrhyn Llŷn. Mae'n debygol y byddai datblygu yn y rhan fwyaf o **Barth 14** yn bosibl er y gallai tyrbînau mawr yn yr ardaloedd agosaf at arfordir Sir Benfro a'i hynysioedd achosi niwed, unwaith eto oherwydd gwelededd mewn amodau golau a thywydd penodol.

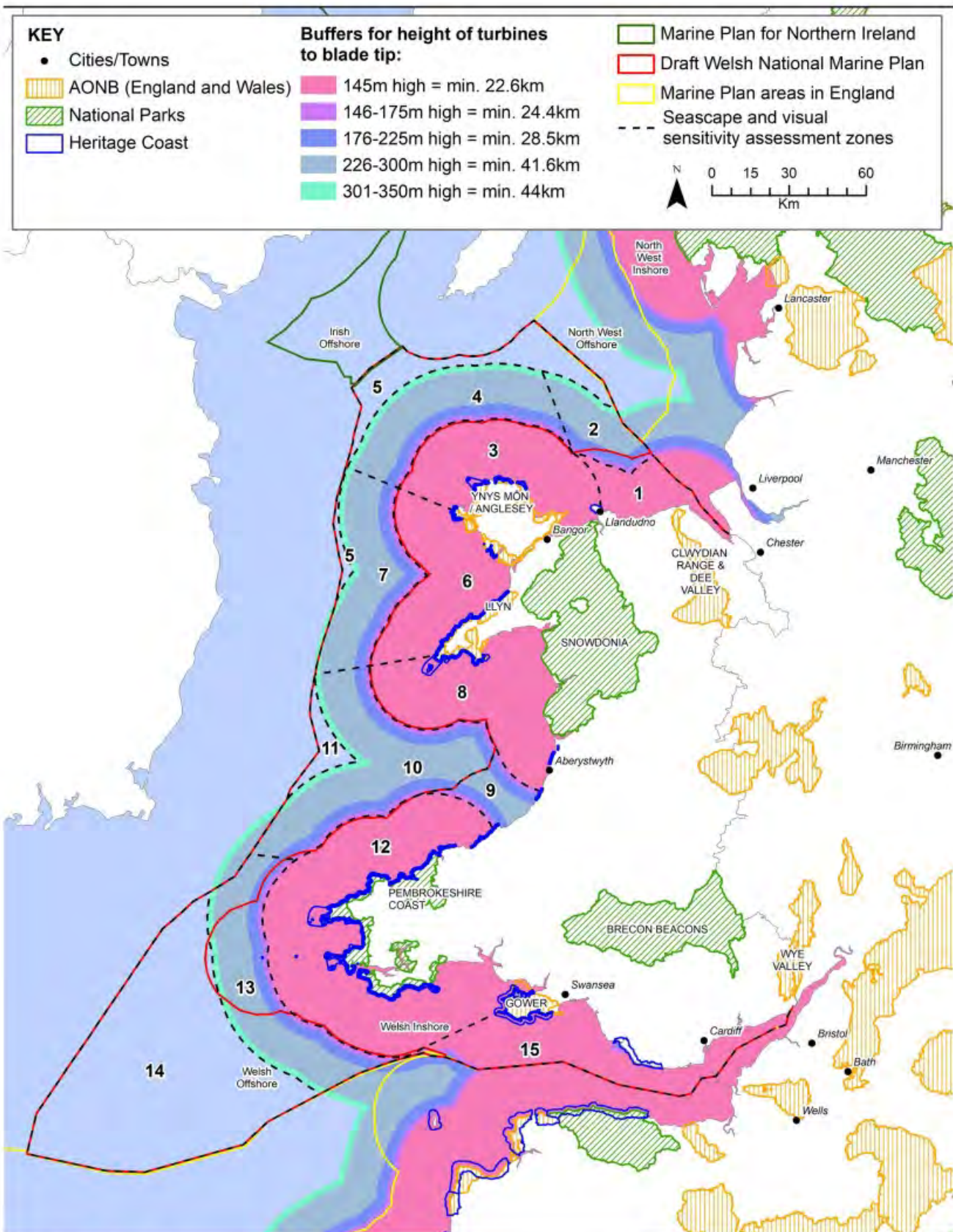


Figure 1
Designated Landscape buffers -
for low magnitude of visual effect
for different wind turbine heights

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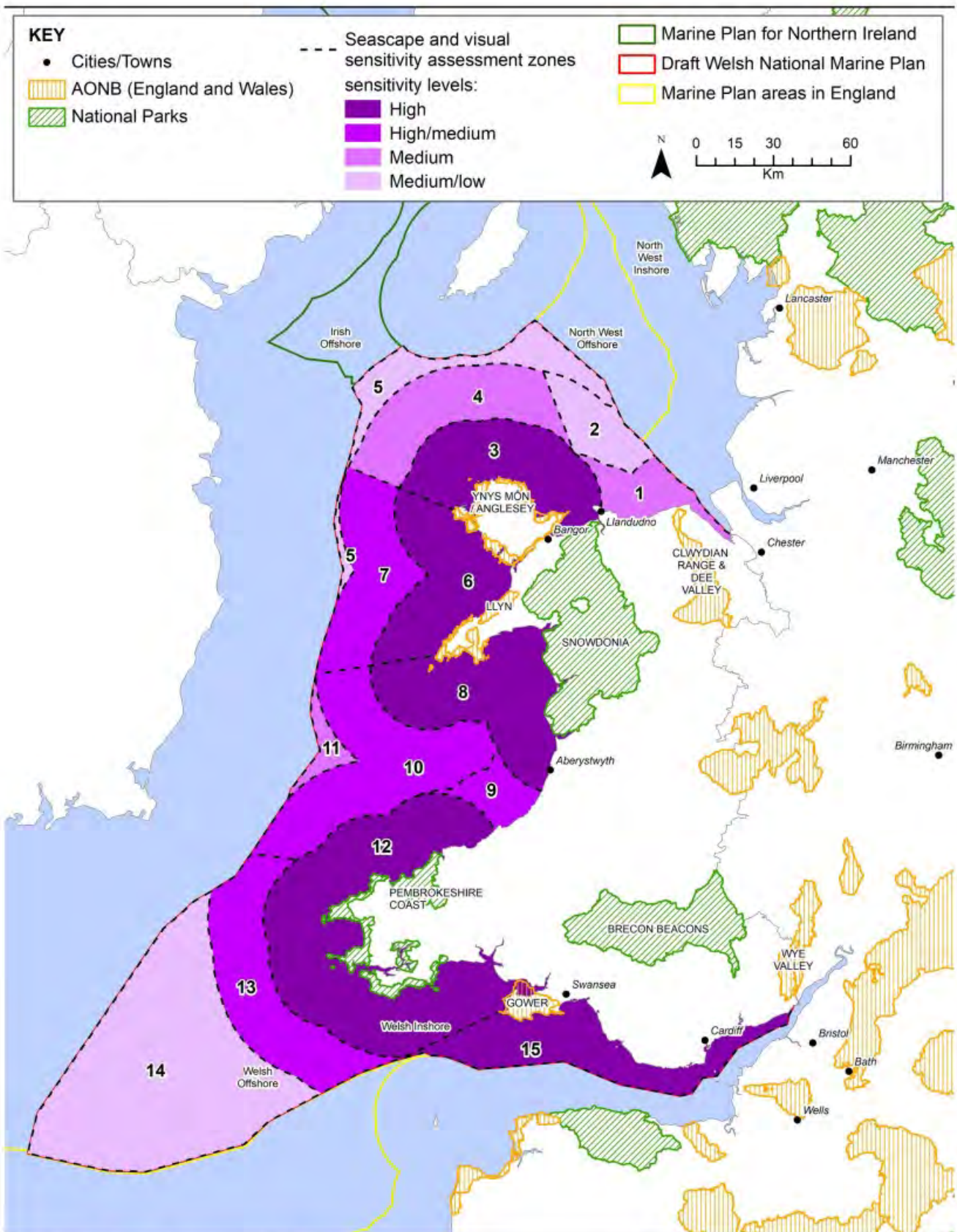
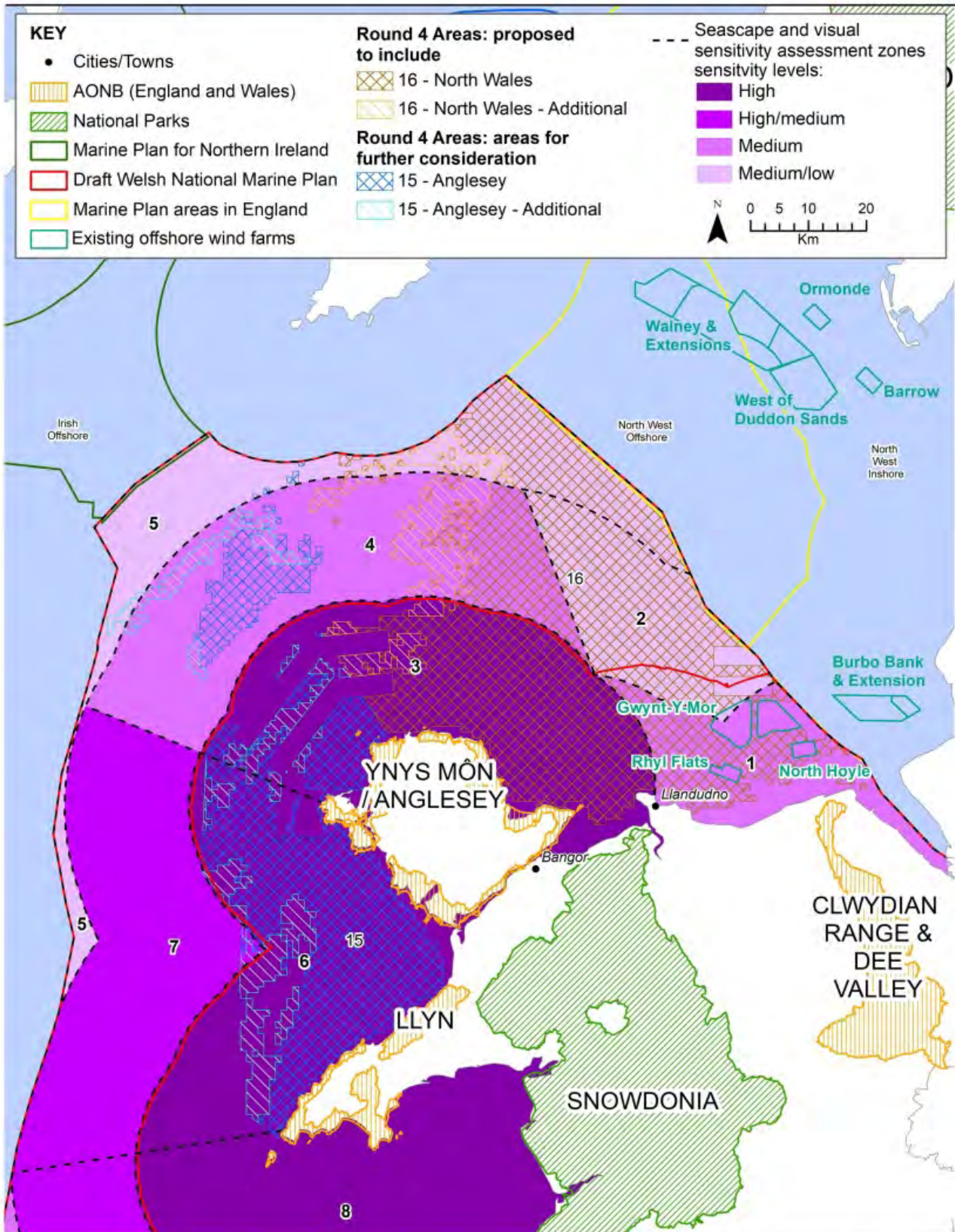


Figure 7
Designated landscapes, their seascape settings and their sensitivity to offshore wind farms

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Figure 8
Designated landscapes, their seascape settings and their sensitivity to offshore windfarms - off North Wales

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Background and brief

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) appointed White Consultants in November 2018 to undertake a strategic assessment and prepare guidance for seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales' draft Marine Plan areas.

The project is in three parts which for completeness should be considered together. This report is the third part and is the seascape sensitivity assessment.

The brief required a spatially simple desk-based assessment of the Welsh seascape for different heights of turbines up to 350m high taking into account existing mapped areas such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), seascape character areas (which are limited to inshore areas – up to 12nm) and existing visual mapping work including the ready reckoner research (Stage 1 of this study).

The main policy drivers are National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3. These address national infrastructure planning in relation to renewable energy including offshore wind farms with an output above 100MW. Nationally designated landscapes are confirmed as having the highest status of protection and their statutory purposes should be taken into consideration.

2.2. Approach

The aim is to avoid significant adverse effects on high sensitivity seascape receptors. The premise is that the most important effect of offshore windfarms is on the perception of seascape character from the coast or related islands ie the relationship between any proposed development with coastal seascape character when seen in juxtaposition with each other. This means that the main drivers are distance from the coast and the character and value of the coastal seascape and its component sensitive receptors. Therefore different seascape zones were identified for this purpose alone and should not be used for other purposes which may need full seascape characterisation taking intrinsic natural and cultural processes and other characteristics into account.

The overall study focusses primarily on potential recommended buffers for National Parks and AONBs. However, other sensitive receptors are considered in this part of the study as they contribute to seascape character and perception. These include Heritage Coasts, World Heritage Sites and point features such as scheduled monuments e.g. coastal forts.

The seascape is divided into fifteen zones on the basis of:

- The extent of visual buffers relating to designated landscape areas - these inform the distances of the zones away from the coast.
- The presence or otherwise of existing windfarms, which affects seascape character

- The geometry of the Welsh coastline, taking account of major headlands, major bays and the character of the coast.

The zones are shown in Figure 1.

2.3. Sensitivity assessment

The sensitivity of a zone to offshore wind farms is based on a series of criteria which are consistent with the guidance prepared in Stage 2. The criteria group the factors into value, seascape susceptibility and visual susceptibility. A summary of the sensitivity of each zone is provided, in relation to offshore wind farm development, and includes recommendations to minimise their visual effects.

The thresholds for landscape and visual sensitivity are defined below. The five point scale reflects the subtlety of different seascape character.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Low	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are robust or degraded and/or its values are low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very high.
Medium/ low	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are resilient to change and/or its values are medium/low or low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development in many situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are high.
Medium	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are moderately susceptible to change and/or its values are medium/low through to high/medium and/or it <i>may</i> have some potential to accommodate the relevant type of development in some <i>defined</i> situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are intermediate.
High/ medium	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are susceptible to change and/or its values are medium through to high (although this level of value is not essential where landscape or visual susceptibility are key issues). The seascape zone may be able to accommodate the relevant type of development but only in limited situations without significant character change or adverse effects <i>if</i> defined in the relevant zone summary. Thresholds for significant change are low.
High	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are very susceptible to change and/or its values are high or high/medium and it is unable to accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very low.

The seascape and visual sensitivity findings for each zone are summarised below and shown in Figures 7 and 8.

Summary of sensitivity

Area No:	Area name:	Sensitivity
1	North East Wales Inshore	Medium
2	North East Wales Offshore	Medium/low
3	North Wales and North Anglesey Inshore	High
4	North Wales and North Anglesey Offshore	Medium
5	North Wales and Anglesey Outer Offshore	Medium/low
6	Caernarfon Bay Inshore	High
7	Caernarfon Bay Offshore	High/medium
8	Cardigan Bay north Inshore	High
9	Cardigan Bay central inshore	High/medium
10	Cardigan Bay Offshore	High/medium
11	St George's Channel Offshore	Medium
12	Pembrokeshire coast Inshore and Carmarthen Bay	High
13	Pembrokeshire coast Offshore	High/medium
14	Celtic Sea	Medium/low
15	Bristol Channel and the Severn Estuary	High

2.4. General conclusions

Overall, the seascape of Wales is highly sensitive in many areas with a large proportion lying within the setting of national landscape designations and contributing to their special qualities. The zones are considered in groups of up to 22.6km, 22.6 – 44km and beyond 44km from the coast:

- **Up to 22.6km** from shore the sensitivity of seascape is generally considered to be high for wind farm development except for the north east coast (**Zone 1**) which already has existing wind farm development. Here, some small extension of windfarms may be possible but scope is limited.
- **Between 22.6km and 44km** from shore the potential location for wind energy is dependent on the height of turbine and the likely extent of the overall windfarm. In zone 4 well-designed development may be possible and in **Zone 2** development beyond Gwynt y Mor would tend to limit harm. In some areas, such as off the Pembrokeshire and Llŷn Coasts, it is considered harmful to have development in these zones (**7, 10 and 13**) as development would be visible and would adversely affect the special qualities, including setting, tranquillity and apparent wildness of these remote western coasts.
- **Beyond 44km** from shore the effects of most sizes of wind turbines would be limited although they may be visible in certain light and weather conditions.

Development in **Zone 5** could be possible especially to the north east. Development in **Zone 11** may be possible although potential effects on Bardsey Island and the end of the Llŷn peninsula would need to be considered very carefully. Development in the majority of **Zone 14** would be likely to be possible although larger turbines in the areas closest to the Pembrokeshire coast and its islands may cause harm, again due to visibility in certain light and weather conditions.

PART 1

Overview, method and summary of findings

3. Introduction

3.1. Background and the brief

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) appointed White Consultants in November 2018 to undertake a strategic assessment and prepare guidance for seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales' marine plan area.

The brief states that the project aims are to:

- To undertake strategic assessment and mapping of areas of visual sensitivity to offshore windfarm development around the coast of Wales, which NRW can use to inform ongoing discussions with the Crown Estate and others, including Welsh Government and developers, about the leasing and consenting of any new areas for offshore wind.
- To prepare a short siting guidance paper in relation to seascape and visual effects of offshore wind farms aimed at an audience of developers, marine planners and NRW staff.

The project is in three parts, of which this report is the third. The parts are:

- A visual effects ready reckoner showing the recommended distances from National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in relation to different turbine heights.
- A guidance note setting out what offshore windfarm developers need to know in relation to seascape and visual effects at their site search stage.
- A seascape sensitivity assessment for offshore windfarms in Wales' Marine plan area.

These parts are complementary to each other and should be considered together in order to inform the best location for future offshore wind farm locations, in terms of seascape and visual matters.

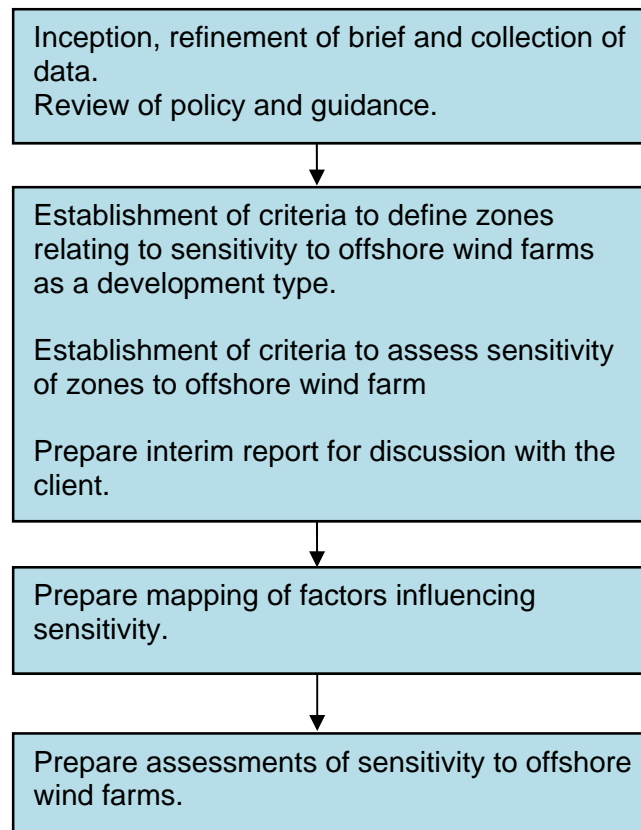
The brief sets out the following requirement for the seascape sensitivity study:

- An assessment which is spatially simple with the Welsh seascape divided into just a few well-reasoned broad areas, proportionate to the large scale of development anticipated.
- A desk based study relying on existing mapped areas such as National Parks and AONBs, seascape character areas, existing visual mapping work including the ready reckoner research (Stage 1 of the study).
- Appropriate methodology and criteria with reference to established landscape and seascape sensitivity good practice.
- Production of a technical report and GIS mapping.

4. Study approach and process

4.1. Process

The study process is summarised below:



4.2. Focus and limitations of the report

The brief requires a sensitivity study to offshore wind farm developments for different heights of turbines up to 350m high. The aim is to avoid significant adverse effects on high sensitivity seascape receptors. The premise that the study works on is that the most important effect of offshore windfarms is on the perception of seascape character from the coast or related islands ie the relationship between any proposed development with coastal seascape character when seen in juxtaposition with each other. This means that the main drivers are distance from the coast and the character and value of the coastal seascape and its component sensitive receptors. Therefore the areas or zones identified are focussed on this purpose alone and should not be used for other purposes which may need full seascape characterisation taking intrinsic natural and cultural processes and other characteristics into account.

Policy has been discussed in the Stage 1 and Stage 2 reports and so will not be repeated in full here. The main drivers are National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3. These address national infrastructure planning in relation to renewable energy including offshore wind farms with an output above 100MW. Nationally designated landscapes are confirmed as having the highest status of protection and their statutory purposes should be taken into consideration.

The overall study focusses primarily on potential recommended buffers for National Parks and AONBs. However, other sensitive receptors are considered in this part of the study as they contribute to seascape character and perception. These include Heritage Coasts, World Heritage Sites and point features such as scheduled monuments e.g. coastal forts.

This report has to be read with the Stage 1 and 2 of the study reports as well as good practice guidance in order to optimally locate and design development.

4.3. Relevant Guidance

The most relevant guidelines and reports taken into consideration in this study are as follows:

- Guidance on the Assessment of the Impact of Offshore Windfarms: seascape and visual impact report, DTI, 2005.
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Edition 3, (GLVIA 3) LI and IEMA, 2013.
- NECR 105 (Natural England)- broad brush guidance on seascape character assessment.
- UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment 2, DECC, March 2011.
- UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment 3, DECC, March 2016.
- Topic Paper 6 (Countryside Agency, 2002)- now dated and soon to be superceded document concerning strategic landscape sensitivity and capacity
- Welsh Seascapes and their sensitivity to offshore developments (Countryside Council for Wales, 2009)
- Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment: Guidance for Wales and associated Annex 1, Draft for consultation, (Natural Resources Wales, May and August 2018).

Welsh Seascapes and their sensitivity to offshore developments (2009) has been referred to as it specifically considers offshore wind farms. Whilst dated in terms of seascape character assessment methodology and the size of development assessed, many of the criteria used to assess sensitivity and the underpinning data are still relevant.

Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (LSCA): Guidance for Wales addresses onshore wind and solar renewable energy development. This is draft guidance at the time of writing this report. The first part of the process is a sensitivity assessment which is reflected in this study.

- Identify and describe the type and scale of development
- Identify and describe the landscape resource
- Assess susceptibility, landscape value and sensitivity

The second element of the draft LSCA guidance concerning capacity is derived from the particular circumstances pertaining to the development of renewable energy on land in Wales including the development of Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8 Strategic Search Areas. This considers cumulative effects where there is substantial existing

development, thresholds for acceptable change, the proposed policy direction for landscape change, and, based on these factors, capacity. The expected level of detail for studies is at local landscape character area level. This seascape sensitivity study is at a broad brush national level considering areas which do not all benefit from existing character assessments (ie the offshore marine area), where visual buffers from designated areas are of particular importance, and where the existing level of development is much more limited. Therefore, the approach to assessing the ability of the seascape to accommodate a type and scale of change has been modified to be fit for purpose.

4.4. Definitions

Seascape susceptibility is the ability of seascape and visual resources to accommodate a particular type of change whilst still maintaining seascape or coastal character.

Seascape value is the nature and degree of importance that society attaches to a particular seascape or intervisible coast and landscape.

Seascape sensitivity combines the susceptibility of the seascape and visual resources and the values attached to those receptors.

4.5. Type and scale of development

The type and scale of offshore wind farm development has been defined in part by the Stage 1 study of around 23 seascape and visual impact assessments (SVIAs). This divides turbines into bands of heights each of which has different likely magnitudes of visual effects. This report assumes that offshore wind farms are likely to be at a larger scale than has been seen previously. This tends to mean, based on the experience of Rounds 1 to 3, that the further offshore, the larger the development is likely to be in terms of turbine size and numbers, unless it is an extension of an existing development eg Burbo Bank. This study assumes that the scale of development is a between 20 and 300 turbines in the following turbine height to blade tip bands:

- 107-145m
- 146-175m
- 176-225m
- 226-300m
- 301-350m

It is acknowledged that this covers a wide range of scales but reflects the types of development that have come forward or are likely to be considered in Round 4.

It is assumed that there will be associated offshore and coastal ancillary development to enable transmission of electricity to shore but the implications of transmission inland has not been taken into account. The main driver of effects is assumed to be the turbines themselves and their associated lighting although it is acknowledged that other infrastructure such as offshore substations contribute to effects.

4.6. The seascape resource

NECR 105 sets out in broad brush terms how to carry out a seascape character assessment. This states characterisation concentrates on making clear what makes one area different or distinctive from another. It also states that it is based on the integration of natural and cultural information combined with aesthetic and perceptual experiential aspects. This has already been carried out for the inshore area up to the territorial limits in the national marine character assessment, identifying 29 MCAs. However, the offshore component of the Welsh Marine Plan area has not been characterised.

The brief requires a desk study assessment of seascape sensitivity to windfarm development for both inshore and offshore areas which is spatially simple. The reason for this is to appropriately reflect the large scale of development and large spread of visual effects of very tall structures in an open seascape. This means that it is not a full character assessment in terms of NECR 105. Instead it is focussed on the factors which are most important in defining the relative seascape and visual sensitivity of an area to offshore wind farms. As such, the areas are defined as zones to avoid any implication that they are characterised as seascape character areas taking in the full range of factors which define such areas eg bathymetry, seabed geology and waviness. The grain of the assessment groups together existing MCAs and divides up the offshore areas.

The information used to define zones and inform sensitivity includes:

- Draft Welsh National Marine Plan areas and territorial limit
- Bathymetry and elevation
- Wales National Seascape Assessment- defining 29 Marine character areas in the Inshore Marine plan area.
- Local seascape character assessments for Anglesey, Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire Coast, Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay.
- Landscape designations and heritage constraints
- National Park and AONB management plans and related planning policies- with a particular emphasis on the special qualities
- LANDMAP visual and sensory- defining areas of outstanding or high value intervisible with the sea
- Biodiversity designations eg SPAs, SACs
- Onshore access eg Wales Coast Path, CROW access land
- Existing intervisibility analysis – defining land with sea views and sea visibility from land (part of the national seascape assessment above)
- Crown Estate existing round zones and potential Round 4 regions
- Existing marine uses and structures- existing windfarms, oil and gas platforms, MOD use etc
- Admiralty chart
- Patterns of maritime use- commercial and military use, shipping lanes
- Stage 1 seascape sensitivity report – identifying visual buffers for offshore windfarms related to National Parks and AONBs
- Stage 2 guidance note setting out what offshore windfarm developers need to know in relation to seascape and visual effects.

- Welsh seascapes and their sensitivity to offshore developments- defines 50 stretches of coast exploring their relationship with seascape and potential offshore renewable energy.

4.7. Defining seascape zones

Based on the analysis of the above we have divided the inshore and offshore areas into fifteen zones. The defining factors contributing to the sub-division are:

- The extent of visual buffers relating to designated landscape areas - these inform the distances of the zones away from the coast.
- The presence or otherwise of existing windfarms, which affects seascape character
- The geometry of the Welsh coastline, taking account of major headlands, major bays and the character of the coast.

The zones are shown in Figures 1-8 overlaying the various factors either define the zones or influence their sensitivity.

4.8. Criteria and Thresholds

The sensitivity of a zone to offshore wind farms is based on a series of criteria which are consistent with the guidance prepared in Stage 2. The criteria group the factors into value, seascape susceptibility and visual susceptibility. For each zone we summarise its sensitivity to offshore wind farm development and provide recommendations to minimise their visual effects.

The thresholds for landscape and visual sensitivity are defined below in Table 1. The five point scale reflects the subtlety of different seascape's character.

Table 1 Thresholds for landscape and visual sensitivity

<i>Level</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Low	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are robust or degraded and/or its values are low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very high.
Medium/ low	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are resilient to change and/or its values are medium/low or low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development in many situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are high.
Medium	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are susceptible to change and/or its values are medium/low through to high/medium and/or it <i>may</i> have some potential to accommodate the relevant type of development in some <i>defined</i> situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are intermediate.
High/ medium	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are vulnerable to change and/or its values are medium through to high (although this level of value is not essential where landscape or visual susceptibility are key issues). The seascape zone may be able accommodate the relevant type of development but only in limited situations without significant character change or adverse effects <u>if</u> defined in the relevant zone summary. Thresholds for significant change are low.
High	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are very susceptible to change and/or its values are high or high/medium and it is unable to accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very low.

It is important to note that, even within smaller zones, there may be variations in sensitivity. For instance, a zone which is stated as medium sensitivity is likely to have some opportunity for development within it but not necessarily all. Therefore the sensitivity and therefore the resulting capacity do not necessarily apply to the whole area. We define the extent, size and location in the recommendations and associated summary text. It should be noted that other land within the zone is considered to be an area of constraint in terms of seascape and visual factors. For high/medium sensitivity zones there may be sea which has high sensitivity with other parts which may have some very minor capacity but this does not amount to potential for a strategic allocation. Overall, this level of sensitivity is considered to be a constraint on large wind farms in terms of seascape and visual factors.

The sensitivity relates to the effects on Welsh and adjoining relevant English coastlines and landscape designations. It does not take into account the potential effects on the Isle of Man.

5. Summary of seascape and visual sensitivity and capacity findings

The seascape and visual sensitivity findings indicate the preferred location of offshore wind farms with a tabular summary of sensitivities for each zone below. A detailed assessment for each zone is set out in Part 2 which sets out the recommendations for different heights of wind turbines. All these conclusions clearly only relate to seascape and visual matters and not other factors which have to be taken into consideration, particularly in relation to the intrinsic nature of the sea and sea bed.

The following conclusions summarised in Table 2 have been reached on the locations that development might proceed in terms of seascape and visual sensitivity factors. They are based entirely on the zone evaluations and if there is any perceived conflict or difference in emphasis between the two, the detailed evaluations should be taken as the definitive position.

Table 2 Summary of sensitivity

Area No:	Area name:	Sensitivity
1	North East Wales Inshore	Medium
2	North East Wales Offshore	Medium/low
3	North Wales and North Anglesey Inshore	High
4	North Wales and North Anglesey Offshore	Medium
5	North Wales and Anglesey Outer Offshore	Medium/low
6	Caernarfon Bay Inshore	High
7	Caernarfon Bay Offshore	High/medium
8	Cardigan Bay north Inshore	High
9	Cardigan Bay central inshore	High/medium
10	Cardigan Bay Offshore	High/medium
11	St George's Channel Offshore	Medium
12	Pembrokeshire coast Inshore and Carmarthen Bay	High
13	Pembrokeshire coast Offshore	High/medium
14	Celtic Sea	Medium/low
15	Bristol Channel and the Severn Estuary	High

Overall, the seascape of Wales is highly sensitive in many areas with a large proportion lying within the setting of national landscape designations and contributing to their special qualities. The zones are considered in groups of up to 22.6km, 22.6 – 44km and beyond 44km from the coast:

- **Up to 22.6km** from shore the sensitivity of seascape is generally considered to be high for wind farm development except for the north east coast (**Zone 1**) which already has existing wind farm development. Here, some small extension of windfarms may be possible but scope is limited.
- **Between 22.6km and 44km** from shore the potential location for wind energy is dependent on the height of turbine and the likely extent of the overall windfarm. In zone 4 well-designed development may be possible and in **Zone 2** development beyond Gwynt y Mor would tend to limit harm. In some areas, such as off the Pembrokeshire and Llŷn Coasts, it is considered harmful to have development in these zones (**7, 10 and 13**) as development would be visible and would adversely affect the special qualities, including setting, tranquillity and apparent wildness of these remote western coasts.
- **Beyond 44km** from shore the effects of most sizes of wind turbines would be limited although they may be visible in certain light and weather conditions. Development in **Zone 5** could be possible especially to the north east. Development in **Zone 11** may be possible although potential effects on Bardsey Island and the end of the Llŷn peninsula would need to be considered very carefully. Development in the majority of **Zone 14** would be likely to be possible although larger turbines in the areas closest to the Pembrokeshire coast and its islands may cause harm, again due to visibility in certain light and weather conditions.

FIGURES

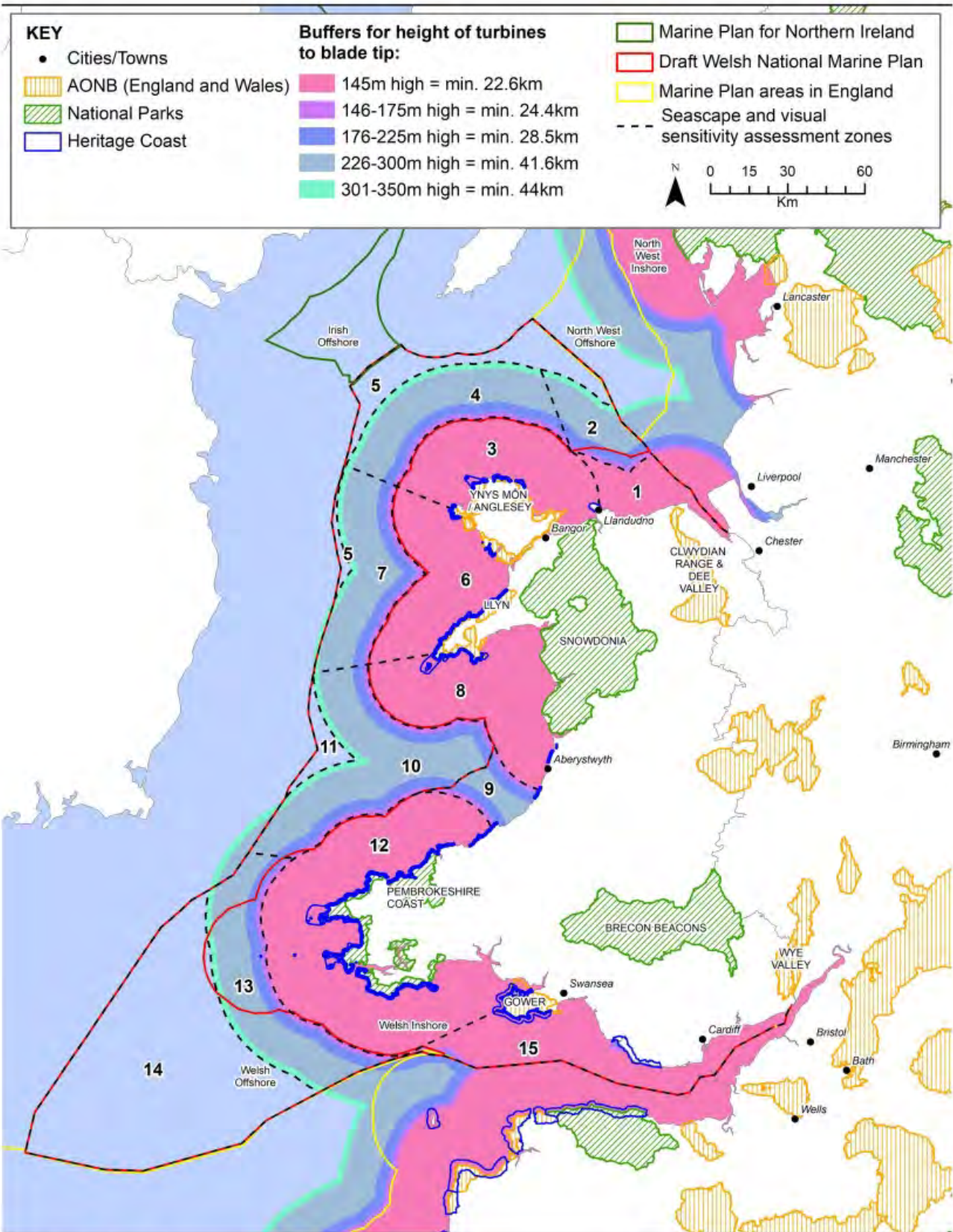


Figure 1
Designated Landscape buffers -
for low magnitude of visual effect
for different wind turbine heights

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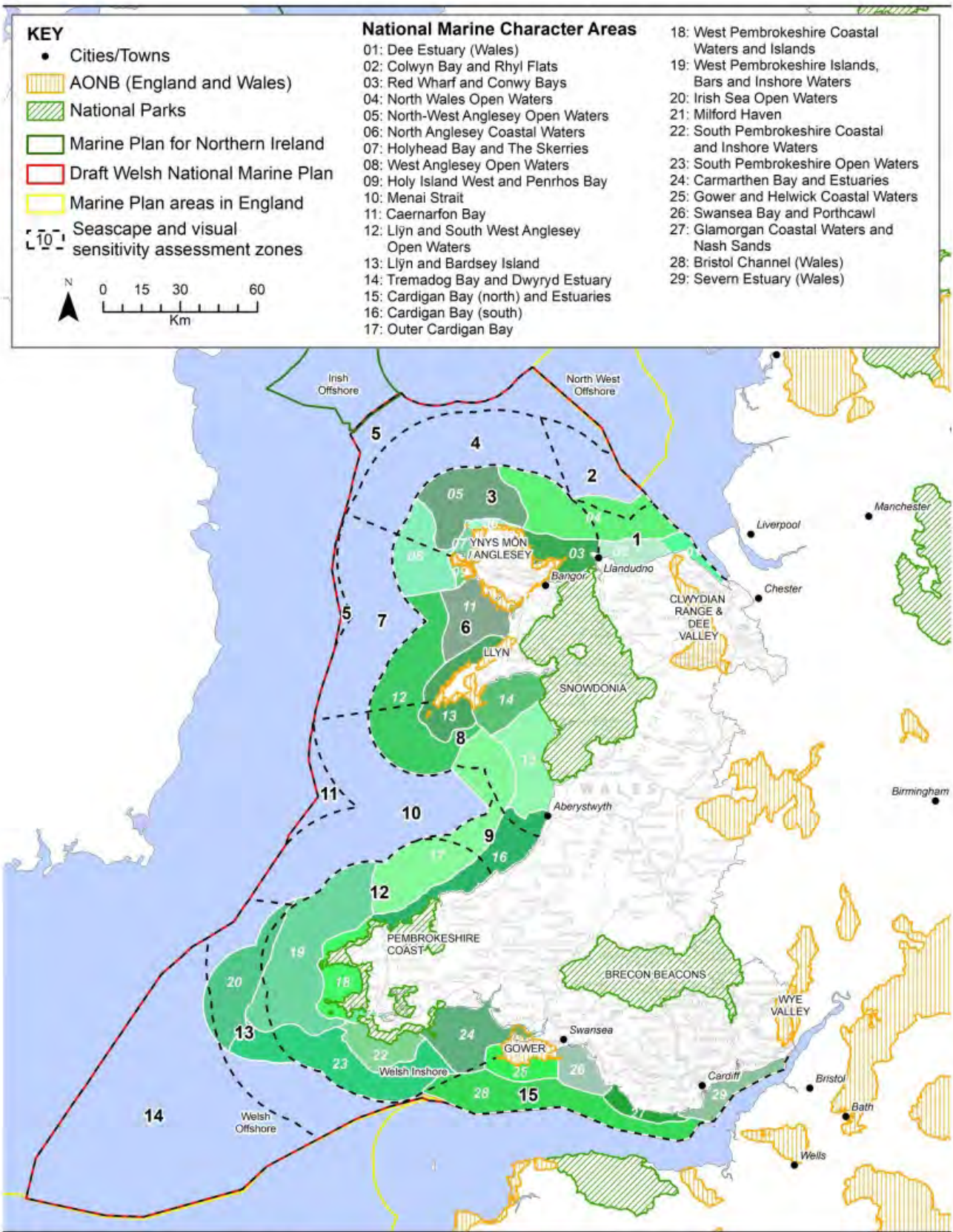
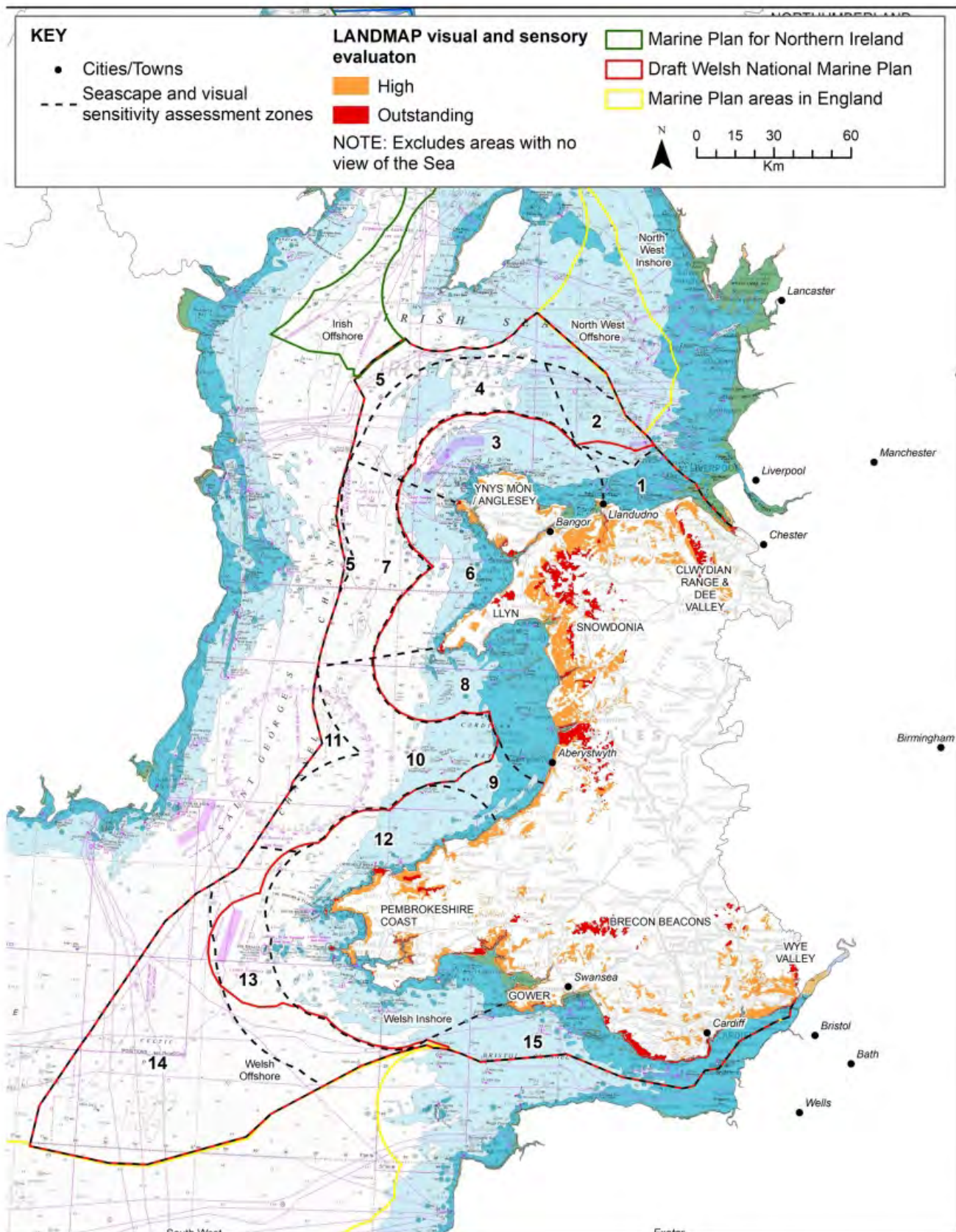


Figure 2
National Marine Character Areas

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KEY

- Cities/Towns
- - - Seascape and visual sensitivity assessment zones

LANDMAP visual and sensory evaluation

- Orange box: High
- Red box: Outstanding

NOTE: Excludes areas with no view of the Sea

- Green outline: Marine Plan for Northern Ireland
- Red outline: Draft Welsh National Marine Plan
- Yellow outline: Marine Plan areas in England

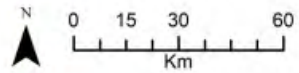


Figure 3
LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect - high or outstanding evaluation areas with sea views

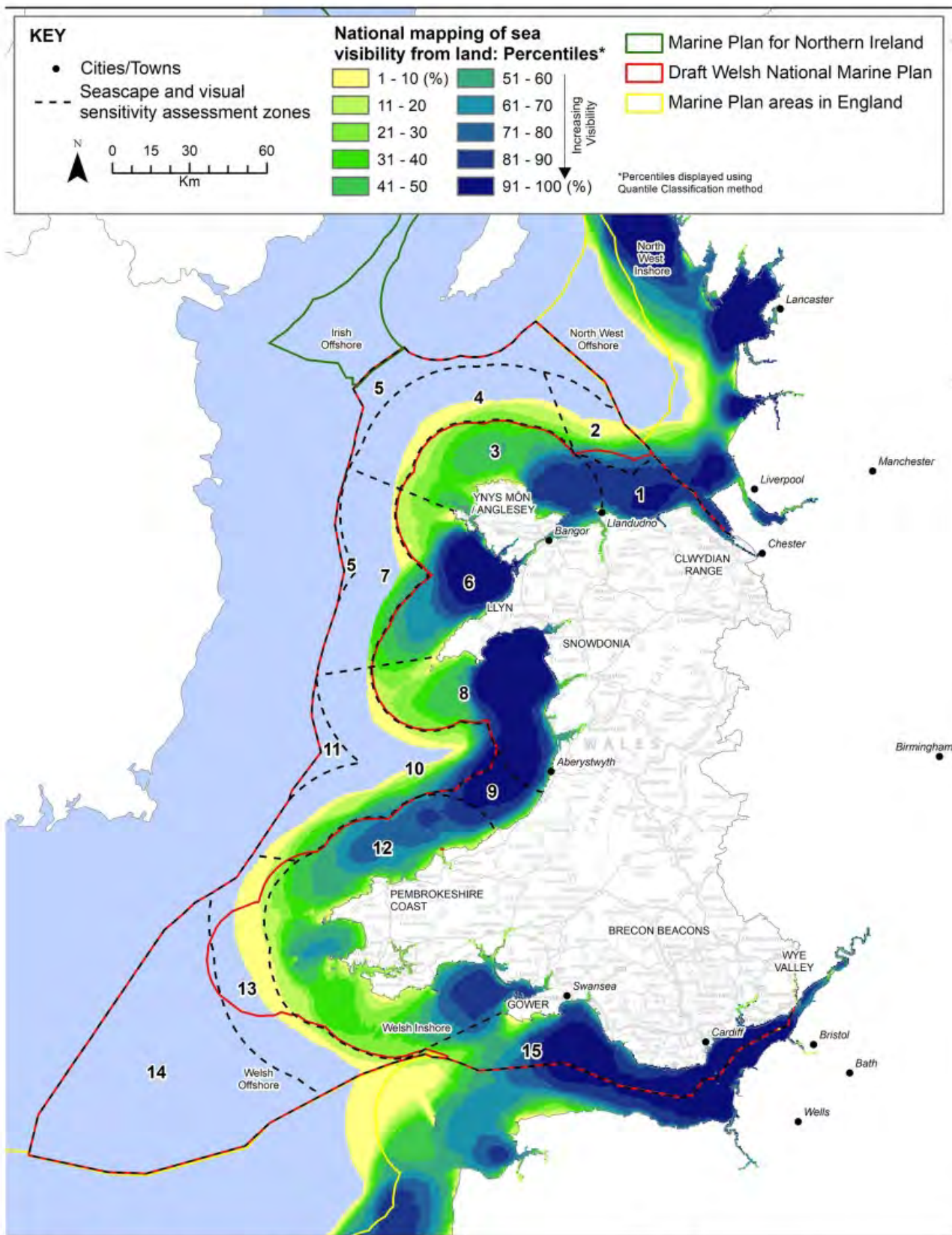


Figure 4
Relative visibility of sea surface from land

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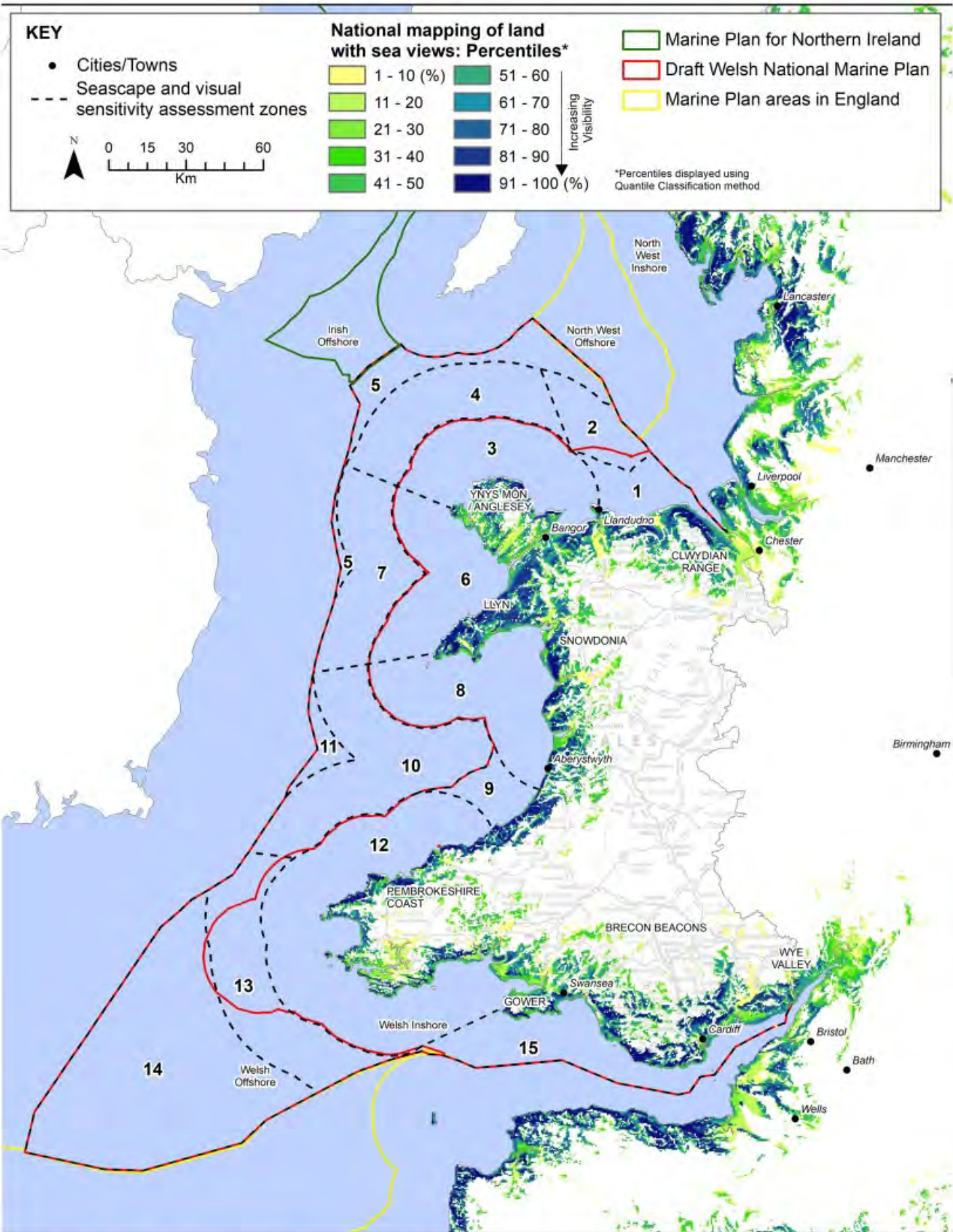
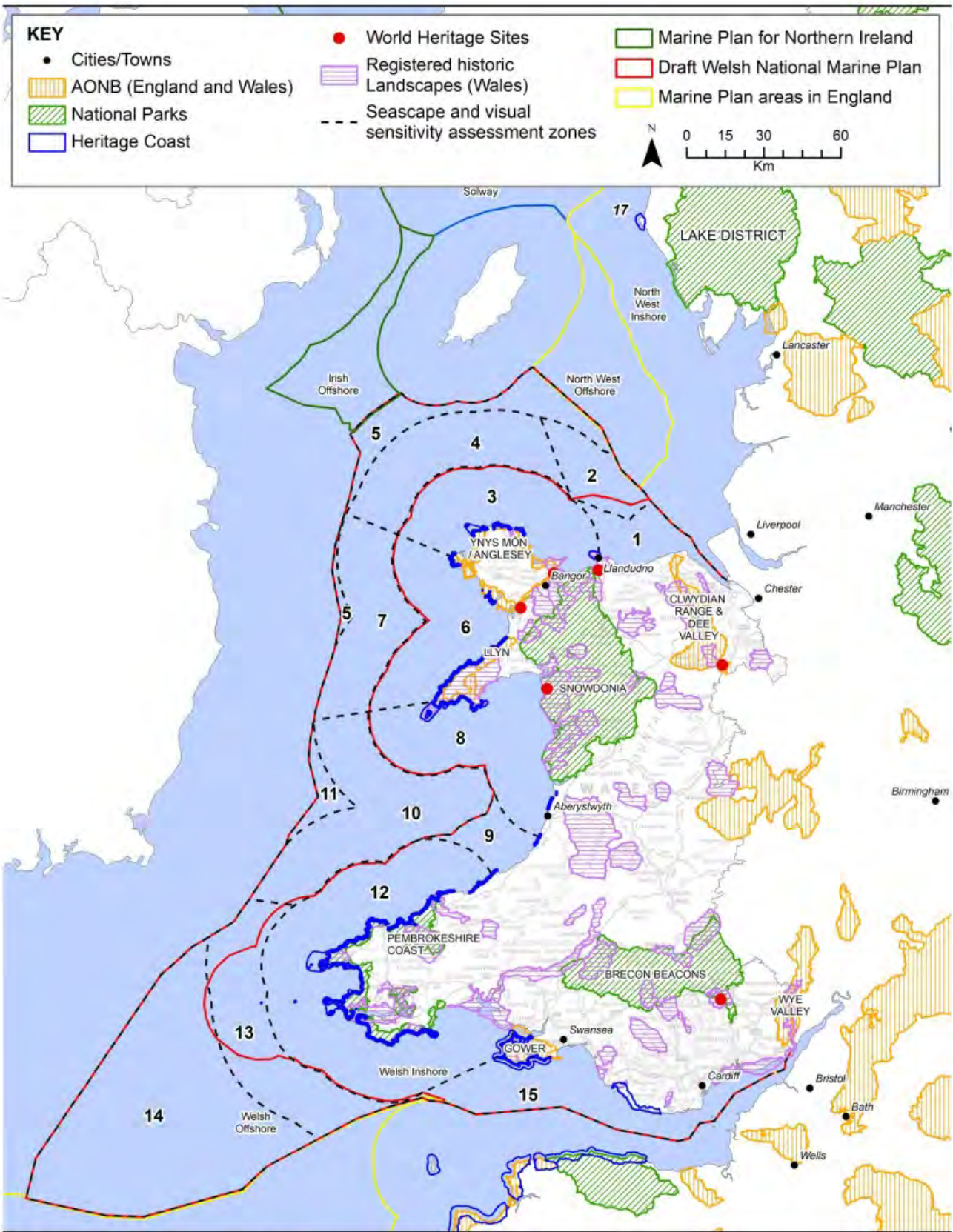


Figure 5
Relative visibility of land with sea views

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**Figure 6
Landscape and Heritage
Designations and Registrations**

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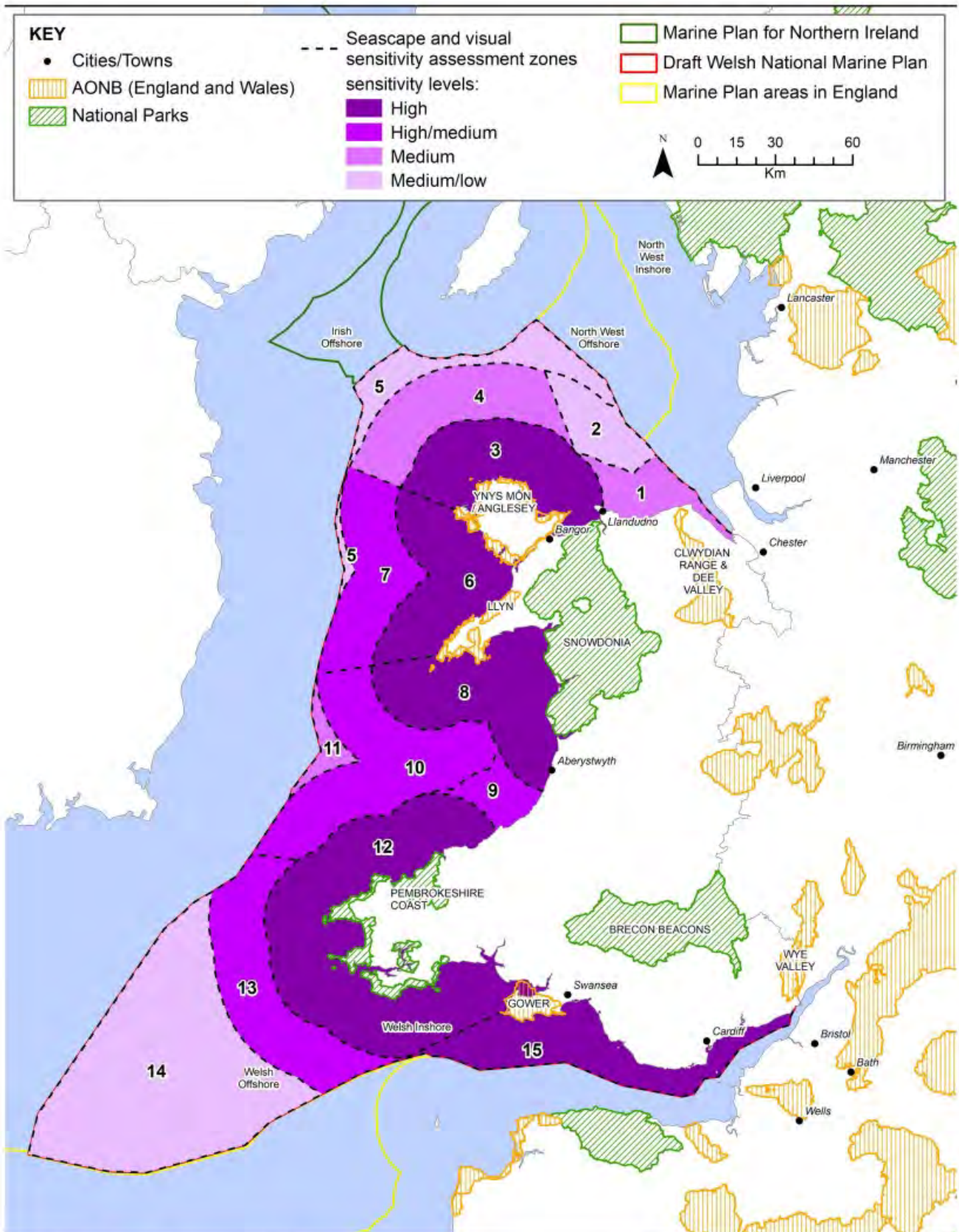


Figure 7
Designated landscapes, their seascape settings and their sensitivity to offshore wind farms

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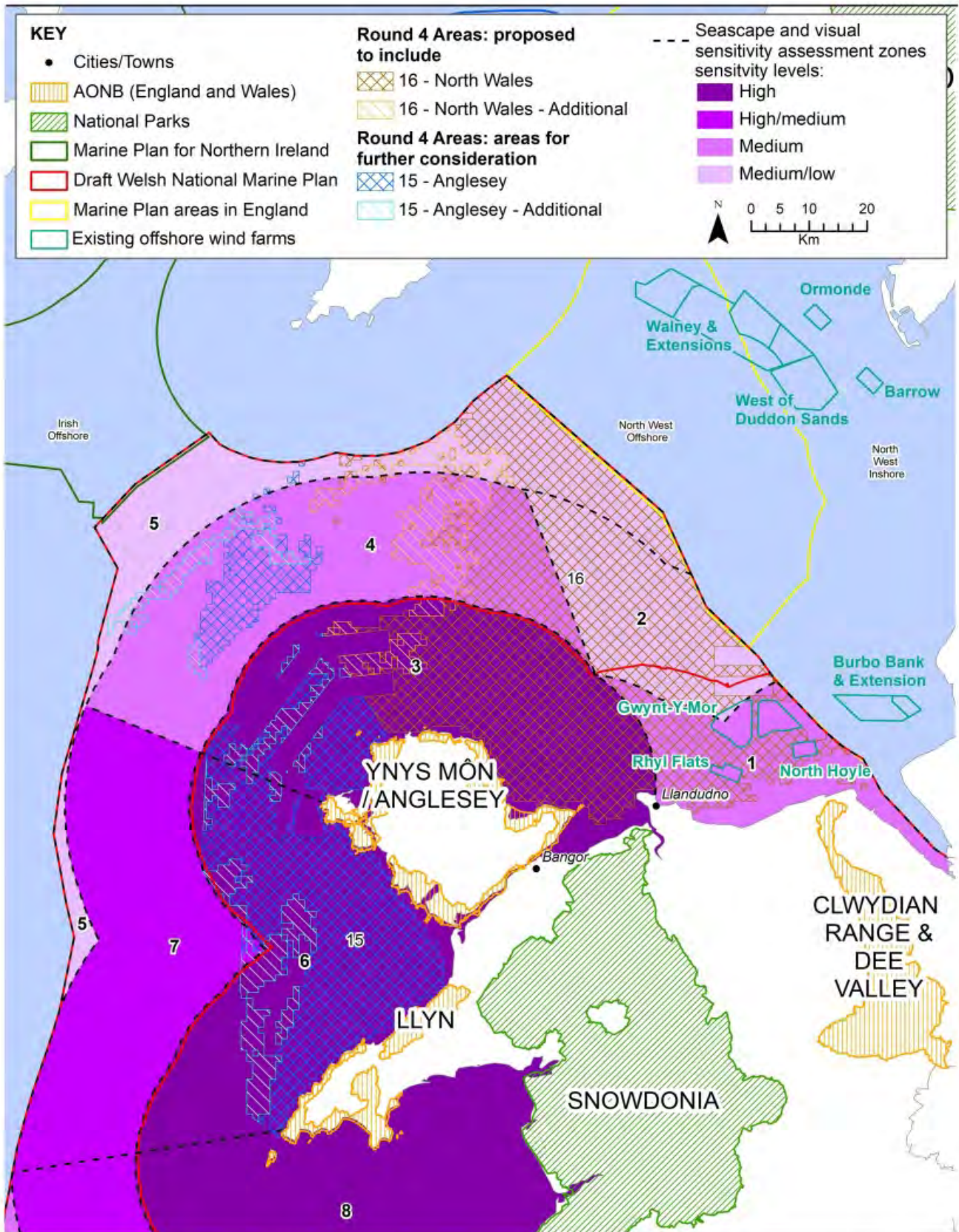


Figure 8
Designated landscapes, their seascape settings and their sensitivity to offshore windfarms - off North Wales

PART 2
Detailed sensitivity and capacity assessments

Zone No: 1		Name: North East Wales Inshore
<i>Location</i>		
The area is located off the north coast of Wales from the Great Orme east to the Dee estuary.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		Medium
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>To the east is large scale open, relatively straight coastline with a large proportion of urban settlement, the tourism is focussed on beach holidays. There are already a windfarm and gas developments offshore which act as lit vertical foci with related boats. To the west the settled coast becomes embayed with headlands and more formal promenades terminating in the distinctive landform of Great Orme.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies particularly in the elevated views from Conwy Mountain and the Carneddau to the south west and from the Great Orme Country Park. There is also susceptibility in views from the northern tip of the Clwydian Range and from the framed views from Llandudno and from Colwyn Bay including the promenades. The area's value lies in its proximity to the Snowdonia National Park to the south west and the Great Orme Heritage coast as well as views from Conservation areas (e.g. Llandudno) and listed buildings along the coast. There is potential for combined cumulative effects on the Great Orme and Snowdonia if further windfarms or extensions extend west, especially closer to shore.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>The zone would be sensitive to further development. Extending Gwynt y Mor west would cause cumulative effects on sensitive receptors mentioned above. Repowering existing developments with larger turbines would further increase their already significant effects in the inshore parts of this area, heightened by the Burbo Bank extension to the east. A small number of additional turbines of the same size and design attached to the existing developments may be possible, but cumulative effects and avoiding extending across the horizon from key viewpoints would need to be carefully considered.</p>		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Landscape character and quality- Tranquillity, remoteness and wildness, space and freedom. Access, recreation and tourism- Offa's Dyke National Trail.
	<i>Notes</i>	Primarily a landscape-related designation. A long narrow designated range of hills with the northern tip overlooking the sea to the north (and the eastern edge

		with views over the Dee estuary).
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. The coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
	<i>Designation</i>	Great Orme Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Limestone cliffs and grasslands ‘among the nation’s finest coastal scenery’.
	<i>Notes</i>	The Great Orme is a coastal peninsula allowing commanding elevated views of most of Wales north coast and seas as well as south to Snowdonia. It is highly distinctive and popular to visitors, also used as a Country Park.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Creuddyn and Conwy
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Kinmel Park; Gwrych Castle The Flagstaff, Colwyn Bay Happy Valley, Llandudno Haulfre Gardens, Llandudno
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Moel Hiraddug Hillfort SJ 0678 Rhuddlan Castle (also Guardianship site) SJ 0277 Pen y Corddyn Hillfort SH 9176 Bryneuryn Hillfort SH 8379
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Liverpool Bay
	<i>SAC</i>	Menai Strait and Conwy Bay
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Clwydian Range- outstanding Great Orme- high
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large – open nature of coast
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Generally open, with enclosure by hills to the west.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	North facing
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	A north facing low lying linear coast backed by a coastal plain to the east with a constricted embayed

		coastline to the west at Colwyn Bay and Llandudno with steep sided hills reaching the coast, terminating in the distinctive landform of Great Orme.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	To the east, the coast is a highly developed for tourism uses including towns and large-scale caravan parks, with dunes to the east. To the west the coast is built up with a series of coastal resorts between the hills and the shore with some minor gaps including headlands such as Little Orme.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Substantial existing development of wind farms at Gwynt y Mor, Rhyl Flats and North Hoyle. The Douglas oil and gas complex lies just to the north. Large commercial vessels use the area bound for the Mersey. There is commercial and recreational fishing.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	Limited by wind farms and coastal development
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	Both the coast and the windfarms are lit with some areas of intervening darkness
<i>Exposure</i>		Exposed
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Great Orme's Head - Viking associations; Victorian Holiday resorts: Llandudno 'Queen' of North Wales Resorts, including Marine Parade, Marine Drive and pier; Colwyn Bay, Rhyl.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore to 22.6km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect*</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect. However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect*</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect. However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	Offshore wind farms at Gwynt y Mor, Rhyl Flats and North Hoyle form the dominant/prominent elements with Douglas oil and gas complex beyond offshore visible in some conditions. Burbo Bank extension is

		<p>visible to the east.</p> <p>Movement of boats to service the windfarms is noticeable with commercial shipping to and from Liverpool and to Llandulas apparent occasionally.</p>
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	<p>Sea viewed from coastal resorts in open seascape to east as setting to wide beaches and framed between headlands to the west, especially from Llandudno.</p> <p>Gwynt y Mor almost fills the extent of the view here.</p> <p>The red aircraft warning lights are visible at night.</p>
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	<p>Primarily from promenades, beaches, Coast Path and cycle route, railway and some roads/corniches. Most views in a built context although with some gaps where there are dunes and other natural features.</p>
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	<p>Offa's Dyke National Trail in Clwydian Hills AONB</p> <p>Conwy Mountain</p>
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	<p>Great Orme Country Park</p> <p>Wales Coast Path</p> <p>Promenades especially at Llandudno</p> <p>Conservation Areas</p>
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		01: Dee estuary , 02: Colwyn Bay and Rhyl Flats
<i>Local seascape character areas</i>		No local study

Zone No: 2		Name: North East Wales Offshore
<i>Location</i>		
The area is located offshore from the north coast of Wales from the Great Orme east to the Dee estuary.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		Medium/Low
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>The zone lies in open sea with the northern edge of Gwynt y Mor windfarm located on its southern margins and the Douglas oil and gas complex nearby. Beyond this to the south are further wind farms and the north east Wales coast which has large scale open, relatively straight coastline to the east and embayed coastline with headlands and the distinctive landform of Great Orme to the west. The coast has a high proportion of urban settlement focussed on residential and tourism, with caravan and beach holidays to the east and Victorian resorts with associated promenades mainly to the west.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies particularly in the elevated views from Conwy Mountain and the Carneddau to the south west and from the Great Orme Country Park. There is also susceptibility from the northern tip of the Clwydian Range and from the framed views from Llandudno and from Colwyn Bay including the promenades. The area's value lies in its location offshore from the Snowdonia National Park to the south west and the Great Orme Heritage coast as well as views from Conservation areas (e.g. Llandudno) and listed buildings along the coast.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
There is potential for combined cumulative effects on the Great Orme and Snowdonia if further windfarms or extensions extend west, especially closer to shore. The area has ability for further development to be accommodated to the north of Gwynt y Mor (but away from Douglas Oil field). The size of turbine should be similar to the existing development closer to shore but can increase in height further offshore taking into account the visual impact analysis.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Landscape character and quality- tranquillity, remoteness and wildness, space and freedom. Access, recreation and tourism- Offa's Dyke National Trail.
	<i>Notes</i>	Primarily a landscape-related designation. A long narrow designated range of hills with the northern tip overlooking the sea to the north (and the eastern edge with views over the Dee estuary).

	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. The coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
	<i>Designation</i>	Great Orme Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Limestone cliffs and grasslands ‘among the nation’s finest coastal scenery’.
	<i>Notes</i>	The Great Orme is a coastal peninsula allowing commanding elevated views of most of Wales north coast and seas as well as south to Snowdonia. It is highly distinctive and popular to visitors, also used as a Country Park.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Creuddyn and Conwy
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Kinmel Park; Gwrych Castle The Flagstaff, Colwyn Bay Happy Valley, Llandudno Haulfre Gardens, Llandudno
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Moel Hiraddug Hillfort SJ 0678 Rhuddlan Castle (also Guardianship site) SJ 0277 Pen y Corddyn Hillfort SH 9176 Bryneuryn Hillfort SH 8379
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Liverpool Bay
	<i>SAC</i>	Menai Strait and Conwy Bay
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Clwydian Range- outstanding Great Orme- high
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Very large
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Open
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	North facing
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	A north facing low lying linear coast backed by a coastal plain to the east with a constricted embayed coastline to the west at Colwyn Bay and Llandudno with steep sided hills reaching the coast, terminating in

		the distinctive landform of Great Orme.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	To the east, the coast is a highly developed for residential and tourism uses including towns and large-scale caravan parks, with dunes to the east. To the west the coast is built up with a series of coastal resorts between the hills and the shore with some minor gaps including rocky headlands such as Little Orme.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Gwynt y Mor and Douglas oil and gas complex on the southern fringes. Other windfarms visible to the north east. Large commercial vessels use the area bound for the Mersey. There is commercial fishing.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	A wild area of sea modified by the Douglas oil and gas complex, wind farms and coastal development to the south
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	The wind farms and Douglas oil and gas complex are lit, with the urban settlement of the coast to the south with large areas of intervening darkness
<i>Exposure</i>		Exposed
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Great Orme's Head - Viking associations; Victorian Holiday resorts eg Llandudno 'Queen' of North Wales Resorts, including Marine Parade, Marine Drive and pier; Colwyn Bay; Rhyl.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		22.6km to 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect*</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would not be likely exceed low magnitude of effect. • Turbines 145-175m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 24.4km from shore. • Turbines 175-225m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 28.5km from shore. • Turbines 225-300m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 41.6km from shore. • Turbines 300-350m would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect. • However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect*</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. • Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect. • However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	<p>Douglas oil and gas complex lies within the area, the offshore wind farm at Gwynt y Mor forms a prominent feature on the southern edge and other windfarms to the north east. Burbo Bank and extension are visible to the south east.</p> <p>Boats to service the oil and gas complex and windfarms are noticeable with commercial shipping to and from the Mersey.</p>
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	Sea viewed from coastal resorts framed between headlands, especially from Llandudno. Gwynt y Mor almost fills the extent of the view here. The red and white warning lights are visible at night.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Primarily from promenades, beaches, Coast Path and cycle route, railway and some roads/corniches. Most views are in a built context although with some gaps where there are headlands and other natural features.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	Conwy Mountain
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Great Orme Country Park Wales Coast Path Promenades especially at Llandudno Conservation Areas
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		04: North Wales Open Waters in southern edge Offshore from: 01: Dee Estuary 02: Colwyn Bay and Rhyl Flats
<i>Local seascape character areas</i>		No local study

Zone No: 3		Name: North Wales and North Anglesey Inshore
<i>Location</i>		
The zone is located inshore between Great Orme to the east and North Stack, Holyhead Mountain on Anglesey.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		High
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>To the east the settled coast is backed by the mountains of Snowdonia (Carneddau) and framed by the high cliffs of Great Orme's Head to the east and Puffin Island and the coast of Anglesey to the west. Anglesey generally has a lower plateau topography with resultant low cliffs and slopes, apart from the distinctive form of Holyhead Mountain which terminates the area with high sea cliffs to the west. Anglesey's northern coast is rocky and convex meaning development out to sea would be largely unscaled whilst its north west and east coasts have a series of small embayments and coves with associated small settlements and holiday accommodation in places. Industrial features such as Wylffa have now become disused but structures may remain juxtaposed with onshore windfarms inland. The sea is open and exposed with commercial vessels running to and from the Mersey ports and ferries issuing from Holyhead's busy harbour.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies particularly in the elevated views from Conwy Mountain and the Carneddau from the south, from Great Orme Country Park to the east, and from the rural Anglesey coastal fringe with associated Coast Path. Views north from the mainland could be affected if wind farms are seen in conjunction with Beaumaris or Puffin Island. The area's value lies in its proximity to the Snowdonia National Park and Great Orme Heritage coast to the south east, and Anglesey AONB (and associated heritage coast) to the south and west as well as juxtaposition with the world heritage site at Beaumaris, and scheduled monuments along the coast. Particularly sensitive receptors on Anglesey include users of Penmon Point, Red Wharf Bay and Holyhead Mountain and the coast has some tranquillity and remoteness especially towards the north.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
There is potential for combined cumulative effects particularly on Great Orme Heritage Coast and Snowdonia if further windfarms or extensions extend west, especially closer to shore. The area has very limited ability to accommodate offshore windfarms due to the proximity of the Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey AONB as well as views from Great Orme north west.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Anglesey AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Expansive views/seascapes Peace and tranquillity

		Islands around Anglesey
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan does not expand on the special qualities but refers to the local seascape character assessment. Includes the Heritage Coast at Holy Island and the north coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. Their steep coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from highly elevated locations.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	North Arllechog; Penmon; Creuddyn Amlwch and Parys Mountain
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Penrhyn Castle; Bryn y Neuadd, Cestyll- view [west of Wylfa]
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Deganwy Castle SH 7879 Castell Caer Seion Hillfort SH 7577 / 7677 Bwrdd Arthur Hillfort SH 5881 Dinas Gynfor Hillfort SH 3895 / 3995 Caer y Twr Hillfort SH 2182- on Holyhead Mountain (Beaumaris Castle (also Guardianship and WHS) SH 6076 (faces inland but may be seen in juxtaposition with offshore development) (Conwy Castle (also Guardianship and World Heritage Site) SH 7877 (faces across the estuary))
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Liverpool Bay
	<i>SAC</i>	Menai Strait and Conwy Bay
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at Holyhead Mountain, in pockets on the north coast and at Red Wharf Bay and Puffin Island. High value at the Great Orme, Snowdonia (Carneddau) and the majority of the Anglesey Coast.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	The mountains of Snowdonia to the south are large-scale whilst the coast of Anglesey is generally medium-scale with the sea expanding to large-scale to the north.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Ranges from moderately enclosed in the south east between Great Orme and Puffin Island increasing in

		openness to Point Lynas, and then the west.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	Primarily north with components of the north-east and north-west
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	The distinctive whaleback rocky limestone headland of the Great Orme forms the eastern landmark and Snowdonia acts as the backcloth to the coastline either dramatically reaching the coast to the east or setting back behind gentle coastal slopes to the west. Anglesey has a rocky and fine-grained north east to north west facing coast with medium-sized sloping cliffs and small headlands and occasional beaches and coves between stretches of intertidal rocks. The northern coast is finer grained still with small coves and low rocky cliffs on a convex coast. The hinterland on the island is relatively low lying with the exception of Holyhead Mountain.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	The mainland coast has linear settlement form such as Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan set on the A55 and mainline railway, with Bangor being the largest settlement, which also has a pier. On Anglesey, Beaumaris faces towards the mainland across the Menai Strait, whilst the north west Holyhead is a busy ferry port with a large harbour. Other coastal settlements on Anglesey are smaller and rural, eg Benllech and Moelfre, and have associated caravan parks. Wylfa nuclear power station currently lies on the less settled north coast close to Amlwch.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Windfarms are visible to the east. Large commercial vessels use the area bound for the Mersey with ships waiting for pilots off Point Lynas. There is commercial fishing.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The north coast of Anglesey is generally remote and rocky wild character and fairly tranquil only disturbed by Wylfa power station and the site of the former chemical works at Amlwch. This section is closest to the Isle of Man, which is visible at great distance in clear weather. The north east and north west coasts are moderately tranquil, reduced in summer by tourism, and by ferry traffic and other activity around Holyhead. Onshore wind farms and power lines modify the hinterland's tranquillity. The mainland coast is not tranquil to the east mainly due to the transport corridors but is more tranquil to the west away from the A55 and the mountains of Snowdonia to the south are highly tranquil with a wild character.

	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	The coast is mainly dark to the north with lighting associated with Holyhead, Bangor and other coastal settlements and with the A55. There are lighthouses at the Skerries and Point Lynas. Out to sea there is lighting associated with the windfarms some distance to the east.
<i>Exposure</i>		The northern and north eastern shores of Anglesey are most exposed.
<i>Heritage features</i>		The main foci of interest are the registered historic landscapes and their associated features- Creuddyn including the Great Orme, North Arllechog, Penmon, Amlwch and Parys Mountain.
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Penmon Priory; Priestholm or Puffin Island - monastic settlement; Moelfre and the shipwreck of the Royal Charter; Bwrdd Arthur, Llanddona, an important hill top archaeological site; Holyhead - packet port and crossing to Ireland; Early telegraph station at Carmel Head (linked to Liverpool).
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore up to 22.6km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	Foci along the coast tend to be Great Orme, Snowdonia, Puffin Island, the Skerries and Holyhead Mountain. Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm lies to the east. Commercial vessels are apparent, especially the ferries around Holyhead.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	Sea provides setting for Snowdonia to the north framed by Great Orme and Puffin Island. For most of the Anglesey AONB the sea provides the exposed open setting to the north sometimes framed by small low headlands with Gwynt y Mor potentially visible to the east.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Coast Path; beaches; settlements, caravan/chalet

		parks, recreational boating.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	Snowdonia: Extensive tracts on Conwy Mountain, Penmaen Bach, some at Penmaen Head, and rising up to the Carneddau. Anglesey AONB: Coast Path, Red Wharf Bay and Benllech beaches, Penmon Point, Moelfre, Point Lynas, Penrhyn beach, Bwrdd Arthur, Holyhead Mountain, Penrhos Coastal Park
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path Great Orme Country Park; Access land: Bwrdd Arthur, Mynydd Bodafon, some minor coastal heathlands. Access land: Several coastal areas including Cemlyn Bay and east and west of Amlwch
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		03: Red Wharf and Conwy Bays 04: North Wales Open Waters (part) 05: North-West Anglesey Open Waters 06: North Anglesey Coastal Waters 07: Holyhead Bay and The Skerries 08: West Anglesey Open Waters (part) 09: Holy Island West and Penrhos Bay (part)
<i>Local seascape character areas: Anglesey and Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessments</i>		2 Conwy Bay 3 Traeth Lafan 4 Menai Strait 5 Penmon 6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre 7 Dulas Bay 8 Amlwch and Cemaes 9 Cemlyn Bay 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn 11 Holyhead 13 Holyhead Mountain 28 North-east of Anglesey 29 North of Anglesey 30 North-west of Anglesey 31 West of Anglesey (part)

Zone No: 4		Name: North Wales and North Anglesey Offshore
<i>Location</i>		
The area is located offshore between Great Orme and Holyhead Mountain on Anglesey.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		Medium
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>The area lies in open sea offshore from Anglesey and the north Wales coast with the Isle of Man to the north. To the south east lies the Great Orme and Snowdonia but the area is closest to the north coast of Anglesey from Lynas Point running round west to Holy Island. Anglesey generally has a low plateau topography with resultant low cliffs and slopes, apart from the distinctive form of Holyhead Mountain which terminates the likely affected coastline to the west. Anglesey's northern coast is rocky and convex meaning development out to sea would be largely unscaled whilst its north west and east coasts have a series of small embayments and coves with associated small settlements and holiday accommodation in places. The main built coastal landmark is Wylfa nuclear power station but structures may be seen juxtaposed with onshore windfarms inland. The sea is open and exposed. Commercial vessels running to and from the Mersey ports and ferries issuing from Holyhead's busy harbour tend to pass between this zone and the coast.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies particularly in the elevated views from Great Orme Country Park to the south east, from the rural Anglesey coastal fringe with associated Coast Path and from Conwy Mountain and the Carneddau from the south. The area's value lies in its location offshore from the Anglesey AONB (and associated heritage coast) to the south, Snowdonia National Park and Great Orme Heritage coast to the south east, and scheduled monuments along the coast. Particularly sensitive receptors on Anglesey include users of Penmon Point, Red Wharf Bay and Holyhead Mountain and the coast has some tranquillity and remoteness especially towards the north.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>There is potential for combined cumulative effects on the Great Orme and Snowdonia if windfarms are located in the south east corner of the area due to the relative proximity to Gwynt y Mor. The area may have some ability to accommodate well-designed and appropriately spaced development (to achieve coherent and clearly separated arrays if possible) taking into account the buffers for the maximum height of turbine to blade tip in the visual susceptibility section below and located in line with the Stage 2 offshore wind farm guidance.</p>		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Anglesey AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Expansive views/seascapes Peace and tranquillity

		Islands around Anglesey
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan does not expand on the special qualities but refers to the local seascape character assessment. Includes the Heritage Coast at Holy Island and the north coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. The coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	North Arllechog; Penmon; Creuddyn Amlwch and Parys Mountain
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Penrhyn Castle; Bryn y Neuadd, Cestyll- view [west of Wylfa]
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Deganwy Castle SH 7879 Castell Caer Seion Hillfort SH 7577 / 7677 Bwrdd Arthur Hillfort SH 5881 Dinas Gynfor Hillfort SH 3895 / 3995 Caer y Twr Hillfort SH 2182- on Holyhead Mountain
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	-
	<i>SAC</i>	-
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at Holyhead Mountain, in pockets on the north coast and at Red Wharf Bay and Puffin Island. High value at the Great Orme, Snowdonia (Carneddau) and the majority of the Anglesey Coast.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	The mountains of Snowdonia to the south are large-scale whilst the coast of Anglesey is generally medium-scale with the sea expanding to large-scale to the north.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Ranges from moderately enclosed in the south east between Great Orme and Puffin Island increasing in openness to Point Lynas, and then the west.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	Primarily north with components of the north-east and north-west
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	The distinctive whaleback rocky limestone headland of the Great Orme forms the south eastern landmark and Snowdonia acts as the backcloth to the fairly straight

		coastline either dramatically reaching the coast to the east or setting back behind gentle coastal slopes to the west. Anglesey has a rocky and fine-grained north east and north west facing coast with medium-sized sloping cliffs and small headlands and occasional beaches and coves between stretches of intertidal rocks. The northern coast is finer grained still with small coves and low rocky cliffs on a convex coast. The hinterland on the island is relatively low lying with the exception of Holyhead Mountain.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	The mainland coast has linear settlement form such as Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan set on the A55 and mainline railway, whilst to the north west Holyhead is a busy ferry port with a large harbour. Other coastal settlements on Anglesey are smaller and rural, eg Benllech and Moelfre, and have associated caravan parks. Wylfa nuclear power station currently lies on the less settled north coast close to Amlwch.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Windfarms are visible to the south east. Large commercial vessels use the area to the south bound for the Mersey with ships waiting for pilots off Point Lynas. There is commercial fishing.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	This zone is wild and remote as open sea. The north coast of Anglesey is generally remote and rocky wild character and fairly tranquil only disturbed by the Wylfa nuclear power station and remains of the chemical works at Amlwch. The north east and north west coasts are moderately tranquil, reduced in summer by tourism, and by ferry traffic and other activity around Holyhead. Onshore wind farms and power lines modify the hinterland's tranquillity. The mainland coast is not tranquil to the east mainly due to the transport corridors but is more tranquil to the west away from the A55 and the mountains of Snowdonia to the south are highly tranquil with a wild character.
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	The coast is mainly dark to the north with lighting associated with Holyhead, Bangor and other coastal settlements and with the A55. There are lighthouses at the Skerries, and Point Lynas. There is lighting associated with the windfarms some distance to the east.
<i>Exposure</i>		The northern and north eastern shores of Anglesey are most exposed.
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Penmon Priory; Priestholm or Puffin Island - monastic settlement; Moelfre and the shipwreck of the Royal

		Charter; Bwrdd Arthur, Llanddona, an important hill top archaeological site; Holyhead - packet port and crossing to Ireland; Early telegraph station at Carmel Head (linked to Liverpool).
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		22.6km to 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would not be likely exceed low magnitude of effect. • Turbines 145-175m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 24.4km from shore. • Turbines 175-225m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 28.5km from shore. • Turbines 225-300m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 41.6km from shore. • Turbines 300-350m would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect. • However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. • Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. • Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect. • However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	Foci along the coast tend to be Great Orme, Snowdonia, Puffin Island, the Skerries and Holyhead Mountain. Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm lies to the south east. Commercial vessels are apparent between this zone and the coast, especially ferries around Holyhead.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The sea provides setting for Snowdonia to the north framed by Great Orme and Puffin Island. For most of the Anglesey AONB the sea provides the exposed open setting to the north sometimes framed by small low headlands with Gwynt y Mor potentially visible to the east.

	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Coast Path; beaches; settlements, caravan/chalet parks, recreational boating.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	Anglesey AONB: Coast Path, Red Wharf Bay and Benllech beaches, Penmon Point, Moelfre, Point Lynas, Penrhyn beach, Bwrdd Arthur, Holyhead Mountain, Penrhos Coastal Park Snowdonia: Extensive tracts on Conwy Mountain, Penmaen Bach, some at Penmaen Head, and rising up to the Carneddau.
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path Great Orme Country Park; Access land: Bwrdd Arthur, Mynydd Bodafon, some minor coastal heathlands. Access land: Coastal areas e.g. Cemlyn Bay, east and west of Amlwch
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		<i>Offshore from:</i> 03: Red Wharf and Conwy Bays 04: North Wales Open Waters (part) 05: North-West Anglesey Open Waters 06: North Anglesey Coastal Waters 07: Holyhead Bay and The Skerries 08: West Anglesey Open Waters (part) 09: Holy Island West and Penrhos Bay (part)
<i>Local seascape character areas:</i> Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment		<i>Offshore from:</i> 2 Conwy Bay 3 Traeth Lafan 4 Menai Strait 5 Penmon 6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre 7 Dulas Bay 8 Amlwch and Cemaes 9 Cemlyn Bay 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn 11 Holyhead 13 Holyhead Mountain 28 North-east of Anglesey 29 North of Anglesey 30 North-west of Anglesey 31 West of Anglesey (part)

Zone No: 5		Name: North Wales and Anglesey Outer Offshore
<i>Location</i>		
<p>The zone is located in the outer offshore area running from Liverpool Bay between North Wales and the Isle of Man south west to the St George's Channel.</p>		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		Medium/low
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>The area lies in open sea at least 44km offshore from the Anglesey, North Wales and Llŷn peninsula coasts although the zone's northern edge is located around 22 km from the Isle of Man. To the south east there are the existing arrays at Gwynt y Mor and further arrays lie to the north east including Walney and West of Duddon Sands. Anglesey predominantly has a low plateau topography and rocky coastline with a distinctive high point at Holyhead Mountain. Development out to sea would be largely unscaled in views. More elevated views are possible north from the north Wales coast at Great Orme and Conwy Mountain. The Llŷn peninsula also has cliff top views to the north east towards the south western extent of the zone. The sea is open and exposed with commercial vessels running inshore from this zone to and from the Mersey ports, and ferries issue from Holyhead's busy harbour.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies predominantly in combined views from Anglesey and Llŷn AONBs offshore from Caernarfon Bay where development may be apparent in sunset conditions. The least susceptible area lies to the north east as this is located in further out to sea than existing wind, oil and gas development to the south and east. The value associated with the zone lies in its relationship with Anglesey and Llŷn AONBs and associated heritage coasts, Snowdonia National Park and Great Orme Heritage coast. Particularly sensitive receptor locations include Holyhead Mountain, Bardsey Island and the tip of the Llŷn peninsula, Point Lynas and Carmel Head.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>The zone has potential to accommodate all scales of offshore wind farm development if designed in a coherent manner and avoiding blocks that cover the entire horizon from viewpoints on shore. The part of the zone west of zone 7 and Caernarfon Bay is least able to accommodate development due to the relationship with the two AONBs and the potential for interference with sunsets, albeit at a distance. There is potential for cumulative impact to the east but it is unlikely to be significant for receptors on shore.</p>		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Anglesey AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Expansive views/seascapes Peace and tranquillity

		Islands around Anglesey
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan does not expand on the special qualities but refers to the local seascape character assessment. Includes the Heritage Coast at Holy Island and the north coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. The coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
	<i>Designation</i>	Llŷn AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, coast and sea • A clean environment and tranquillity
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan expands on the special qualities. It states that Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal landscape that offers striking views. These include from hilltops with excellent views in every direction. The sea has greatly influenced the area's character. The peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found with the absence of large scale development and light. The area includes Heritage Coast along all the north coast.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	North Arllechog; Penmon; Creuddyn Amlwch and Parys Mountain Llŷn and Bardsey
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Penrhyn Castle; Bryn y Neuadd, Cestyll- view [west of Wylfa]
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Deganwy Castle SH 7879 Castell Caer Seion Hillfort SH 7577 / 7677 Bwrdd Arthur Hillfort SH 5881 Dinas Gynfor Hillfort SH 3895 / 3995 Caer y Twr Hillfort SH 2182- on Holyhead Mountain Dinas Dinlle Hillfort SH 4356 Tre'r Ceiri Hillfort SH 3744 Garn Boduan Hillfort SH 3139 Carn Fadrin Hillfort SH 2835
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	-

	SAC	-
	Ramsar	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		<p>Northern part of zone: Outstanding value at Holyhead Mountain, in pockets on the north coast and at Red Wharf Bay and Puffin Island. High value at the Great Orme, Snowdonia (Carneddau) and the majority of the Anglesey Coast.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: Outstanding value at Holyhead Mountain, Newborough Warren, Yr Eifl, Gyrn Ddu/Goch, the end of the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey. High value elsewhere. A large proportion of the rest of the coast is high value.</p>
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: The mountains of Snowdonia to the south are large-scale whilst the coast of Anglesey is generally medium-scale with the sea expanding to large-scale to the north.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: The overall scale is large but feels small scale along indented coasts of Anglesey and Llŷn.</p>
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	<p>The zone itself is very open and exposed. Northern part of zone: The coast ranges from moderately enclosed in the south east between Great Orme and Puffin Island increasing in openness to Point Lynas, and then the west.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: The coast is open with views to the west.</p>
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: The coast is primarily orientated north with components of the north-east and north-west.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: The coasts of the bay generally face west ranging from north west to south west.</p>
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: The distinctive whaleback rocky limestone headland of the Great Orme forms the south eastern landmark and Snowdonia acts as the backcloth to the coastline either dramatically reaching the coast to the east or setting back behind gentle coastal slopes to the west. Anglesey has a rocky and fine-grained north east and north west facing coast with medium-sized sloping cliffs and small headlands and occasional beaches and coves between stretches of intertidal rocks. The northern coast is finer grained still with small coves and low rocky cliffs on a convex coast. The hinterland on the island is relatively low lying with the exception of Holyhead Mountain. The Isle</p>

		<p>of Man lies closer to the north.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: The overall form of the zone to the east is a concave bay. The south west Anglesey coast is indented and rocky, with low cliffs or grassy slopes and numerous small headlands, interspersed with beaches, and dunes to the south east. The Anglesey hinterland is relatively low lying with the exception of Holyhead Mountain. On the mainland the coast line straightens in dunes and the man-made edge at Morfa Dinlle. Snowdonia is set back from the coastal plain. The Llŷn peninsula has a scalloped north and north west facing eroding coast with sloping cliffs ranging from around 25m AOD to 250mAOD where the hills meet the sea.</p>
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: The mainland coast has linear settlement form such as Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan set on the A55 and mainline railway, whilst to the north west Holyhead is a busy ferry port with a large harbour. Other coastal settlements on Anglesey are smaller and rural, eg Benllech and Moelfre, and have associated caravan parks. Wylfa nuclear power station currently lies on the less settled north coast close to Amlwch.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: Settlement is fairly limited with the main settlements on Anglesey being Treaddur Bay and Rhosneigr. Airports at RAF Valley and Caernarfon, and the Ty Croes motor racing circuit are not widely visible except for some large warehouses and towers at RAF Valley. On the mainland, settlements are limited, with Morfa Dinlle, Trefor and Nefyn being the main foci.</p>
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	<p>Windfarms are visible to the south east and east. Large commercial vessels use the area to the south bound for the Mersey with ships waiting for pilots off Point Lynas. There is commercial fishing. To the south commercial shipping uses St George's Channel. There are very occasional yachts.</p>
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<p>This zone is wild and remote as open sea.</p> <p>Northern part of zone: The north coast of Anglesey is generally remote and rocky wild character and fairly tranquil only disturbed by the Wylfa nuclear power station and remains of the chemical works at Amlwch.</p>

		<p>The north east and north west coasts are moderately tranquil, reduced in summer by tourism, and by ferry traffic and other activity around Holyhead. Onshore wind farms and power lines modify the hinterland's tranquillity. The mainland coast is not tranquil to the east mainly due to the transport corridors but is more tranquil to the west away from the A55 and the mountains of Snowdonia to the south are highly tranquil with a wild character.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: On the Anglesey coast there are places of tranquillity between settlements and development. For instance, Ynys Llanddwyn is tranquil, combined with relative sense of wildness and remoteness, being an island just off an uninhabited forested 'peninsula'. Tranquillity is affected to an extent by low flying aircraft, jet skiers and noise from the Ty Croes motor-racing circuit.</p> <p>On the mainland, the coast is moderately tranquil although affected by closeness of A499 in parts. The sense of remoteness and tranquillity increases inland on the elevated slopes of Snowdonia.</p> <p>The north-western slopes of the Llŷn peninsula have a greater sense of tranquillity and remoteness and vehicular access remains limited to only a few locations.</p>
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	<p>The zone itself is dark with no sources of light apart from occasional shipping.</p> <p>Northern part of zone: On Anglesey, lighting is concentrated in settlements and around RAF Valley airfield and nearby settlements at Valley, Holyhead and Rhosneigr, reducing to the south to a dark area. There is a lighthouse at South Stack. On the mainland it is dark away from Caernarfon with the A487 and A499 and related settlements are the main sources. On Llŷn, lighting is confined to the small settlements.</p>
<i>Exposure</i>		<p>The zone itself is very exposed to prevailing south westerlies.</p>
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: Penmon Priory; Priestholm or Puffin Island - monastic settlement; Moelfre and the shipwreck of the Royal Charter; Bwrdd Arthur, Llanddona, an important hill top archaeological site; Holyhead - packet port and crossing to Ireland; Early telegraph station at Carmel Head (linked to Liverpool).</p> <p>Southern part of zone: Llŷn has attracted artists to paint views of the sea, sunset and coastline. Local</p>

		artists include Elis Gwyn Jones, Emrys Parry and Rob Piercy.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Beyond 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect*</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines below 350m are likely to have less than low magnitude of effect. Existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts towards the east.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect*</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines below 350m are likely to have less than medium magnitude of effect. Existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts towards the east.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	<p>Within the zone itself there are no patterns or foci as open sea.</p> <p>Northern part of zone: Foci along the Welsh coast tend to be Great Orme, Snowdonia, Puffin Island, the Skerries and Holyhead Mountain. Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm lies to the south east. Commercial vessels are apparent between this zone and the coast, especially the ferries around Holyhead. The Isle of Man lies closer to the north.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: Views west out to the zone and to the sunset, some framed by the headlands and landform of the enclosing coasts. Views across the bay either from Anglesey to the Llŷn peninsula and its peaks such as Yr Eifl, or northwards from Llŷn to the lower coast of Anglesey. Snowdonia provides the backcloth to the east.</p>
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: The sea provides distant setting for Snowdonia to the north framed by Great Orme and Puffin Island. For most of the Anglesey AONB the sea provides the exposed open setting to the north sometimes framed by small low headlands with Gwynt y Mor potentially visible to the east.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: The sweep of the bay has an important role as setting to the adjoining coasts. Llŷn peninsula is defined by its relationship with the sea on both sides.</p>
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: Coast Path; beaches; settlements, caravan/chalet parks, recreational boating.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: Coast Path; beaches; open access land such as on Yr Eifl and Gyrn Goch;</p>

		settlements, caravan/chalet parks, recreational boating.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: Anglesey AONB: Coast Path, Red Wharf Bay and Benllech beaches, Penmon Point, Moelfre, Point Lynas, Penrhyn beach, Bwrdd Arthur, Holyhead Mountain, Penrhos Coastal Park Snowdonia: Extensive tracts on Conwy Mountain, Penmaen Bach, some at Penmaen Head, and rising up to the Carneddau.</p> <p>Southern part of zone: On Anglesey, Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Forest are popular destinations for walkers and together with Maltreath Bay, Abberffraw Bay, beaches around Rhosneigr and Trearddur Bay. These have scenic views across Caernarfon Bay to the mountains of the Llŷn Peninsula and open views west.</p> <p>Morfa Dinlle has access land from which there are views across the bay.</p> <p>On Llŷn, there are numerous views from elevated land, including from Bardsey Island, Yr Eifl, and Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch and Bwlch Mawr (all open access land) and from some coastal land such as Porth y Pistyll and Porth Nant.</p>
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	<p>Northern part of zone: Wales Coast Path: Great Orme Country Park; Access land: Bwrdd Arthur, Mynydd Bodafon, some minor coastal heathlands, Cemlyn Bay, east and west of Amlwch</p> <p>Southern part of zone: Wales Coast Path</p>
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		<p>Offshore from:</p> <p>01: Dee Estuary (Wales)</p> <p>02: Colwyn Bay and Rhyl Flats</p> <p>03: Red Wharf and Conwy Bays</p> <p>04: North Wales Open Waters (part)</p> <p>05: North-West Anglesey Open Waters</p> <p>06: North Anglesey Coastal Waters</p> <p>07: Holyhead Bay and The Skerries</p> <p>08: West Anglesey Open Waters</p> <p>09: Holy Island West and Penrhos Bay</p> <p>12: Llŷn and South West Anglesey Open Waters</p> <p>13: Llŷn and Bardsey Island</p>
<i>Local seascape character areas: Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment</i>		<p><i>Northern area offshore from:</i></p> <p>2 Conwy Bay</p> <p>3 Traeth Lafan</p>

	<p>4 Menai Strait 5 Penmon 6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre 7 Dulas Bay 8 Amlwch and Cemaes 9 Cemlyn Bay 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn 11 Holyhead 13 Holyhead Mountain 28 North-east of Anglesey 29 North of Anglesey 30 North-west of Anglesey 31 West of Anglesey (part) <i>Southern area offshore from:</i> 14 Rhoscolyn 15 Rhosneigr 16 Malltraeth 17 Caernarfon 18 Abermenai 31 West of Anglesey (part) 32 Caernafon Bay</p>
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Zone No: 6		Name: Caernarfon Bay Inshore
<i>Location</i>		
The area is the inshore area located from North Stack, Holyhead Mountain on Anglesey to Braich y Pwll on the tip of the Llŷn peninsula including Caernarfon Bay.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		High
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>The distinctive form of Holyhead Mountain forms the western tip of Anglesey's south western coast but further east this becomes a small-scale indented rocky shore with low cliffs in places and dunes at Newborough Warren. Llandwyn Island frames views. There are views across the bay towards the Llŷn peninsula with its distinctive pointed hills around Yr Eifl. The bay is simple and gently curved south of the Menai Strait allowing views framed by both the Anglesey coast the Llŷn peninsula. Snowdonia forms the backcloth to this coast and the bay as a whole. The Llŷn peninsula itself has a relatively small-scale indented coast of medium to high cliffs with small bays and coves. There are very dramatic views from the coastal edge and from the high hills and cliffs around Yr Eifl. The peninsula has few settlements and feels tranquil and remote, which increases towards the south-west. It also has cultural significance with features such as Bardsey Island to the south-west and Tre'r Ceiri prehistoric hillfort at Yr Eifl.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in being overlooked by from land to the north, east and south, including across Caernarfon Bay towards the distinctive hills of the Llŷn AONB; the important cultural significance of Bardsey Island and the Llŷn AONB, with its unspoilt views, tranquillity and sense of place; the potential for prominent headlands and topography (eg Yr Eifl) to frame views and give scale to development; the elevated panoramic views of the bay and sense of remoteness and tranquillity around Yr Eifl and in Snowdonia; views from Anglesey coast including South Stack south and west and framed views from various coves and bays and iconic views from Ynys Llanddwyn; and the potential for views of development silhouetted against the sun and the sunset. The area's value lies in its proximity to, and being overlooked by three national landscape designations- Anglesey AONB and Llŷn AONB (both with heritage coasts) and Snowdonia National Park.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
The area is too sensitive to have ability to accommodate any offshore wind farm development.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Anglesey AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive views/seascapes • Peace and tranquillity • Islands around Anglesey
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan does not expand on the special

		qualities but refers to the local seascape character assessment. The area includes the Heritage Coasts at Holyhead Mountain and Aberffraw Bay.
	<i>Designation</i>	Llŷn AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, coast and sea • A clean environment and tranquillity
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan expands on the special qualities. It states that the Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal landscape that offers striking views. These include panoramic views from isolated hilltops in every direction, with notably dramatic, highly elevated views from around Yr Eifl, over Caernarfon Bay. The sea has greatly influenced the area's character. The peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found with the absence of large scale development and light. The area includes Heritage Coast along all the north coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. The peaks and coastal slopes allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Llwyn and Bardsey Island
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Caer y Twr Hillfort SH 2182 (Holyhead Mountain) Dinas Dinlle Hillfort SH 4356 Tre'r Ceiri Hillfort SH 3744 Garn Boduan Hillfort SH 3139 Carn Fadrun Hillfort SH 2835
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island
	<i>SAC</i>	Llwyn Peninsula and the Sarnau
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at Holyhead Mountain, Newborough Warren, Yr Eifl, Gyrn Ddu/Goch, the end of the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey. High value elsewhere. A large proportion of the rest of the coast is high value.

SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	The overall scale is large scale but the coast feels small scale where it is indented such as on Anglesey and Llŷn.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	The area is open with views to the west.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	The coasts of the bay generally face west ranging from north west to south west.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	The overall form of the unit is a concave bay. The south west Anglesey coast is an indented rocky coast with low cliffs or grassy slopes and numerous small headlands interspersed with a few beaches, and dunes to the south east. The hinterland on the island is relatively low lying with the exception of Holyhead Mountain. On the mainland the coast line straightens in dunes and the man-made edge at Morfa Dinlle. Snowdonia is set back from the coastal plain. The Llŷn peninsula has a scalloped north and north west facing eroding coast with sloping cliffs ranging from around 25m AOD to 250m AOD where the hills meet the sea.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	Settlement is fairly limited with the main settlements on Anglesey being Treaddur Bay and Rhosneigr. Airports at RAF Valley and Caernarfon, and the Ty Croes motor racing circuit are not widely visible except for some large warehouses and towers at RAF Valley. On the mainland, settlements are limited, with Morfa Dinlle, Trefor and Nefyn being the main foci.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Yachts, limited leisure boating and jet skiers. Sailing from Trefor and Nefyn.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<p>On the Anglesey coast there are places of tranquillity between settlements and development. For instance, Ynys Llanddwyn is tranquil, combined with relative sense of wildness and remoteness, being an island just off an uninhabited, afforested 'peninsula'. Tranquillity is affected to an extent by low flying aircraft, jet skiers and noise from the Ty Croes motor-racing circuit.</p> <p>On the mainland, the coast is moderately tranquil although affected by closeness of A499 in parts. The sense of remoteness and tranquillity increases inland on the elevated slopes of Snowdonia.</p> <p>The north-western slopes of the Llŷn peninsula have a greater sense of tranquillity and remoteness as development and vehicular access remains limited to only a few locations.</p>

	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	On Anglesey, lighting is concentrated around RAF Valley airfield and nearby settlements at Valley, Holyhead and Rhosneigr, reducing to the south to a dark area. There is a lighthouse at South Stack. On the mainland it is dark away from Caernarfon, with the A487 and A499 and related settlements are the main sources. On Llŷn, lighting is confined to the small settlements.
<i>Exposure</i>		Very exposed to prevailing south westerlies
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Llŷn has attracted artists to paint views of the sea, sunset and coastline. Local artists include Elis Gwyn Jones, Emrys Parry and Rob Piercy.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore up to 22.6km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	Views west out to sea and to the sunset, some framed by the headlands and landform of the enclosing coasts. Views across the bay either from Anglesey to the Llŷn peninsula and its peaks such as Yr Eifl, or northwards from Llŷn to the lower coast of Anglesey. Snowdonia provides the backcloth to the east.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The sweep of the bay has an important role as setting to the adjoining coasts. Llŷn peninsula is defined by its relationship with the sea on both sides.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Wales Coast Path; beaches; open access land such as on Yr Eifl and Gyrn Goch; settlements, caravan/chalet parks, recreational boating.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	On Anglesey, Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Forest are popular destinations for walkers, together with Malltreat Bay, Abberffraw Bay, beaches around Rhosneigr and Trearddur Bay. These have iconic scenic views across Caernarfon Bay to the mountains

		<p>of the Llŷn Peninsula.</p> <p>Morfa Dinlle has access land from which there are views across the bay.</p> <p>On Llŷn, there are dramatic views from distinctive hills- Yr Eifl, and Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch and Bwlch Mawr (all open access land) and some coastal land such as Porth y Pistyll and Porth Nant. The Nefyn area is very popular for visitors in summer, together with a few remoter sandy beaches further down the peninsula.</p>
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		<p>08: West Anglesey Open Waters (part)</p> <p>09: Holy Island West and Penrhos Bay</p> <p>10: Menai Strait</p> <p>11: Caernarfon Bay</p> <p>12: Llŷn and South West Anglesey Open Waters (part)</p> <p>13: Llŷn and Bardsey Island (part)</p>
<i>Local seascape character areas: Anglesey Seascape Character Assessments</i>		<p>14 Rhoscolyn</p> <p>15 Rhosneigr</p> <p>16 Malltraeth</p> <p>17 Caernarfon</p> <p>18 Abermenai</p> <p>31 West of Anglesey (part)</p> <p>32 Caernafon Bay</p>

Zone No: 7	Name: Caernarfon Bay Offshore
<i>Location</i>	
The zone is located offshore from Holyhead Mountain on Anglesey to Braich y Pwll on the tip of the Llŷn peninsula.	
OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
<i>Sensitivity</i>	High/medium
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>The zone lies in open sea west of Caernarfon Bay. On the coast, the distinctive form of Holyhead Mountain forms the western tip of Anglesey's south western coast but further east this becomes a small-scale indented rocky shore with low cliffs in places and dunes at Newborough Warren. Ynys Llanddwyn frames views. There are views across the bay towards the Llŷn peninsula. The eastern tip of this zone would be seen in juxtaposition with this if viewing from Holyhead Mountain towards Bardsey Island or vice-versa. The coastal geometry of the bay is simple and gently curved south of the Menai Strait allowing views to be framed by both the Anglesey coast the Llŷn peninsula. Snowdonia forms the backcloth to this coast and the bay as a whole, although set back from the coast some distance. The Llŷn peninsula itself has a relatively small-scale indented coast of medium to high cliffs with small bays and coves. There are views possible from the coastal edge and from the high hills adjacent including Yr Eifl with its prehistoric settlement. The peninsula has few settlements and feels tranquil and remote, which increases towards the west. It also has cultural significance with features such as Bardsey Island to the south west. These areas have views across the this zone, more especially at higher elevations.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in being overlooked from rising land to the east; the important cultural significance of Bardsey Island and the Llŷn AONB, with its unspoilt views, tranquillity and sense of place; the potential for prominent headlands and topography (eg Yr Eifl) to frame views and give scale to development; the elevated panoramic views of the bay and sense of remoteness and tranquillity in Snowdonia; views from Anglesey coast including Holyhead Mountain south and west and framed views from various coves and bays and from Newborough Warren; and the potential for views of development to be silhouetted against the sun and the sunset. The zone's value lies in its visual relationship with three national landscape designations- Anglesey AONB and Llŷn AONB (both with heritage coasts) and Snowdonia National Park – the latter two with much elevated ground.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS	
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>The area has limited ability to accommodate offshore wind farms. Larger turbines should be avoided to reduce visual prominence, with any development being located in the least sensitive area to the north west away from the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey Island and a central location in the sweep of the bay.</p>	

VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Anglesey AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive views/seascapes • Peace and tranquillity • Islands around Anglesey
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan does not expand on the special qualities but refers to the local seascape character assessment. The area includes the Heritage Coasts at Holyhead Mountain and Aberffraw Bay.
	<i>Designation</i>	Llŷn AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, coast and sea • A clean environment and tranquillity
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan expands on the special qualities. It states that Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal landscape that offers striking views. These include from hilltops with excellent views in every direction. The sea has greatly influenced the area's character. The peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found with the absence of large scale development and light. The area includes Heritage Coast along all the north coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. The peaks and coastal slopes allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Llwyn and Bardsey Island
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Caer y Twr Hillfort SH 2182 (Holyhead Mountain) Dinas Dinlle Hillfort SH 4356 Tre'r Ceiri Hillfort SH 3744 Garn Boduan Hillfort SH 3139 Carn Fadrun Hillfort SH 2835
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island

	SAC	Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau
	Ramsar	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at Holyhead Mountain, Newborough Warren, Yr Eifl, Gyrn Ddu/Goch, the end of the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey. High value elsewhere. A large proportion of the rest of the coast is high value.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	The overall scale is large but feels small scale along indented coasts of Anglesey and Llŷn.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	The coast is open, with views to the west across this zone.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	The coasts of the bay generally face west ranging from north west to south west.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	The overall form of the zone to the east is a concave bay. The south west Anglesey coast is indented and rocky, with low cliffs or grassy slopes and numerous small headlands, interspersed with beaches, and dunes to the south east. The Anglesey hinterland is relatively low lying with the exception of Holyhead Mountain. On the mainland the coast line straightens in dunes and the man-made edge at Morfa Dinlle. Snowdonia is set back from the coastal plain. The Llŷn peninsula has a scalloped north and north west facing eroding coast with sloping cliffs ranging from around 25m AOD to 250m AOD where the hills meet the sea.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	Settlement is fairly limited with the main settlements on Anglesey being Treaddur Bay and Rhosneigr, Airports at RAF Valley and Caernarfon, and the Ty Croes motor racing circuit are not widely visible except for some large warehouses and towers at RAF Valley. On the mainland, settlements are limited, with Morfa Dinlle, Trefor and Nefyn being the main foci.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial shipping using St George's Channel. Very occasional yachts.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The zone itself is wild and remote. On the Anglesey coast there are places of tranquillity between settlements and development. For instance, Ynys Llanddwyn is tranquil, combined with relative sense of wildness and remoteness, being an island just off an uninhabited forested 'peninsula'. Tranquillity is affected to an extent by low flying aircraft, jet skiers and noise from the Ty Croes motor-racing circuit. On the mainland, the coast is moderately tranquil

		<p>although affected by closeness of A499 in parts. The sense of remoteness and tranquillity increases inland on the elevated slopes of Snowdonia.</p> <p>The north-western slopes of the Llŷn peninsula have a greater sense of tranquillity and remoteness and vehicular access remains limited to only a few locations.</p>
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	<p>The zone itself is dark with no sources of light. On Anglesey, lighting is concentrated in settlements and around RAF Valley airfield and nearby settlements at Valley, Holyhead and Rhosneigr, reducing to the south to a dark area. There is a lighthouse at South Stack. On the mainland it is dark away from Caernarfon with the A487 and A499 and related settlements are the main sources.</p> <p>On Llŷn lighting is confined to the small settlements.</p>
<i>Exposure</i>		Very exposed to prevailing south westerlies
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Llŷn has attracted artists to paint views of the sea, sunset and coastline. Local artists include Elis Gwyn Jones, Emrys Parry and Rob Piercy.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		22.6km to 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would not be likely exceed low magnitude of effect. • Turbines 145-175m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 24.4km from shore. • Turbines 175-225m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 28.5km from shore. • Turbines 225-300m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 41.6km from shore. • Turbines 300-350m would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. • Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. • Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed

		medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	Views west out to the zone and to the sunset, some framed by the headlands and landform of the enclosing coasts. Views across the bay either from Anglesey to the Llŷn peninsula and its peaks such as Yr Eifl, or northwards from Llŷn to the lower coast of Anglesey. Snowdonia provides the backcloth to the east.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The bay to the east has an important role as setting to the adjoining coasts, but this zone also contributes to this. Llŷn peninsula is defined by its relationship with the sea on both sides.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Coast Path; beaches; open access land such as on Yr Eifl and Gyrn Goch; settlements, caravan/chalet parks, recreational boating.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	On Anglesey, Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Forest are popular destinations for walkers and together with Maltreath Bay, Abberffraw Bay, beaches around Rhosneigr and Trearddur Bay. These have scenic views across Caernarfon Bay to the mountains of the Llŷn Peninsula and open views west. Morfa Dinlle has access land from which there are views across the bay. On Llŷn, there are numerous views from elevated land, including from Bardsey Island, Yr Eifl, and Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch and Bwlch Mawr (all open access land) and from some coastal land such as Porth y Pistyll and Porth Nant.
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		<i>Offshore from:</i> 08: West Anglesey Open Waters (part) 09: Holy Island West and Penrhos Bay 10: Menai Strait 11: Caernarfon Bay 12: Llŷn and South West Anglesey Open Waters (part) 13: Llŷn and Bardsey Island (part)
<i>Local seascape character areas: Anglesey Seascape Character Assessments</i>		<i>Offshore from:</i> 14 Rhoscolyn 15 Rhosneigr 16 Malltraeth 17 Caernarfon 18 Abermenai

	31 West of Anglesey (part) 32 Caernafon Bay
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Zone No: 8		Name: Cardigan Bay north Inshore
<i>Location</i>		
The zone is the inshore area located from Braich y Pwll on the tip of the Llŷn peninsula to just south of Aberystwyth, including Tremadog Bay.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		High
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>This large northern sweep of Cardigan Bay includes the remote, tranquil, indented rocky Llŷn peninsula, with Bardsey Island to the west and the gentler sweep of embayed coastline including Tremadog Bay to the east with the backcloth of Snowdonia. Llŷn has a culturally important seascape. Harlech Castle to the east is a World Heritage Site. Views into, and across the bay are framed by the mountains and hills of Snowdonia and Llŷn – the latter being seen from Meirionnydd in silhouette at sunset. The distinctive estuaries at Porthmadog, Mawddach and Aberdyfi also offer framed views in places. The area is sparsely settled on the southern Llŷn coast west of Abersoch. Elsewhere, the predominantly rural coast also includes a series of coastal resorts and some large holiday parks. Views are possible from the many elevated areas of Llŷn and Snowdonia, as well as along the coastal edge, particularly from headlands in western parts of the Llŷn peninsula.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in: its embayed character both as whole, overlooked from three sides, and as a series of smaller-scale bays; the important cultural significance of Bardsey Island and the Llŷn AONB, with its unspoilt views, remoteness, tranquillity and sense of place; the potential for prominent headlands to frame views and give scale to development; the elevated panoramic views of the bay and sense of remoteness and tranquillity in Snowdonia; views from Harlech Castle World Heritage Site and Criccieth Castle; and the potential for views of development silhouetted against the sun and by the sunset. The area's value lies in its proximity to, and overlooking from Llŷn AONB (with heritage coast) and Snowdonia National Park.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
The area is too sensitive to have ability to accommodate any offshore wind farm development.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Llŷn AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, coast and sea • A clean environment and tranquillity
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan expands on the special qualities. It states that Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal landscape that offers striking views. These include from hilltops with excellent views in every direction. The sea has greatly influenced the area's

		character. The peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found with the absence of large scale development and light. The area is Heritage Coast on the western part of its southern coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. In addition to the coast, the coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
	<i>Designation</i>	Ceredigion Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Special qualities are not defined.
	<i>Notes</i>	The Ceredigion Heritage Coast was established in 1982 and comprises four separate sections of coast, two of which are in this area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borth – Clarach • Monks Cave – Llanrhystud (part) It is generally associated with the dunes and coastline at Ynyslas to the north and a more varied hilly coastline with cliffs to the south.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Llŷn and Bardsey Island Ardudwy Aberglaslyn around Porthmadog Mawddach Dysynni Valley, Upland Ceredigion
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Plas yn Rhiw Portmeirion
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Carn Fadrun Hillfort SH 2835 [inland] Criccieth Castle (also Guardianship site) SH 4937 Moel y Gest Hillfort SH 5538 Moel Goedog Hillfort SH 6132 Harlech Castle (also Guardianship and World Heritage Site) SH 5831 Tal y Garreg Hillfort SH5703 Aberystwyth Castle SN 5781 Pendinas Hillfort SN 5880
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island

	SAC	Llŷn Peninsula and the Sarnau
	Ramsar	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at the end of the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey Island, on Snowdonia's peaks, the Mawddach estuary, Dyfi estuary and parts of upland Ceredigion. High value on parts of the coast on Llŷn, Snowdonia's coast-facing slopes and Ceredigion's coast.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large scale of Cardigan Bay
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Open to the south and west, although headlands provide some framing of views on the Llŷn peninsula. The estuaries are bounded by higher landform and in the case of the Mawddach and Dyfi estuaries, there are framed views out to sea.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	Predominantly south, south west and west
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	The overall form is the northern sweep of Cardigan Bay. Llŷn is an indented peninsula with sloping rocky cliffs and sandy beaches. Further east there is low lying land and coastal plain with shallow scalloped bays, straight stretches of coast and dunes. Snowdonia (Rhinogydd and Cader Idris) act as a strong backcloth with coast facing slopes. The coastline is interrupted by three major estuaries- Porthmadog, Mawddach and Dyfi.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	Llŷn has few settlements to the west of Abersoch. They increase in size and frequency to the east, including the larger coastal resort of Pwhelli, and Criccieth with its castle, Porthmadog, Harlech with its castle, Barmouth and Aberdyfi. There are intervening smaller settlements and some large caravan sites fronting the coast eg at Morfa Dyffryn and Tywyn.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial fishing, recreational use e.g. jetskis, sailing.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The exposed peninsulas of western Llŷn are the most remote, tranquil and wild. The coast to the east is more settled, including busy holiday resorts and some caravan parks. Apart from Llŷn, tranquillity and remoteness are experienced mainly on the Snowdonia and Ceredigion uplands.
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	The area is darker further west, with lighting being limited to larger coastal settlements and some holiday parks to the east. The uplands are also dark. There is

		a lighthouse at the St Tudwal's Islands.
<i>Exposure</i>		Exposed to south westerlies, although headlands provide some shelter on the Llŷn peninsula.
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Llŷn has attracted artists to paint views of the sea, sunset and coastline. Local artists include Elis Gwyn Jones, Emrys Parry and Rob Piercy. Cantre'r Gwaelod legend of drowned lands. Harlech is mentioned in the Mabinogi tales. Snowdonia is historically a place for landscape painters dating back to C18 eg Cader Idris.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore up to 22.6km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	There are views across the bay between the mainland and the Llŷn peninsula. Snowdonia acts as a strong backcloth to the east and also allows commanding views across the bay out to sea.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The unspoilt simple sweep of the bay and seascape complements the varied coastline of Llŷn and provides the setting for Snowdonia. The bay is framed by the peninsula headlands and Snowdonia.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Views from Snowdonia west along the Llŷn peninsula and out to sea and south west across the bay. From Harlech and its castle elevated panoramic views are seen, across Tremadog Bay, with the hills of the Llŷn peninsula acting as a backdrop. A key feature is the sunset across the bay. Views from Llŷn along the coast towards Snowdonia. Views from footpath and open access land in Snowdonia and from Cambrians to south. Views from peaks of Snowdonia (the Rhinogs and Cader Idris) and from foothills.

		Views from estuary mouths eg Mawddach and Dovey eg Ynys Las, From coast path. From 'A' roads and coast railway.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	End of the Llŷn peninsula including Braich y Pwll, and Bardsey Island/Mynydd Enlli. Aberdaron Around Trwyn Cilan. Moel-y-Gest environs Portmeirion gardens. Harlech Castle Users of Snowdonia open access land and Coast Path. Aberdovey seafront
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path Criccieth Castle Ynyslas dunes Pendinas (Aberystwyth)
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		12: Llŷn and South West Anglesey Open Waters (part) 13: Llŷn and Bardsey Island (part) 14: Tremadog Bay and Dwyryd Estuary 15: Cardigan Bay (north) and Estuaries 16: Cardigan Bay (south) (part) 17: Outer Cardigan Bay (part)
<i>Local seascape character areas: Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessments</i>		19 Criccieth to Mochras 20 Porthmadog and Glaslyn Estuary 21 Dwyryd Estuary and Morfa Harlech 22 Mochras to Fairbourne and Sarn Badrig 23 Mawddach Estuary 24 Fairbourne to Tonfannau 25 Tywyn and Sarn-Y-Bwlch 26 Borth 27 Dyfi Estuary 33 Tremadog Bay 34 Barmouth Bay 35 Aberdyfi Bay 36 Cardigan Bay

Zone No: 9		Name: Cardigan Bay central inshore
<i>Location</i>		
The zone is the inshore area of central Cardigan Bay from just south of Aberystwyth to Newquay.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		High/medium
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>This small central part of Cardigan Bay is bounded by a gently curving stretch of coast with a few areas of moderate height cliffs and small scale indentations and some small bays, most notably at New Quay. Coastal slopes are particular features. Settlement is generally rural and nucleated. Use of the bay is limited to commercial and leisure fishing, a small amount of leisure sailing and beach related activities.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in its central location in Cardigan Bay with high visibility from the arc of surrounding land, the lack of any existing development offshore and very limited marine activity, the openness of the coast which does not have any scale out to sea, the coast being predominantly rural with tranquil stretches and only a few small clustered sensitive traditional settlements such as Aberaeron and New Quay, the presence of the Coast Path, the backcloth of Snowdonia to the north and views to the west which could result in silhouetting of turbines, including against sunsets. The areas value lies in the proximity and views from stretches of Ceredigion Heritage Coast and the scheduled monument at Pendinaslochdyn Hillfort.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
The area has very limited ability to accommodate offshore windfarms due to views from the Ceredigion Heritage Coast and from other sensitive locations such as Aberaeron locally and due to its location between Snowdonia to the north and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to the south. This would make offshore wind farm development in this area visually prominent. If considered, only turbines up to 145m should be considered on the outer western edges of the area.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Ceredigion Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Special qualities are not defined.
	<i>Notes</i>	<p>The Ceredigion Heritage Coast was established in 1982 and comprises four separate sections of coast, two of which are located in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monks Cave – Llanrhystud (part) • New Quay – Tresaith (part) <p>It is generally associated with more varied hilly coastline with cliffs.</p>
<i>Historic</i>	<i>Registered</i>	Upland Ceredigion inland

<i>designations</i>	<i>historic landscapes</i>	
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Aberystwyth Castle SN 5781 (out of area to the north) Pendinas Hillfort SN 5880 (out of area to the north) Pendinaslochdyn Hillfort SN 3154
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	-
	<i>SAC</i>	Cardigan Bay (part)
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value in Monks Cave – Llanrhystud stretch and around Aberaeron. High value for most of the coast and coastal slopes.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Open
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	North west facing
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	Very gently curving eroding coastline at the centre of Cardigan Bay with minor headlands and bays which create some articulation to the coast. Coastal slopes running up to the coastal plateau are a characteristic of the coast.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	Nucleated coastal settlements access from the coast road (A487) which is mainly set back from the coast although runs close in some locations. Aberaeron is the main settlement on the coast with sheltered traditional harbour, New Quay lies to the south with associated harbour and caravan sites and Aberarth lies to the north. A few isolated caravan sites lie between eg near Llanrhystud.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial fishing, leisure fishing and sailing and sea kayaking. Generally limited marine activity.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	There are many tranquil locations along this primarily rural coast where access is not possible or limited to the Coast Path. Stretches include between Upper Borth and Clarach Bay, Aberystwyth to Llanyrhystud and between Aberaeron and Newquay.
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	Lighting is limited to the settlements and there is none apparent offshore.
<i>Exposure</i>		Very exposed

<i>Cultural associations</i>		Cantre'r Gwaelod legend of drowned lands
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore upto 22.6km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	There are no foci out to sea so the views along the coast to minor headlands, coves and small bays are the main interest. To the north, Snowdonia is apparent.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The sea provides a neutral setting to the coast and its features, sometimes framed by small headlands. A key feature is the sunset across the bay.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	Coast Path for the majority of the coastline, Settlement, particularly associated with Aberaeron, New Quay and Aberarth seafronts, Coast road particularly around Aberaeron.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	-
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Pendinaslochdyn Hillfort Wales Coast Path Aberaeron and Newquay seafronts and Aberarth
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		16: Cardigan Bay (south) (part) 17: Outer Cardigan Bay (part)
<i>Local seascape character areas</i>		No local study

Zone No: 10		Name: Cardigan Bay Offshore
<i>Location</i>		
The area is located in outer Cardigan Bay offshore from the Llŷn peninsula to the north and Strumble Head to the south.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		High/medium
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>This zone defines the core and outer edges of Cardigan Bay. To the north lies the remote, tranquil indented rocky Llŷn peninsula, with Bardsey Island. To the north east lies the gentler sweep of embayed coastline including Tremadog Bay with the backcloth of Snowdonia. To the south lies Wales' most westerly peninsula, Pembrokeshire, with its remote exposed rocky indented coastline and Ramsey Island. To the east are the coastal cliffs and slopes of Ceredigion. The coastal landscape is sparsely settled to the west, apart from Fishguard, with a series of small coastal resorts and Aberystwyth to the north and east. There are views out into the undeveloped bay from the entire coastline including the Preseli Hills and Carningli, Snowdonia and estuaries framed by the mountains, and from the Llŷn peninsula. Depending on the time of year the views look across the zone towards the sunset.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in the character of greater Cardigan Bay, with overlooking from three sides; the important cultural significance of Bardsey Island, the Llŷn AONB and St David's in Pembrokeshire, with their unspoilt views, remoteness, tranquillity and sense of place; the potential for prominent headlands to frame views and give scale to development; the elevated panoramic views of the bay and sense of remoteness and tranquillity in Snowdonia and the Preseli Hills; views from Harlech Castle World Heritage Site and the many scheduled monuments, historic landscapes and features overlooking the area; historic towns with framed views, such as Newport; and the potential for views of development silhouetted against the sun and by the sunset. The area's value lies in its proximity to, and overlooking by Llŷn AONB and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (with their heritage coasts), and Snowdonia National Park.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
The area has limited if any ability to accommodate development. Larger turbines should be avoided and any development should be located in the least sensitive areas away from the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey Island, St David's Head and out from the Pembrokeshire coast. This leaves a central location in the zone, which is also highly undesirable because of views from three sides from three national designations as well as from Ceredigion Heritage Coast.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Llŷn AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, coast and sea • A clean environment and tranquillity

	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan expands on the special qualities. It states that Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal landscape that offers striking views. These include from hilltops with excellent views in every direction. The sea has greatly influenced the area's character. The peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found with the absence of large scale development and light. The area is heritage coast on the western part of the southern coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. In addition to the coast, the coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
	<i>Designation</i>	Ceredigion Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Special qualities are not defined.
	<i>Notes</i>	The Ceredigion Heritage Coast was established in 1982 and comprises four separate sections of coast, two of which are in this area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borth – Clarach • Monks Cave – Llanrhystud (part) It is generally associated with the dunes and coastline at Ynyslas to the north and a more varied hilly coastline with cliffs to the south.
	<i>Designation</i>	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (including Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast)
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Coastal splendour; islands; remoteness tranquillity and wildness; space to breathe. Opportunities for recreation leisure and learning combined with areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The designation is focused primarily on its coast and islands and spectacular sea views whilst also covering inland hills which contribute to coastal character and also allow views of the sea.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Llŷn and Bardsey Island Arduwy Aberglaslyn around Porthmadog

		Mawddach Dysynni Valley, Upland Ceredigion Newport and Carningli Preseli PenCaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Carn Fadrun Hillfort SH 2835 [inland] Criccieth Castle (also Guardianship site) SH 4937 Moel y Gest Hillfort SH 5538 Moel Goedog Hillfort SH 6132 Harlech Castle (also Guardianship and World Heritage Site) SH 5831 Tal y Garreg Hillfort SH5703 Aberystwyth Castle SN 5781 Pendinas Hillfort SN 5880 Pendinaslochdyn Hillfort SN 3154 Carn Ingli Hillfort SN 0637 Garn Fawr Hillfort SM8938 St David's Head Promontory Fort SM 7227
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	-
	<i>SAC</i>	-
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at the end of the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey Island, on Snowdonia's peaks, the Mawddach estuary, Dyfi estuary and parts of upland Ceredigion, around Llanrhystud and Aberaeron, St Dogmaels Heritage Coast, Carningli and the Preseli Hills, Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island. High value on parts of the coast on Llŷn, Snowdonia's coast facing slopes and Ceredigion's coast and coastal slopes In north Pembrokeshire, outstanding value areas with sea views include St Dogmaels Heritage Coast, Carningli and the Preseli Hills, Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island. Much of the rest of the coast is high value, with the exception of urban settlements.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large scale open sea.
	<i>Openness and</i>	Very open away from the coast but perception of land

	<i>enclosure</i>	on three sides.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	Large curving west facing bay.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	Indented rocky coasts with cliffs to the north and south, backed by plateau hinterlands (and the Preseli Hills), with smoother hinterland to the east backed either by Snowdonia mountains to the north or the Cambrian Mountains and coastal hills to the south.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	Mainly rural coasts with small well-spaced settlements, the largest being Aberystwyth, Fishguard/Goodwick and Porthmadog. Settlement tends to be less to the western fringes of Llŷn and Pembrokeshire.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial fishing, occasional yachting.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The area is remote, wild, and tranquil open sea (exposed to south westerlies depending on weather conditions).
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	The area has no light sources and is dark. The coasts particularly on western Llŷn and Pembrokeshire are predominantly dark.
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Cantre'r Gwaelod legend of drowned lands may impinge on this area.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

<i>Distance offshore- range</i>	22.6km to 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would not be likely exceed low magnitude of effect. • Turbines 145-175m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 24.4km from shore. • Turbines 175-225m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 28.5km from shore. • Turbines 225-300m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 41.6km from shore. • Turbines 300-350m would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. • Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	<p>There are views across the bay from the mainland and the Llŷn peninsula to the western headlands. Snowdonia allows wide views across the bay and out to sea.</p> <p>In Pembrokeshire, there are wide views out to undeveloped seascapes from exposed peninsulas, framed views from bays e.g. Newport Bay and estuaries eg Teifi/Poppit Sands, views towards islands and islets eg Ramsey. There are also long views along the coast with headlands and islands as main foci. Commercial ferries are regularly visible from Strumble Head.</p>
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The bay is framed by the peninsula headlands and Snowdonia. The seascape provides an essential wild and generally unspoilt setting for the varied coastline of Llŷn and Pembrokeshire and their islands. It adds to its sense of remoteness and tranquillity. It also forms part of the special qualities of both designations.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	From the popular Wales Coast Path, from remote and more popular beaches, from sailing/boating activities, scattered settlements eg Aberaeron, roads such as the A487. A key feature is the sunset across the bay.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path, end of the Llŷn peninsula including Braich y Pwll, and Bardsey Island/Mynydd Enlli, Aberdaron, around Trwyn Cilan, Moel-y-Gest environs, Harlech Castle, users of Snowdonia open access land, Aberdyfi seafront, Dinas Head, Strumble Head, St David's Head, Ramsey Island; coastal hills including Mynydd Carningli, the Preseli Hills, Carn Llidi; enclosed bays with focussed views out such as Newport; scheduled monuments (see above); open access land, minor road network, scattered settlement, and other areas of open access.
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path Ynyslas dunes Pendinas (Aberystwyth)
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		Offshore from: 12: Llŷn and South West Anglesey Open Waters (part) 13: Llŷn and Bardsey Island (part)

	<p>14: Tremadog Bay and Dwyryd Estuary 15: Cardigan Bay (north) and Estuaries 16: Cardigan Bay (south) 17: Outer Cardigan Bay 18: West Pembrokeshire Coastal Waters and Islands (part) 19: West Pembrokeshire Islands, Bars and Inshore Waters (part)</p>
<p><i>Local seascape character areas</i> Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessment to the north and Pembrokeshire Coast Seascape Character Assessment of the south</p>	<p><i>Offshore from (to the north):</i> 19 Criccieth to Mochras 20 Porthmadog and Glaslyn Estuary 21 Dwyryd Estuary and Morfa Harlech 22 Mochras to Fairbourne and Sarn Badrig 23 Mawddach Estuary 24 Fairbourne to Tonfannau 25 Tywyn and Sarn-Y-Bwlch 26 Borth 27 Dyfi Estuary 33 Tremadog Bay 34 Barmouth Bay 35 Aberdyfi Bay 36 Cardigan Bay <i>Offshore from (to the south):</i> 1 Teifi Estuary 2 Cardigan Island and Cemmaes Head 3 Pen y Afwr to Pen y Bal 4 Newport Bay 5 Dinas Island 6 Fishguard Bay west 7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours 8 North open sea 9 Newport and Fishguard outer sand bar 10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head 11 Strumble Head to Penbwchdy 12 Strumble Head deep water 13 Penbwchdy to Penllechwen 15 St David's Head 16 Whitesands Bay 17 Ramsey Sound 18 Ramsey Island coastal waters 19 Bishops and Clerks</p>

Zone No: 11		Name: St George's Channel Offshore
<i>Location</i>		
The zone is located in the outer offshore area of St George's Channel west of Cardigan Bay.		
OVERALL SENSITIVITY		
<i>Sensitivity</i>		Medium
<i>Summary</i>		
<p>This zone is centrally located at the outer edges of Cardigan Bay, at least 44 km offshore from the tip of the Llŷn Peninsula, and the Pembrokeshire coast. It lies further away from Snowdonia and the Ceredigion coasts. To the north lies the remote, tranquil indented rocky peninsula of Llŷn with Bardsey Island. There would be views out beyond the island from the peninsula towards this area. To the south lies Wales' most westerly peninsula, Pembrokeshire, with its remote exposed rocky indented coastline and Ramsey Island. There would be views out into the unspoilt bay from the entire coastline including the Preseli Hills and Carningli. Depending on the time of year the views look across the zone towards the sunset. The sea is open and exposed with few commercial vessels which would be unlikely to be visible from the coast.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies predominantly in combined views from the Llŷn peninsula and Pembrokeshire Coast offshore from Cardigan Bay. Development may be apparent in sunset conditions. The value associated with the zone lies in its relationship with Llŷn AONB and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and associated Heritage Coasts. Particularly sensitive receptor locations include Bardsey Island and the tip of the Llŷn peninsula, Strumble Head, St David's Head, Ramsey Island, the Preseli Hills and Carningli.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS		
<i>Summary</i>		
The zone has potential to accommodate all scales of offshore wind farm development if designed in a coherent manner but it would be desirable to minimise the height of turbines in order to minimise any effects from the highly sensitive peninsula receptors.		
VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Llŷn AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, coast and sea • A clean environment and tranquillity
	<i>Notes</i>	The management plan expands on the special qualities. It states that the Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal landscape that offers striking views. These include from hilltops with excellent views in every direction. The sea has greatly influenced the area's character. The peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found with the absence of large

		scale development and light. The area is heritage coast on the western part of the southern coast.
	<i>Designation</i>	Snowdonia National Park
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas—ranging from coast rolling uplands to the rugged mountains. Areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The mountains contribute to the coastal character providing a strong backcloth. In addition to the coast, the coastal slopes and peaks allow views out to sea from elevated locations.
	<i>Designation</i>	Ceredigion Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Special qualities are not defined.
	<i>Notes</i>	The Ceredigion Heritage Coast was established in 1982 and comprises four separate sections of coast, two of which are in this area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borth – Clarach • Monks Cave – Llanrhystud (part) It is generally associated with the dunes and coastline at Ynyslas to the north and a more varied hilly coastline with cliffs to the south.
	<i>Designation</i>	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (including Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast)
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Coastal splendour; islands; remoteness tranquillity and wildness; space to breathe. Opportunities for recreation leisure and learning combined with areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The designation is focused primarily on its coast and islands and spectacular sea views whilst also covering inland hills which contribute to coastal character and also allow views of the sea.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Llŷn and Bardsey Island Ardudwy Aberglaslyn around Porthmadog Mawddach Dysynni Valley, Upland Ceredigion Newport and Carningli Preseli Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-

	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Carn Fadrun Hillfort SH 2835 [inland] Criccieth Castle (also Guardianship site) SH 4937 Moel y Gest Hillfort SH 5538 Moel Goedog Hillfort SH 6132 Harlech Castle (also Guardianship and World Heritage Site) SH 5831 Tal y Garreg Hillfort SH5703 Aberystwyth Castle SN 5781 Pendinas Hillfort SN 5880 Pendinaslochdyn Hillfort SN 3154 Carn Ingli Hillfort SN 0637 Garn Fawr Hillfort SM8938 St David's Head Promontory Fort SM 7227
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	-
	<i>SAC</i>	-
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value at the end of the Llŷn peninsula and Bardsey Island, on Snowdonia's peaks, the Mawddach and Dyfi estuaries, parts of upland Ceredigion, Llanrhystud stretch and around Aberaeron, St Dogmaels Heritage Coast, Carningli and the Preseli Hills, Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island. High value on parts of the coast on Llŷn, Snowdonia's coast facing slopes and Ceredigion's coast and coastal slopes. In north Pembrokeshire, outstanding value areas with sea views include St Dogmaels Heritage Coast, Carningli and the Preseli Hills, Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island. Much of the rest of the coast is high value, with the exception of urban settlements.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large scale open sea.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Very open away from the coast but perception of land on three sides.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	Large curving west facing bay.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	Indented rocky coasts with cliffs to the north and south, backed by plateau hinterlands (and the Preseli Hills), with smoother coasts to the east backed either by Snowdonia mountains to the north or the Cambrian Mountains and coastal hills to the south.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal</i>	Mainly rural coasts with small well-spaced settlements,

	<i>settlement/development pattern and foci</i>	the largest being Aberystwyth, Fishguard/Goodwick and Porthmadog. Settlement tends to be less to the western fringes
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial fishing and other traffic
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The area is remote, wild, tranquil and exposed to south-westerlies depending weather conditions.
	<i>Dark skies/Lighting</i>	The area has no light sources and is dark. The coasts on the western peninsulas are predominantly dark.
<i>Exposure</i>		Highly exposed
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	-
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Beyond 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines below 350m are likely to have less than low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines below 350m are likely to have less than medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	Views across this zone are at distance and mainly from the Llŷn peninsula, especially its western headlands and Bardsey Island. From Pembrokeshire there are wide views out to undeveloped seascapes from exposed peninsulas, framed views from bays e.g. Newport Bay and estuaries eg Teifi/Poppit Sands, views towards islands and islets eg Ramsey Island. There are also long views along the coast with headlands and islands as main foci. Commercial ferries into Fishguard are potentially visible..
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	Greater Cardigan Bay is framed by the Llŷn and Pembrokeshire peninsulas and their headlands. The seascape provides an essentially wild and undeveloped setting for the varied coastline of Llŷn and Pembrokeshire and their islands. This adds to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity, being special qualities of both designations.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	From the popular Coast Footpath, from remote and more popular beaches, from sailing/boating activities, scattered settlements eg Aberaeron, roads such as the A487. A key feature is the sunset across the bay.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path, end of the Llŷn peninsula including Braich y Pwll, and Bardsey Island, Aberdaron, around Trwyn Cilan, Moel-y-Gest environs, Harlech Castle,

		users of Snowdonia open access land, Aberdyfi seafront, Dinas Head, Strumble Head, St David's Head, Ramsey Island; coastal hills including Mynydd Carningli, the Preseli Hills, Carn Llidi; enclosed bays with focussed views out such as Newport; scheduled monuments (see above); open access land, minor road network, scattered settlement, and other areas of open access.
	<i>Outside nationally designated landscapes</i>	Wales Coast Path
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		<p>Offshore from:</p> <p>12: Llŷn and South West Anglesey Open Waters (part)</p> <p>13: Llŷn and Bardsey Island (part)</p> <p>14: Tremadog Bay and Dwyryd Estuary</p> <p>15: Cardigan Bay (north) and Estuaries</p> <p>16: Cardigan Bay (south)</p> <p>17: Outer Cardigan Bay</p> <p>18: West Pembrokeshire Coastal Waters and Islands (part)</p> <p>19: West Pembrokeshire Islands, Bars and Inshore Waters (part)</p>
<i>Local seascape character areas</i> Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessment to the north and Pembrokeshire Coast Seascape Character Assessment of the south		<p><i>Offshore from (to the north):</i></p> <p>19 Criccieth to Mochras</p> <p>20 Porthmadog and Glaslyn Estuary</p> <p>21 Dwyryd Estuary and Morfa Harlech</p> <p>22 Mochras to Fairbourne and Sarn Badrig</p> <p>23 Mawddach Estuary</p> <p>24 Fairbourne to Tonfannau</p> <p>25 Tywyn and Sarn-y-Bwlch</p> <p>26 Borth</p> <p>27 Dyfi Estuary</p> <p>33 Tremadog Bay</p> <p>34 Barmouth Bay</p> <p>35 Aberdyfi Bay</p> <p>36 Cardigan Bay</p> <p><i>Offshore from (to the south):</i></p> <p>1 Teifi Estuary</p> <p>2 Cardigan Island and Cemmaes Head</p> <p>3 Pen y Afwr to Pen y Bal</p> <p>4 Newport Bay</p> <p>5 Dinas Island</p> <p>6 Fishguard Bay west</p>

	<p>7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours 8 North open sea 9 Newport and Fishguard outer sand bar 10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head 11 Strumble Head to Penbwdy 12 Strumble Head deep water 13 Penbwdy to Penllechwen 15 St David's Head 16 Whitesands Bay 17 Ramsey Sound 18 Ramsey Island coastal waters 19 Bishops and Clerks</p>
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Zone No: 12	Name: Pembrokeshire coast inshore and Carmarthen Bay
<i>Location</i>	
The zone forms the inshore waters off the coast of Pembrokeshire running from just south of New Quay around to Worms Head on the Gower peninsula.	
OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
<i>Sensitivity</i>	High
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>This area comprises the inshore waters of Wales' most westerly peninsula with its exposed rocky indented coastline with cliffs, headlands, beaches, bays, coves and islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey. This rugged, exposed coast contrasts with the broad sweep of Carmarthen Bay and Pendine Sands and the sheltered waters of Milford Haven and the estuaries of the Teifi, Taf, Tywi, Gwendraeth rivers and the Burry Inlet. The eastern extent of Carmarthen Bay is marked by Gower's Rhossili Down and beach, and the highly distinctive Worms Head. The Preseli Hills and Carningli overlook the northern coastal waters of Cardigan Bay. Settlement and development is limited with the exceptions of: Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock, which are set back from the coast; Fishguard, with its ferry port; and various coastal resorts whose main concentration is on the more sheltered south coast, notably historic Tenby, with associated leisure boating and beach use. Commercial shipping uses the harbour at Milford Haven and some ships anchor offshore at St Bride's Bay. The MOD uses the Castlemartin peninsula for practice and this occasionally disturbs the tranquillity of the coast. There are historic settlements such as Newport on the north coast, but most settlements are located inland, mainly for reasons of shelter. The area is rich in heritage features such as castles and hillforts, with a largely pastoral incised plateau hinterland.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in the remote and unspoilt character of the sea. This is seen in juxtaposition with the highly indented rocky coastal edge which frames views across the bays, including to the islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey. Iconic headlands add to this, such as St David's, Strumble Head, Worms Head and Rhossili Down. Views from the Coast Path are numerous and are experienced within a context of generally undeveloped rural character, remoteness and tranquillity. There are historic towns with framed views, such as Newport, and forts and castles with commanding view such as at Llanstephan. Many locations are key visitor attractions and the area is very well used for leisure and recreation by people who wish to experience the natural beauty of the area. The area's value lies in its proximity to, and overlooking by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the Gower AONB, with their respective Heritage Coasts, and the many scheduled monuments and historic features overlooking the area.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS	
<i>Summary</i>	
The zone has no ability to accommodate offshore wind farms without likely significant effects on the natural beauty of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Gower AONB.	

VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (including Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast)
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Coastal splendour; islands; remoteness tranquillity and wildness; space to breathe. Opportunities for recreation leisure and learning combined with areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The designation is focused primarily on its coast and islands and spectacular sea views whilst also covering inland hills which contribute to coastal character and also allow views of the sea.
	<i>Designation</i>	Gower AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	The special qualities of the AONB include landscape and seascape which is defined as an important aspect of the AONB character. Many of the classic views of Gower – such as Three Cliffs Bay feature the coastline and the sea beyond. The countryside is relatively undisturbed by noise and pollution; and an absence of ‘sky glow’ caused by light pollution.
	<i>Notes</i>	Gower AONB, Britain’s first, covers much of the Gower peninsula and is renowned for its scenic quality, particularly the coastline, much of which is Heritage Coast, and prominent hills such as Cefn Bryn. The coastline is also designated as Heritage Coast – recognised as one of the most outstanding stretches of undeveloped coastline in England and Wales.
	<i>Designation</i>	Ceredigion Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Special qualities are not defined.
	<i>Notes</i>	The Ceredigion Heritage Coast was established in 1982 and comprises four separate sections of coast, two of which is in this area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Quay - Tresaith • Pen-peles – Gwbert It is generally associated with more varied hilly coastline with cliffs.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Newport and Carningli Preseli PenCaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head St David’s Peninsula and Ramsey Island Stackpole

		Manorbier Taf and Tywi estuary
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Pendinaslochdyn Hillfort SN 3154 Carn Ingli Hillfort SN 0637 Garn Fawr Hillfort SM8938 St David's Head Promontory Fort SM 7227 Solva Head Promontory Fort SM 8023 Deer Park Promontory Fort SM 7509 Castle Head Promontory Fort SM 7905 Dale Promontory Fort SM 8205 St Govan's Chapel SM 95059 Tenby Castle SN 1300 Laugharne Castle (also Guardianship site) SN 3010 Llansteffan Castle (also Guardianship site) SN 3510
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Skokholm and Skomer and seas off Pembrokeshire, Castlemartin Coast, Grassholm, Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast, Carmarthen Bay, Burry Inlet
	<i>SAC</i>	Cardigan Bay (part), Pembrokeshire Marine, Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries, Limestone Coast of SW Wales cSAC: Bristol Channel Approaches
	<i>Ramsar</i>	Burry Inlet
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value areas with sea views include St Dogmaels Heritage Coast, Carningli and the Preseli Hills, Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island, Skomer, Marloes Sands, Freshwater West, St Govan's Head, Stackpole Head, Caldey Island, and the Western Gower. Much of the rest of the coast is high value, with the exception of MOD areas and urban settlements.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Varies from large and open to medium and small scale in indented coastal bays and inlets.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Very open along the exposed coasts and headlands and in the larger bays. Enclosed in estuaries and Milford Haven.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	The aspect varies with peninsulas and bays affording views and exposure in many directions, predominantly to the north across Cardigan Bay, west and south, and also views across Carmarthen Bay to and from the Gower.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	Pembrokeshire is primarily a rocky indented coastline with cliffs and headlands interspersed with wide

		beaches, bays, coves and occasional estuaries and the drowned ria of Milford Haven. Islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey lie offshore with islets such as the Bishops and Clerks lying further west. To the east is the broad sweep of Carmarthen Bay with its dunes and vast uninterrupted beaches such as Pendine Sands, and the estuaries of the Teifi, Taf, Tywi, Gwendraeth rivers and Burry Inlet. The west facing Rhossili Bay on Gower is backed by the large landform of Rhossili Down. Inland Pembrokeshire is generally gently undulating plateau with narrow valleys approaching the coast rising to a high point at the Preseli Hills.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/development pattern and foci</i>	The main urban centres on the coast are at Goodwick and the associated ferry port and Fishguard to the north, along the Milford Haven with associated industrial uses and its deep-water port, and Tenby, Saundersfoot and associated tourism and associated coastal development including caravan sites. Newport overlooks its bay to the north, while Kidwelly, Llanstephan and Ferryside lie in the three rivers of the Burry Inlet in Carmarthen Bay. St David's lies inland hidden from the sea. There are occasional caravan sites along the coast.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Oil tankers and other commercial traffic are present in relation to the terminals and power station in the deep-water port at Milford Haven and the ferry terminal at Goodwick. There are many leisure and recreational uses from sailing and surfing, to swimming and popular beaches.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	In many places the coast is relatively remote and inaccessible, especially in the stretch from Strumble Head to St Anne's Head, and wild in places such as around St David's Head and Ramsey Island. Tranquillity is high, with the exceptions of the Castlemartin Range, port areas and tourism centres.
	<i>Dark skies/Lighting</i>	Generally dark, with minor foci of lighting around Cardigan, Newport and Tenby, with the focus of lighting at Fishguard and Goodwick Harbour and in Milford Haven. Lighthouses are located at Strumble Head, the Bishops and Clerks, St Anne's Head and Skokholm Island.
<i>Exposure</i>		The most exposed areas are those facing south west

		and west into the prevailing winds. The extremities of peninsulas are particularly exposed. Areas facing north and east and to be less exposed. Shelter lies in estuaries and the Haven.
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	There are associations with Gerald of Wales, J.M.W. Turner, Dylan Thomas, and historic events such as the abortive French landing of 1797, early Christian and Medieval legendary, and Viking associations and place names. Newport is an historic planted town with a Medieval charter. There are large areas of open land such as Mynydd Carningli, Mynydd Dinas, the Preselis and Garn Fawr.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore to 22.6 km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	There are wide views out to unspoilt seascapes from exposed peninsulas, framed views from bays e.g. Newport Bay Whitesands Bay, Marloes Sands and Rhossili and estuaries eg Teifi/Poppit Sands, views towards islands and islets eg Ramsey, the Bishops and Clerks and Skomer, across Carmarthen Bay to and from the Gower peninsula. There are also views along the coast with headlands and islands as main foci. Large commercial ships enter Milford Haven and some are seen at anchor in views across St Brides Bay along with the chimneys of the refineries at Milford Haven. Commercial ferries are regularly visible from Strumble Head. On very clear days Lundy Island is visible to the south. Near shore leisure craft are visible particularly along the south coast around Tenby.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character</i>	The seascape provides an essentially wild and generally undeveloped setting for the varied coastline

	<i>area</i>	of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and its islands, and the western Gower AONB coastline. This adds to a sense of remoteness and tranquillity, being special qualities of both designations.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	From the popular Wales Coast Path, from remote and more popular beaches, from sailing/boating activities, scattered settlements. A key feature is the sunset across the bay.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In designated areas</i>	Wales Coast Path, headlands such as Dinas Head, Strumble Head, St David's Head, the Marloes peninsula, Worms Head; islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey; coastal hills including Mynydd Carningli, the Preseli Hills, Carn Llidi; enclosed bays with focussed views out such as Newport, Whitesands, Marloes Sands, Freshwater West, Broadhaven (Bosherton), Barafundle, Rhossili; scheduled monuments including St Govan's Chapel and others (see above); open access land, minor road network, scattered settlement, and other areas of open access.
	<i>Outside designated areas</i>	Wales Coast Path Llanstephan Castle Pendine and Pembrey Sands.
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		16: Cardigan Bay (south) (part) 17: Outer Cardigan Bay (part) 18: West Pembrokeshire Coastal Waters and Islands 19: West Pembrokeshire Islands, Bars and Inshore Waters 20: Irish Sea Offshore (part) 21: Milford Haven 22: South Pembrokeshire Coastal and Inshore Waters 23: South Pembrokeshire Open Waters (part) 24: Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries
<i>Local seascape character areas (Pembrokeshire Coast study followed by Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay study)</i>		1 Teifi Estuary 2 Cardigan Island and Cemmaes Head 3 Pen y Afwr to Pen y Bal 4 Newport Bay 5 Dinas Island 6 Fishguard Bay west 7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours 8 North open sea 9 Newport and Fishguard outer sand bar

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| | <p>10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head</p> <p>11 Strumble Head to Penbwchdy</p> <p>12 Strumble Head deep water</p> <p>13 Penbwchdy to Penllechwen</p> <p>15 St David's Head</p> <p>16 Whitesands Bay</p> <p>17 Ramsey Sound</p> <p>18 Ramsey Island coastal waters</p> <p>19 Bishops and Clerks</p> <p>20 St Brides Bay coastal waters north</p> <p>21 St Brides Bay coastal waters east</p> <p>22 St Brides Bay coastal waters south- Borough Head</p> <p>23 St Brides Bay south coastal waters - The Nab Head</p> <p>24 St Brides Bay</p> <p>25 Skomer Island and Marloes Peninsula</p> <p>26 Skokholm and Gateholm coastal waters</p> <p>27 Grassholm and the Smalls</p> <p>28 West open sea</p> <p>29 Southern inshore waters</p> <p>30 Southern offshore waters</p> <p>31 Outer Milford Haven</p> <p>32 Inner Milford Haven</p> <p>33 Daugleddau</p> <p>34 Freshwater West</p> <p>35 Castlemartin coastal waters</p> <p>36 Stackpole coastal waters</p> <p>37 Freshwater East and Manorbier</p> <p>38 Lydstep Haven coastal waters</p> <p>39 Tenby and Caldey Island</p> <p>40 Carmarthen Bay west</p> <p>41 Carmarthen Bay north- Pembrey</p> <p>42 Carmarthen Bay</p> <p>43 Bristol Channel offshore</p> <p>44 Western offshore- very deep water</p> <p><i>From the east:</i></p> <p>1 Afon Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeth estuaries</p> <p>2 Carmarthen Bay- East</p> <p>3 Loughor Estuary</p> <p>4 Rhossili Bay</p> |
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Zone No: 13	Name: Pembrokeshire coast Offshore
<i>Location</i>	
The zone is located offshore west of the Pembrokeshire peninsula.	
OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
<i>Sensitivity</i>	High/medium
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>This zone lies offshore from Wales' most westerly peninsula. It includes the Smalls and associated lighthouse on its eastern edge and is an area of open, remote and wild sea fully exposed to the prevailing south westerlies. It is used for commercial fishing and as a commercial route around the treacherous waters between the Smalls and Bishops and Clerks further towards the coast. The zone forms part of the western outlook beyond the islands for the Pembrokeshire coast. This coast is exposed, rocky and indented, with cliffs, headlands, beaches, bays, coves and islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey. Headlands include St David's Head and Strumble Head, and there are framed views from beaches such as Whitesands Bay and Marloes Sands. Settlement and development is limited with the exceptions of Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock set back from the coast. Commercial shipping uses the harbour at Milford Haven and some ships anchor offshore at St Bride's Bay. The MOD uses the Castlemartin peninsula for practice and this occasionally disturbs the tranquillity of the coast. The area is rich in heritage features such as castles and hillforts, with a largely pastoral incised plateau hinterland.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in the remote and unspoilt character of the sea directly west of the highly indented rocky coast. This coast frames views across the bays, beyond the islands and iconic headlands and out to zone 13 and beyond. Views are numerous from the Wales Coast Path, and are from a context of generally undeveloped rural character, to remote and tranquil seascapes. Some views west from the coast at sunset may be impacted by any development. Many locations are key visitor attractions and the area is very well used for leisure and recreation by people who wish to experience the natural beauty of the area. The area's value lies in its proximity to, and overlooking by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and its Heritage Coast, and the many scheduled monuments and historic features overlooking the area, albeit at some distance from zone 13.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS	
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>The zone has very limited ability to accommodate wind turbines without likely significant effects on the natural beauty of views from the coast. That limited ability is most likely to be found in the far south of the zone if using smaller turbines as there is slightly more marine activity and coastal settlement on the south coast and this area does not interfere with views to sunsets. However, it is subject to considering the impact on Lundy Island, which is beyond the scope of this study.</p>	

VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (including Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast)
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Coastal splendour; islands; remoteness tranquillity and wildness; space to breathe. Opportunities for recreation leisure and learning combined with areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The designation is focused primarily on its coast and islands and spectacular sea views whilst also covering inland hills which contribute to coastal character and also allow views of the sea.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	PenCaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island Stackpole
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Garn Fawr Hillfort SM8938 St David's Head Promontory Fort SM 7227 Solva Head Promontory Fort SM 8023 Deer Park Promontory Fort SM 7509 Castle Head Promontory Fort SM 7905 Dale Promontory Fort SM 8205
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Skokholm and Skomer and seas off Pembrokeshire
	<i>SAC</i>	Pembrokeshire Marine
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value areas with sea views include Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island, Skomer, Marloes Sands, Freshwater West, Stackpole Head, Caldey Island. Much of the rest of the coast with the exception of MOD areas are high value.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large scale open sea.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Very open away from the coast.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	The aspect varies with peninsulas and bays affording views and exposure in many directions but is predominantly to the west across the open sea.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	Pembrokeshire is primarily a rocky indented coastline with cliffs and headlands interspersed with wide beaches, bays, coves and occasional estuaries and the drowned ria of Milford Haven. Islands such as

		Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey lie offshore with islets such as the Bishops and Clerks and Smalls lying further west. Inland Pembrokeshire is generally a gently undulating plateau, from which narrow valleys issue at the coast. The Preseli Hills rise to form the highest point.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	The main urban centres are set back from the coast along the Milford Haven, with associated industry including the deep-water port and oil refineries. St David's lies inland hidden from the sea, and there are occasional caravan sites along the coast.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial fishing and other traffic, occasional yachting.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The zone is remote, wild and tranquil (and exposed depending on weather conditions).
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	Apart from the Smalls lighthouse, the area has no light sources and is dark. The coast to the west is predominantly dark.
<i>Exposure</i>		Very exposed
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Tales related to the Smalls Lighthouse.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

<i>Distance offshore- range</i>	22.6km to 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would not be likely exceed low magnitude of effect. • Turbines 145-175m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 24.4km from shore. • Turbines 175-225m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 28.5km from shore. • Turbines 225-300m would not be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect beyond 41.6km from shore. • Turbines 300-350m would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect. • However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. • Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km

		<p>from shore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect. • However, existing windfarms may modify the likely impacts.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	There are wide views out to unspoilt seascapes from exposed peninsulas, framed views from bays e.g. Whitesands Bay, Marloes Sands, views towards islands and islets eg Ramsey, the Bishops and Clerks and Smalls, and Skomer. There are also long views along the coast with headlands and islands as main foci. Large commercial ships enter Milford Haven and some are seen at anchor in views across St Brides Bay along with the chimneys of the refineries at Milford Haven to the south. Commercial ferries are regularly visible from Strumble Head. On very clear days Lundy Island is visible to the south.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The seascape provides an essential wild and generally unspoilt setting for the varied coastline of Pembrokeshire and its islands. It adds to its sense of remoteness and tranquillity. It also forms part of the special qualities of the designation.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	From the popular Wales Coast Path, from remote and more popular beaches, from sailing/boating activities, scattered settlements. A key feature is the sunset across the sea.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In designated areas</i>	Wales Coast Path, headlands such as Strumble Head, St David's Head, the Marloes peninsula; islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer, Caldey; coastal hills including Carn Llidi; enclosed bays with focussed views out such as Whitesands, Marloes Sands, Freshwater West; scheduled monuments (see above); open access land, minor road network, scattered settlement, and other areas of open access.
	<i>Outside designated areas</i>	-
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		<p>Offshore from:</p> <p>18: West Pembrokeshire Coastal Waters and Islands</p> <p>19: West Pembrokeshire Islands, Bars and Inshore Waters</p> <p>20: Irish Sea Offshore (part)</p> <p>21: Milford Haven</p> <p>22: South Pembrokeshire Coastal and Inshore Waters</p>

	<p>23: South Pembrokeshire Open Waters (part)</p> <p>24: Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries</p> <p>25: Gower and Helwick Coastal Waters (part)</p>
<p><i>Local seascape character areas (Pembrokeshire Coast study)</i></p>	<p>30 Southern offshore waters (part)</p> <p>44 Western offshore- very deep water</p> <p>Offshore from:</p> <p>11 Strumble Head to Penbwchdy</p> <p>12 Strumble Head deep water</p> <p>13 Penbwchdy to Penllechwen</p> <p>15 St David's Head</p> <p>16 Whitesands Bay</p> <p>17 Ramsey Sound</p> <p>18 Ramsey Island coastal waters</p> <p>19 Bishops and Clerks</p> <p>20 St Brides Bay coastal waters north</p> <p>21 St Brides Bay coastal waters east</p> <p>22 St Brides Bay coastal waters south- Borough Head</p> <p>23 St Brides Bay south coastal waters - The Nab Head</p> <p>24 St Brides Bay</p> <p>25 Skomer Island and Marloes Peninsula</p> <p>26 Skokholm and Gateholm coastal waters</p> <p>27 Grassholm and the Smalls</p> <p>28 West open sea</p> <p>29 Southern inshore waters</p> <p>30 Southern offshore waters</p> <p>31 Outer Milford Haven</p> <p>32 Inner Milford Haven</p> <p>33 Daugleddau</p> <p>34 Freshwater West</p> <p>35 Castlemartin coastal waters</p>

Zone No: 14	Name: Celtic Sea
<i>Location</i>	
The zone is located offshore south west of the Pembrokeshire peninsula in the Celtic Sea.	
OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
<i>Sensitivity</i>	Medium/low
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>This zone lies offshore from Wales' most westerly peninsula. It is an area of open, remote and wild sea fully exposed to the prevailing south westerlies. It is used for commercial fishing and some commercial traffic access Milford Haven and other ports. The zone forms part of the western outlook beyond the islands for the Pembrokeshire coast. The coastline, albeit at some distance away, is exposed, rocky and indented, with cliffs, headlands, beaches, bays, coves and islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm Skomer and Caldey. Headlands include St David's Head and Strumble Head, and there are framed views from beaches such as Whitesands Bay and Marloes Sands. Settlement and development is limited with the exceptions of Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock set back from the coast. Commercial shipping uses the harbour at Milford Haven and some ships anchor offshore at St Bride's Bay. The MOD uses the Castlemartin peninsula for practice and this occasionally disturbs the tranquillity of the coast. The area is rich in heritage features such as castles and hillforts, with a largely pastoral incised plateau hinterland.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the zone lies in its remote and unspoilt character. The zone forms a distant seaward setting for views from the coast. The highly indented rocky coast has views across the bays, beyond the islands such as Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey and out to sea. These include views from iconic headlands such as St David's, Strumble Head, the views from the Wales Coast Path. These views form a backdrop to the coast's generally undeveloped rural character, remoteness and tranquillity. Some views at sunset may be impacted by development in the north of the zone. Many coastal locations are key visitor attractions and the area is very well used for leisure and recreation by people who wish to experience the natural beauty of the area. The area's value lies in its relationship to, and overlooking by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and its Heritage Coast, and the many scheduled monuments and historic features overlooking the area. However, the level of impact from development in the zone would be moderated by the substantial distance from coastal receptors.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS	
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>The zone has potential to accommodate all scales of offshore wind farm development if designed in a coherent manner but it would be desirable to avoid development in the northern corner to avoid development off St David's Head and minimise the height of turbines on the eastern fringes of the area in order to minimise any effects on the highly sensitive peninsula receptors.</p>	

VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (including Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast)
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	Coastal splendour; islands; remoteness tranquillity and wildness; space to breathe. Opportunities for recreation leisure and learning combined with areas of tranquillity and solitude.
	<i>Notes</i>	The designation is focused primarily on its coast and islands and spectacular sea views whilst also covering inland hills which contribute to coastal character and also allow views of the sea.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	PenCaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island Stackpole
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	-
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	Garn Fawr Hillfort SM8938 St David's Head Promontory Fort SM 7227 Solva Head Promontory Fort SM 8023 Deer Park Promontory Fort SM 7509 Castle Head Promontory Fort SM 7905 Dale Promontory Fort SM 8205
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Skokholm and Skomer and seas off Pembrokeshire
	<i>SAC</i>	Pembrokeshire Marine
	<i>Ramsar</i>	-
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding value areas with sea views include Strumble Head, Carn Llidi, St David's Head and Ramsey Island, Skomer, Marloes Sands, Freshwater West, Stackpole Head, Caldey Island. Much of the rest of the coast with the exception of MOD areas are high value.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Large scale open sea.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	Very open away from the coast.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	The aspect varies with peninsulas and bays affording views and exposure in many directions but is predominantly to the west across the open sea.
	<i>Coastal and hinterland form</i>	Pembrokeshire is primarily a rocky indented coastline with cliffs and headlands interspersed with wide beaches, bays, coves and occasional estuaries and the drowned ria of Milford Haven. Islands such as

		Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Caldey lie offshore with islets such as the Bishops and Clerks and Smalls lying further west. Inland Pembrokeshire is generally gently undulating plateau from which narrow valleys approach the coast, and from which the higher land of the Preseli Hills rise.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/ development pattern and foci</i>	The main urban centres are set back from the coast along the Milford Haven, with associated industrial uses including a deep-water port and oil refineries. St David's lies inland hidden from the sea, and there are occasional caravan sites along the coast.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial fishing and other traffic.
<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	The zone is remote, wild and tranquil (and very exposed to south-westerlies depending on weather conditions).
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	The area has no light sources and is dark. The coast to the west is predominantly dark.
<i>Exposure</i>		Very exposed
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	-
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Beyond 44km from shore
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines below 350m are likely to have less than low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All turbines below 350m are likely to have less than medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	There are views at a distance out to this undeveloped seascape from exposed peninsulas, framed views from bays e.g. Whitesands Bay, Marloes Sands, views towards islands and islets eg Ramsey, the Bishops and Clerks and Smalls, and Skomer. There are also long views along the coast with headlands and islands as main foci. Large commercial ships enter Milford Haven and some are seen at anchor in views across St Brides Bay along with the chimneys of the refineries at Milford Haven. Commercial ferries are regularly visible from Strumble Head. On very clear days Lundy Island is visible to the south.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The seascape provides an essential wild and generally unspoilt setting for the varied coastline of Pembrokeshire and its islands. It adds to its sense of

		remoteness and tranquillity. Its nearer waters form part of the special qualities of the designation.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	From the popular Coast Footpath, from remote and more popular beaches, from sailing/boating activities, scattered settlements. A key feature is the sunset across the sea.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In designated areas</i>	Wales Coast Path, headlands such as Strumble Head, St David's Head, the Marloes peninsula; islands such as Ramsey Island, Skomer, Caldey Island; coastal hills including Carn Llidi; enclosed bays with focussed views out such as Whitesands, Marloes Sands, Freshwater West; scheduled monuments (see above); open access land, minor road network, scattered settlement, and other areas of open access.
	<i>Outside designated areas</i>	-
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		Offshore from: 18: West Pembrokeshire Coastal Waters and Islands 19: West Pembrokeshire Islands, Bars and Inshore Waters 20: Irish Sea Offshore (part) 21: Milford Haven 22: South Pembrokeshire Coastal and Inshore Waters 23: South Pembrokeshire Open Waters (part) 24: Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries 25: Gower and Helwick Coastal Waters (part)
<i>Local seascape character areas (Pembrokeshire Coast study)</i>		Offshore from: 11 Strumble Head to Penbwchdy 12 Strumble Head deep water 13 Penbwchdy to Penllechwen 15 St David's Head 16 Whitesands Bay 17 Ramsey Sound 18 Ramsey Island coastal waters 19 Bishops and Clerks 20 St Brides Bay coastal waters north 21 St Brides Bay coastal waters east 22 St Brides Bay coastal waters south- Borough Head 23 St Brides Bay south coastal waters - The Nab Head 24 St Brides Bay 25 Skomer Island and Marloes Peninsula 26 Skokholm and Gateholm coastal waters 27 Grassholm and the Smalls

	<p>28 West open sea 29 Southern inshore waters 30 Southern offshore waters 31 Outer Milford Haven 32 Inner Milford Haven 33 Daugleddau 34 Freshwater West 35 Castlemartin coastal waters 44 Western offshore- very deep water</p>
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Zone No: 15	Name: Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary
<i>Location</i>	
The zone is located from Worms Head on Gower, eastwards to Goldcliff in the Severn Estuary.	
OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
<i>Sensitivity</i>	High
<i>Summary</i>	
<p>The area is the northern part of a channel and estuary bounded by a diverse Welsh south-facing coast. This comprises of the rocky cliffs, headlands, sandy bays and coves of Gower to the west, the elegant sweep of Swansea Bay from the Mumbles to the industrial area of Port Talbot, the extensive dunes at Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr, the wave cut platforms and beaches of Glamorgan Heritage coast with cliff -top walks and incised valleys, and east past Penarth Head and Cardiff Bay, the flat Gwent Levels and exposed mud of the upper estuary. The channel and estuary is used by commercial shipping serving Avonmouth primarily, with some boats also serving Port Talbot docks and also Cardiff and Swansea. Leisure boating operates primarily out of Swansea and Cardiff/Penarth and leisure fishing is particularly popular along the south coast of the Gower. The English coast is generally less populated, particularly to the west, the massif of Exmoor creating a rugged backcloth to the seascape.</p> <p>The area's susceptibility lies in the location of this area between the coasts of England and Wales, with superb views across the water to the other coasts. For instance, Exmoor provides the backcloth to the Severn estuary in views from the distinctive lias Vale of Glamorgan Coast. The susceptibility also lies in the varied coastline of Gower with its rocky cliffs, headlands, arches, coves and beaches which offer a combination of elevated and framed views and views to the islands of Flatholm and Steephholm in the eastern part of the zone. The Wales Coast Path runs along the majority of the coastline with the exception of Port Talbot. Three major cities lie on the coast- Cardiff, Swansea and Newport, along with towns at Porthcawl, Barry and Penarth. Structures at Port Talbot steelworks, Aberthaw power station, Uskmouth power station and the two Severn bridges along with some scattered wind turbines punctuate the coast. However, the urban character in places mean that many people enjoy views out to sea from promenades at Swansea, Porthcawl, Penarth and Cardiff Bay barrage. The area's value lies primarily in the proximity and overlooking by Gower AONB and the Glamorgan Heritage coast in Wales and the Exmoor National Park and the North Devon Coast and Quantock Hills AONBs in England.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARMS IN TERMS OF SEASCAPE AND VISUAL FACTORS	
<i>Summary</i>	
The area has no ability to accommodate offshore wind farms without likely significant effects on the natural beauty of views experienced from a number of Designated Landscapes.	

VALUE- DESIGNATIONS		
	<i>Designation</i>	Gower AONB
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<p>The special qualities of the AONB include landscape and seascape which is defined as an important aspect of the AONB character. Many of the classic views of Gower – such as Three Cliffs Bay feature the coastline and the sea beyond.</p> <p>The countryside is relatively undisturbed by noise and pollution; and an absence of ‘sky glow’ caused by light pollution.</p>
	<i>Notes</i>	<p>The Gower AONB, Britain’s first, covers much of the peninsula and is renowned for its scenic quality, particularly the coastline, much of which is Heritage Coast, and prominent hills such as Cefn Bryn.</p> <p>The coastline is also designated as Heritage Coast – recognised as one of the most outstanding stretches of undeveloped coastline in England and Wales.</p>
<i>Landscape designations</i>	<i>Designation</i>	Glamorgan Heritage Coast
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	An eroding south and south west facing coastline of imposing cliffs, wave cut platforms and beaches with reefs of significant nature conservation interest.
	<i>Notes</i>	Key views from the Wales Coast Path and recreation areas including Ogmore by Sea. Long open scenic views of the Bristol Channel are seen against the strong backcloth of the English coast including Exmoor. Scenic views are also possible along the coast with the open rural backcloth of the plateau inland. The highly distinctive strata of the limestone cliffs and rock platforms set this coast apart from others and its value for recreation and enjoyment is reinforced by its proximity to large centres of population such as Cardiff.
	<i>Designation</i>	Exmoor National Park (in England)
	<i>Relevant special qualities</i>	<p>Large areas of open moorland providing a sense of remoteness and tranquillity rare in southern Britain. Spectacular coast with high sea cliffs.</p> <p>A timeless landscape mostly free from intrusive development, with striking views inside and out of the National Park, where the natural beauty of Exmoor and its dark skies can be appreciated.</p>
	<i>Notes</i>	The area not only allows views from its spectacular

		coast but also from substantial elevated areas inland. These also act as a scenic backcloth in views across the Bristol Channel from the Welsh Coast. The National Park is the main designation on the English coast but there are also the North Devon Coast, Quantocks and Mendips AONBs which have views across the English waters towards Wales, and which need to be taken into account.
<i>Historic designations</i>	<i>Registered historic landscapes</i>	Gower Margam Abbey and Mountain Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Gwent Levels
	<i>Historic parks and gardens</i>	Parc-le-Breos and Penrice Castle Dunraven Park The Knap and St Donats Alexandra Park and Windsor Gardens in Penarth
	<i>Key scheduled monuments</i>	The Knave Hillfort, 301326 Paviland Camp 301339 Goat's Hole Cave, Paviland 300251 Mynydd y Castell Hillfort SS 8086 Dunraven Hillfort SS 8872 Summerhouse Hillfort SS 9966 The Bulwarks Hillfort ST 0866
<i>Nature conservation designations</i>	<i>SPA</i>	Severn Estuary
	<i>SAC</i>	Kenfig, Dunraven Bay
	<i>Ramsar</i>	Severn Estuary
<i>LANDMAP visual and sensory value in areas with sea views</i>		Outstanding areas with sea views include Worms Head, Rhossili Bay and Down, Oxwich Bay, Three Cliffs Bay, Mumbles Hill, and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The rest of the southern Gower Coast is evaluated as high.
SEASCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Coastal geometry and landform</i>	<i>Scale</i>	Generally medium to large scale due to the cliffs, simplicity and grand sweep of the Swansea Bay. On Gower scale is small in places due to the indented nature of the coast.
	<i>Openness and enclosure</i>	A mix of open and medium enclosed depending on aspect. Open but views south across the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary to England provide a more enclosed seascape and views west.
	<i>Coastal aspect</i>	Mostly south and south-west including from the Gower and Glamorgan Heritage Coast but there are limited easterly views in Swansea Bay and around Penarth.
	<i>Coastal and</i>	The Gower coastline is a mix of rocky indented coast

	<i>hinterland form</i>	with cliffs and wave cut platforms and intervening sweeping sandy bays such as Port Eynon and Oxwich/Three Cliffs Bay. Inland there are hills, most notably Rhossili Down to the west and Cefn Bryn, both of which are visible from long distances. Swansea Bay is a broad sweeping sandy bay enclosed by Mumbles Head to the west and the edge of the South Wales Plateau to the north and east. The low-lying coastal plain and dunes at Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr to the east give way to the slightly concave Glamorgan coast with its distinctive high lias cliffs, wave cut platforms and beaches. This is backed by a gently undulating plateau hinterland. To the east is the relatively straight coastline of the coastal levels with coastal bund running from Cardiff and Newport to Chepstow.
<i>Existing development</i>	<i>Coastal settlement/development pattern and foci</i>	The Gower has a few coastal settlements with associated tourism facilities, increasing in size and density to the east. East of the Gower, Swansea dominates Swansea Bay and its promenade and a corniche stretches from Mumbles Head to the Tawe and its marina. The Tata Steelworks at Port Talbot forms the major feature on the eastern edge of the bay with its large structures and occasional emissions of steam. Porthcawl with its promenade and caravan parks, Ogmore, Aberthaw power station and Barry with its leisure uses and docks interrupt the largely unsettled coastline to the east. Penarth, with its pier, lies at the termination of the lias cliff coast. The Cardiff Bay barrage allows views across the Severn estuary. The conurbation of Cardiff and Newport lie back from the coast on the coastal plain and levels. Large electricity pylons extend from the Uskmouth Power Station and there are some onshore turbines around the levels. The two Severn bridges, for the M4 and M48 motorways mark the eastern termination of the area.
	<i>Marine development and use</i>	Commercial navigation along the Bristol Channel/Severn Estuary to/from Avonmouth predominantly, but also out of Swansea, Port Talbot and Cardiff. Leisure boating operates primarily out of Swansea, Oystermouth/Mumbles and Cardiff/Penarth and leisure fishing is particularly popular along the south coast of the Gower. Swimming and other leisure marine use from beaches mainly in Gower and Porthcawl.

<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	<i>Remoteness, Tranquillity, Wildness</i>	Few parts of the coast are very tranquil due to the popularity of the area but some areas are relatively remote such as western stretch between Mewslade Bay and Port Eynon. Parts of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and Kenfig Sands afford tranquillity.
	<i>Dark skies/ Lighting</i>	Major concentrations of lighting are in Swansea Bay, the steelworks, Penarth, Cardiff and Newport. Other sources include Porthcawl, Trecco Bay, Barry, Ogmere by Sea, Aberthaw power station and the airports. The Mumbles, Nash Point and Flatholm have lighthouses.
<i>Exposure</i>		The area varies from very exposed at Worms Head, to moderately exposed in clifftop areas and beaches open to the south westerlies, but with sheltered coves and bays, and moderately exposed further east along the sea wall to the Gwent Levels.
<i>Cultural associations</i>	<i>Cultural associations</i>	Paleolandscapes of the Bristol Channel and Severn estuary; Swansea – docks and ship building (in the past). Swansea Bay, Mumbles and Porthcawl and Barry holiday resorts. Lavernock Point and Flatholm island are historically significant for the transmission of the first wireless telegraphy. Cardiff - city and capital of Wales, former coal port, home of National Assembly for Wales, Senedd, and the Millennium Centre. Sustrans Celtic Trail cycle path.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
<i>Distance offshore- range</i>		Shore to 22.6 km
<i>Size of turbines potentially having low magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All turbine sizes would be likely to exceed low magnitude of effect.
<i>Size of turbines potentially having medium magnitude of effect</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines below 145m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 14km from shore. • Turbines 145-175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect less than 18.8km from shore. • Turbines above 175m would be likely to exceed medium magnitude of effect.
<i>Visual experience</i>	<i>Seascape Pattern and Foci</i>	One of the main characteristics of this seascape is the view between the Welsh and English Coasts, most notably to Exmoor but also the North Devon Coast, which act as strong positive backcloths to views, especially from the Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast. There are wide views out to unspoilt seascapes from exposed peninsulas such as Worms Head, from clifftop

		walks such as east of Port Eynon and the Glamorgan Coast, framed views from bays e.g. Three Cliffs Bay. There are also long views along the coast with headlands as main foci eg Oxwich Point, Worms Head, the Mumbles, Trwyn-y-Witch, Monknash and Nash Point. Views to Flatholm and Steepholm are also distinctive. On very clear days Lundy Island is visible to the south. Large commercial ships are visible, mainly approaching Avonmouth on the English side of the channel but also occasionally locally to the Welsh ports. Near shore leisure craft are visible particularly along the south coast of Gower.
	<i>Contribution to the setting of a coast or seascape character area</i>	The seascape provides an essential wild and generally unspoilt setting for the varied coastline of the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary, especially the western Gower and Glamorgan Heritage Coast coastlines. Exmoor and the English coast acting as the backcloth to the view is a particularly valuable characteristic of the setting further east. The seascape adds to its sense of remoteness and tranquillity. It also forms part of the special qualities of the Gower AONB.
	<i>How seascape is experienced</i>	From the popular Coast Footpath, from remote and more popular beaches, yachts, pleasure boats and settlements.
<i>Key visual receptors</i>	<i>In designated areas</i>	Wales Coast Path, popular beaches such as at Oxwich, Port Eynon and Three Cliffs Bay, coastal settlements such as Langland Bay and Caswell.
	<i>Outside designated areas</i>	Wales Coast Path and low-key recreation and accesses at Southerndown, Nash Point, Ogmore, and Cwm Colhuw; promenades at Swansea, Aberavon, Porthcawl and Penarth; Cardiff Bay barrage; Mumbles and Penarth Piers; corniche at Swansea; housing in all coastal settlements.
SEASCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT		
<i>National Marine Character Areas</i>		25: Gower and Helwick Coastal Waters (part) 26: Swansea Bay and Porthcawl 27: Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands 28: Bristol Channel (Wales) 29: Severn Estuary (Wales)
<i>Local seascape character areas (Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay study)</i>		5 Worms Head to Port Eynon Point 6 Oxwich and Port Eynon Bays 7 Pwlldu Head to Mumbles Head 8 Swansea Bay- west

	<p>9 Swansea Bay- east 10 Neath estuary 11 Margam to Porthcawl 12 Porthcawl 13 Nash sand bar 14 Bristol Channel- south east 15 Bristol Channel- east 16 Mid Swansea Bay 17 Outer Swansea Bay 18 Offshore Oxwich Point to Mumbles Head 19 Bristol Channel- offshore 20 Bristol Channel - south west offshore</p>
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Data Archive Appendix

Data outputs associated with this project are archived in [NRW to enter relevant corporate store and / or reference numbers] on server-based storage at Natural Resources Wales.

The data archive contains:

- [A] The final report in Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF formats.
- [B] A full set of maps produced in JPEG format.
- [C] A series of GIS layers on which the maps in the report are based with a series of word documents detailing the data processing and structure of the GIS layers
- [F] A full set of images produced in [jpg/tiff] format.

Metadata for this project is publicly accessible through Natural Resources Wales' Library Catalogue <https://libcat.naturalresources.wales> (English Version) and <https://catllyfr.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru> (Welsh Version) by searching 'Dataset Titles'. The metadata is held as record no [NRW to insert this number]

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