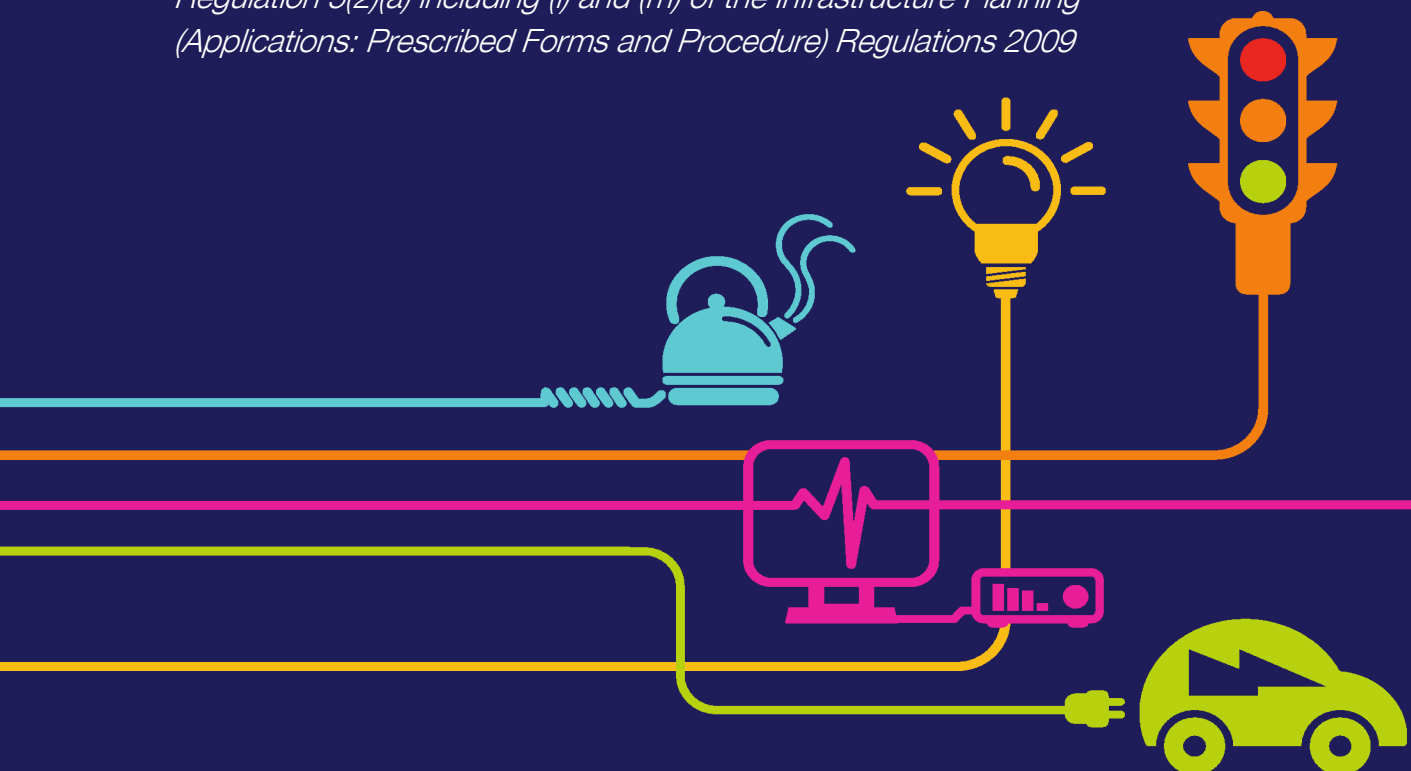


DOCUMENT 5.7

Environmental Statement Chapter 7 Landscape Assessment

National Grid (North Wales Connection Project)

*Regulation 5(2)(a) including (l) and (m) of the Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009*





North Wales Connection Project

Volume 5

Document 5.7 Chapter 7 Landscape Assessment

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1 Introduction

1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This chapter presents an assessment of the likely landscape effects that could arise from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (as described in Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**) and Chapter 4, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.4**).
- 1.1.2 The likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on landscape concerns are ascertained through the process of landscape assessment. In particular, this considers the effects on the landscape of the area, including its physical and perceptual qualities and how these interact to create its overall character.
- 1.1.3 This chapter describes the methods used to assess the effects; the baseline conditions currently existing within the study area, as defined in section 6; the mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce or offset any significant negative effects; and the likely residual effects after these measures have been adopted.
- 1.1.4 For the purposes of the landscape assessment, the Proposed Development has been broken down into the following five components which are individually assessed taking into consideration construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning:
- 400 kV overhead line (OHL) – which would comprise either the addition of a new sections of parallel line to the existing (though sometimes swapping over onto a different side of the existing OHL (a transposition point as defined in Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**)), or sections of new 400 kV OHL which deviates away from the existing. It would also include modifications and/ or replacement of the existing line in some places. It is not simply the addition of a totally independent new 400 kV OHL; although the Proposed Development would result in parallel 400 kV OHLs within much of the study area;

- Braint Tunnel Head House and Cable Sealing End Compound (THH/CSEC);
- Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC;
- Pentir Substation Extension; and
- Proposed works to Wylfa Substation.

1.1.5 For ease of reference the Proposed Development has been subdivided into geographic Sections A, B, C, D, E and F. These are explained in more detail in Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**) and illustrated on Figure 3.1 (**Document 5.3.1.1**) and also the figures that accompany this chapter.

1.1.6 This chapter is supported by a number of Figures and Appendices as listed below:

- Figure 7.1 Landscape Constraints Overview (**Document 5.7.1.1**)
- Figure 7.2 Landscape Constraints (Sheets 1-4) (**Document 5.7.1.2**)
- Figure 7.3 Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its Setting (**Document 5.7.1.3**)
- Figure 7.4 Snowdonia National Park and its Setting (**Document 5.7.1.4**)
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- Figure 7.10 National Landscape Character Areas, Regional Landscape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (**Document 5.7.1.10**)
- Figure 7.11 National Marine Character Areas, Local Seascape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (**Document 5.7.1.11**)

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- Figure 7.16 Landscape Mitigation Proposals for Pentir Substation Extension (**Document 5.7.1.16**)
- Figure 7.17 Effects on Landscape Elements (**Document 5.7.1.17**)
- Appendix 7.1 Local Planning Policy (**Document 5.7.2.1**);
- Appendix 7.2 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas Character Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.2**);
- Appendix 7.3 Landscape Character Areas Relevant to the Study Area (**Document 5.7.2.3**); and
- Appendix 7.4 Registered Parks and Gardens Excluded from the Landscape Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.4**).

1.1.7 Other chapters and documents that are useful to review in association with this chapter are as follows:

- Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**) in relation to viewpoints;
- Chapter 9, Ecology and Nature Conservation (**Document 5.9**), in relation to the identification of features, habitats and designated ecological sites that contribute to landscape value and proposed mitigation measures;
- Chapter 10, Historic Environment (**Document 5.10**), in relation to the identification of features and historic landscapes that contribute to landscape value and proposed mitigation measures;
- Chapter 13, Traffic and Transport (**Document 5.13**), in relation to the consideration of the effects of increased traffic on the perception of landscape tranquillity and proposed mitigation measures;

- Chapter 15, Construction Noise and Vibration (**Document 5.15**), in relation to the consideration of the effects of noise on the perception of landscape tranquillity;
- Chapter 16, Operational Noise (**Document 5.16**), in relation to the consideration of the effects of noise on the perception of landscape tranquillity
- Chapter 17, Socio-economics and Tourism (**Document 5.17**), in relation to the identification of recreational opportunities which contribute to landscape value;
- Chapter 19, Intra-Project Effects (**Document 5.19**);
- Chapter 20, Inter-Projects Effects (**Document 5.20**);
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (**Document 5.30**);
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (**Document 7.4**), in relation to proposed mitigation; and
- Schedule of Environmental Commitments (**Document 7.4.2.1**)

1.1.8 All technical terms and abbreviations used within this chapter are defined in the Glossary (**Document 1.4**).

2 Legislation and Planning Policy

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 This section sets out the legislation and planning policy framework that is relevant to the landscape assessment. A full review of compliance with national and local planning policy is provided in the Planning Statement (**Document 7.14**) and a full review of relevant legislation is set out in the Legislation Compliance Audit (**Document 5.28.2.1**). Policy generally seeks to minimise landscape effects from development and to avoid significant adverse effects. This applies particularly to landscapes with statutory designations, including in this case, Snowdonia National Park and the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), but also to other landscapes outside of designated areas where there is an aspiration in policy terms to conserve and enhance landscapes of high value or features which are particularly distinctive.

2.2 LEGISLATION

European Landscape Convention

- 2.2.1 The European Landscape Convention (Ref 7.1), is a Treaty and not an EU Directive which was ratified in the UK in 2006. It defines landscape as: *'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/ or human factors'*. The European Landscape Convention promotes an 'all-landscapes approach', founded on the recognition of value in all landscapes. It recognises that the landscape is important as a component of the environment and of people's surroundings in both town and country and whether it is ordinary landscape or outstanding.

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

- 2.2.2 In England and Wales National Parks and AONB are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The Environment Act 1995 revised the original legislation and set out two statutory purposes for national parks in England and Wales:

'Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage'

And

‘Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public.’

2.2.3 When national parks carry out these purposes they also have the duty to:

‘Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national parks (Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995)’

Electricity Act 1989

2.2.4 Section 38 and Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989 places a duty on all electricity transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to:

“have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and ... do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”

Tree Preservation Orders

2.2.5 The law on Tree Preservation Orders is in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (in particular sections 197-214 as amended) and in the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 (Statutory Instrument number 1892) and the Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (Wales) regulations 2012. Planning guidance related to Wales is contained within Technical Advice Note (Wales) 10 – Tree Preservation Orders.

2.3 NATIONAL POLICY

National Policy Statements

- 2.3.1 National Policy Statements (NPSs) set out the primary policy tests against which the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Proposed Development would be considered. The following NPSs are relevant to electricity networks infrastructure and include items relating to landscape.

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 7.2)

- 2.3.2 With respect to landscape effects, National Grid's approach to design, assessment and identification of appropriate mitigation is consistent with EN-1. National Grid has developed a rigorous approach to routeing of new OHLs, from Strategic Options through to route corridors and detailed alignments, which considers environmental factors including landscape character. This approach takes account of guidance provided in the Holford Rules (Ref 7.3), Horlock Rules 'NGC Substations and the Environment, Guidelines on Siting and Design' (Ref 7.4) and for projects in Wales, utilises the information provided within the LANDMAP datasets (Ref 7.5 and Ref 7.6) (as explained in section 4); it also has regard to non-statutory and statutory consultation responses. The design and route of the Proposed Development has been refined through this process and in response to stakeholder feedback. National Grid considers that it has demonstrated that the siting of the Proposed Development and use of materials delivers good design as explained in the Design Report (**Document 7.17**).
- 2.3.3 During the evolution of the Proposed Development, sensitive routeing and design has been a key factor in lessening the likely effects of the Proposed Development.
- 2.3.4 Location specific mitigation measures, which are designed to address significant adverse effects remaining after other measures (including mitigation by design and control and management measures as discussed in section 9), have been developed and incorporated into the Proposed Development. This is consistent with EN-1.
- 2.3.5 Table 7.1 below provides detail of the elements of NPS EN-1 that are relevant to this chapter, and explains how and where they are covered in the Environmental Statement (ES).

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p>4.5.3 (part)...<i>Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform and vegetation...</i></p>	<p>The design of the route of the 400 kV OHL and the siting of associated infrastructure has been developed within the underlying principle of good design.</p> <p>Details of this are included in the Design Report (Document 7.17).</p>
<p>4.5.4 (part) ...<i>For the IPC to consider the proposal for a project, applicants should be able to demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected. In considering applications the IPC should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy.</i></p>	<p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p>
<p>5.9.5 (part)...<i>The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development plan documents in England and local development plans in Wales.</i></p>	<p>Reference to LANDMAP (Ref 7.5 and Ref 7.6) and landscape character assessments (Ref 7.7 and Ref 7.8) is made in section 7 Baseline Conditions.</p> <p>The assessment of effects on landscape character is based on LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs). The results are reported accordingly in section 9 and summarised in section 11. These results are also cross referenced to the Anglesey and Gwynedd Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) (Ref 7.7 and Ref 7.8) for information; this is presented in Appendix 7.3 (Document 5.7.2.3).</p>

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
	<p>The landscape assessment also takes cognisance of relevant local planning policies as set out in Appendix 7.1 (Document 5.7.2.1) and the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (Ref 7.9).</p>
<p><i>5.9.6 The applicant's assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character.</i></p>	<p>The approach to assessing the landscape effects at different stages in the lifecycle of the Proposed Development is explained in section 4. The results are reported in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
<p><i>5.9.8 Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.</i></p>	<p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p> <p>The approach to assessing the existing character, quality, value and sensitivity to change of the landscape is explained in section 4 and the results of the assessment are reported in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p> <p>Detailed landscape assessments are provided in Appendix 7.2 (Document 5.7.2.2) and Appendix 7.3 (Document 5.7.2.3).</p>

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>5.9.9 National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection and which the IPC should have regard to in its decisions. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given substantial weight by the IPC in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas.</i></p>	<p>Although construction traffic routes would use existing roads along the outer edges of Anglesey AONB in places and construction traffic would use the A5, A55 and A5025 for a short section within the AONB, no other above ground construction or above ground operational part of the Proposed Development would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or AONB.</p> <p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the nationally designated landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development. The Proposed Development avoids the use of an OHL through nationally designated landscapes.</p> <p>Section 4 describes the approach to the assessment of effects on nationally designated landscapes (and their setting).</p> <p>The results of the assessment are reported section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
<p><i>5.9.10 Nevertheless, the IPC may grant development consent in these areas in exceptional circumstances. The development should be demonstrated to be in the public interest and consideration of such applications should include an</i></p>	<p>The need for the Proposed Development is set out in the Needs Case (Document 7.1) and Chapter 1, Introduction (Document 5.1).</p>

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>assessment of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the need for the development, including in terms of national considerations, and the impact of consenting or not consenting it upon the local economy;</i> <i>• the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, taking account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.4; and</i> <i>• any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.</i> 	<p>Alternatives considered are reported in Chapter 2, Alternatives and Proposed Development History (Document 5.2).</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Strategic Options Report (Document 7.2), the Back check Report (Document 7.18) and Design Report (Document 7.17).</p> <p>With the exception of construction traffic using construction traffic routes on existing roads no part of the above ground construction activities related to the Proposed Development would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or AONB.</p> <p>No part of the above ground operational phase of the Proposed Development would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or AONB.</p> <p>Section 4 describes the approach to the assessment of effects on nationally designated landscapes (and their setting).</p> <p>The results of the assessment are reported section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
<p><i>5.9.11 The IPC should ensure that any projects consented in these designated areas should be carried out to high environmental standards, including through the application of appropriate requirements where necessary.</i></p>	<p>With the exception of construction traffic using construction traffic routes on existing roads no part of the above ground Proposed Development would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or AONB.</p>

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
	The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.
5.9.12 (part) <i>The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints...</i>	<p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the nationally designated landscape and their setting through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p> <p>The assessment considers the effect of the Proposed Development on the setting of such landscapes as outlined in section 4. The results of the assessment are reported section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
5.9.13 <i>The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for refusing consent.</i>	Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (Document 5.8) considers the effects of the Proposed Development on views from the National Park and AONBs.
5.9.14 <i>Outside designated landscapes, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However local landscape designations should not be</i>	<p>The assessment of effects on landscape character is based on LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs) (Ref 7.5 and Ref 7.6). The results are reported accordingly in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p> <p>This information is cross referenced to the Anglesey and</p>

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>used in themselves to refuse consent as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.</i></p>	<p>Gwynedd Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) (Ref 7.7 and Ref 7.8) for information and is presented in Appendix 7.3 (Document 5.7.2.3).</p> <p>LANDMAP has been used, throughout the routeing, siting and assessment process, as outlined in Design Report (Document 7.17)</p> <p>The landscape assessment also takes cognisance of relevant local planning policies as set out in Appendix 7.1 (Document 5.7.2.1) and the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (Ref 7.9).</p> <p>The assessment also considers the effect of the Proposed Development on local landscape designations (Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)) as outlined in section 4. The results of the assessment are reported section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
<p><i>5.9.15 The scale of such projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The IPC [Secretary of State] should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.</i></p>	<p>Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (Document 5.8) considers the effects of the Proposed Development on views and visual amenity.</p>
<p><i>5.9.16 In reaching a judgement, the IPC should consider whether the adverse impact on the landscape is temporary, such as</i></p>	<p>The approach to assessing the landscape effects at different stages in the lifecycle of the</p>

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements

NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<i>during construction, and/ or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the IPC considers reasonable.</i>	Proposed Development is explained in section 4 and the results of the assessment are reported in section 9 and summarised in section 11. This considers temporal scope and the likelihood of reversal.
<i>5.9.17 The IPC should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation.</i>	The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development. The approach to mitigation and mitigation measures are discussed in section 9.
<i>5.9.21 Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, the electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the IPC may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.</i>	The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.
<i>5.9.22 Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including</i>	The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising

Table 7.1 Compliance with NPS (EN-1) Requirements	
NPS EN-1 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<i>colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and design of buildings should always be given careful consideration.</i>	harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development. The Design Guide (Document 7.19), provides information relating to the proposed approach to the design of the proposed THH/ CSEC and substation extensions; including consideration of colours and materials.
<i>5.9.23 Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, when filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines would mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.</i>	The approach to mitigation is set out in section 9. The approach to assessing landscape effects, including mitigation measures, is explained in section 4 and the results of the assessment are presented in section 9 and summarised in section 11.

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)

- 2.3.6 EN-5 (Ref 7.10) notes that generic landscape and visual effects are covered in Section 5.9 of EN-1 (Ref 7.2) but that there are specific considerations which apply to electricity networks infrastructure.
- 2.3.7 Table 7.2 below provides detail of the elements of NPS EN-5 (Ref 7.10) that are relevant to this chapter, and how and where they are covered in the ES.

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements	
NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<i>2.2.6 ... As well as having duties under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, (in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network), developers will</i>	The design of the Proposed Development has sought to avoid such features through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 7.3) and Horlock Rules 'NGC Substations and the Environment, Guidelines on Siting

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements

NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>be influenced by Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989 , which places a duty on all transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to “have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and ... do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.” Depending on the location of the proposed development, statutory duties under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 may be relevant.</i></p>	<p>and Design’ (Ref 7.4).</p> <p>The design evolution of the Proposed Development and how it demonstrates good design is set out in the Design Report, (Document 7.17) and the Design and Access Statement (Document 7.16).</p> <p>The approach to assessing likely significant landscape effects is explained in section 4. The results are reported in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
<p>2.8.2 (part) <i>Government does not believe that development of overhead lines is generally incompatible in principle with developers’ statutory duty under section 9 of the Planning Act to have regard to amenity and to mitigate impacts...In practice new above ground electricity lines, whether supported by lattice steel towers/pylons or wooden poles, can</i></p>	<p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p> <p>The main approach to mitigating tall vertical infrastructure such as pylons, is through careful design and routeing. For the Proposed Development this also includes</p>

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements

NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<i>give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts, dependent upon their scale, siting, degree of screening and the nature of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed. For the most part these impacts can be mitigated, however at particularly sensitive locations the potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line proposal may make it unacceptable in planning terms, taking account of the specific local environment and context...</i>	<p>the proposal to tunnel under the particularly sensitive location at the Anglesey AONB and Menai Strait. The use of underground cables has also been considered in other sensitive locations. Further information can be found in the Consultation Report (Document 6.1) and the Back check Report (Document 7.18) as well as the Design Report (Document 7.17) as mentioned above.</p> <p>The approach to mitigation in response to identified effects is explained in section 9.</p>
<p>2.8.2 (part) ...New substations, sealing end compounds and other above ground installations that form connection, switching and voltage transformation points on the electricity networks can also give rise to landscape and visual impacts. Cumulative landscape and visual impacts can arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms and/or other new sources of power generation...</p>	<p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p> <p>The approach to assessing landscape effects is set out in section 4 and the results of the assessment are presented in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p> <p>The works and/ or extensions to existing substations at Wylfa and Pentir and the new tunnel head houses and cable sealing end compounds, have been assessed as part of the Proposed Development as set out in section 1 and section 4.</p> <p>Consideration of the related Wylfa Newydd Power Station is set out in the cumulative assessment in section 10.</p>
<p>2.8.4 Where possible, applicants should follow the principles below</p>	<p>The need for the Proposed Development is set out in the Needs Case (Document 7.1)</p>

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements

NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>[Holford Rules] in designing the route of their overhead line proposals and it will be for applicants to offer constructive proposals for additional mitigation of the proposed overhead line. While proposed underground lines do not require development consent under the Planning Act 2008, wherever the nature or proposed route of an overhead line proposals makes it likely that its visual impact will be particularly significant, the applicant should have given appropriate consideration to the potential costs and benefits of other feasible means of connection or reinforcement, including underground and sub-sea cables where appropriate. The ES should set out details of how consideration has been given to undergrounding or sub-sea cables as a way of mitigating such impacts, including, where these have not been adopted on grounds of additional cost, how the costs of mitigation have been calculated.</i></p>	<p>and Chapter 1, Introduction (Document 5.1).</p> <p>Chapter 2, Alternatives and Proposed Development History (Document 5.2) sets out the project history and alternatives considered.</p> <p>The Strategic Options Report (Document 7.2) considered the feasibility of alternative connections including undergrounding and sub-sea cables. Further information can be found in the Back Check Report (Document 7.18) and Design Report (Document 7.17).</p>
<p><i>2.8.5 Guidelines for the routeing of new overhead lines, the Holford Rules, were originally set out in 1959 by Lord Holford, and are intended as a common sense approach to the routeing of new overhead lines. These guidelines were reviewed and updated by the industry in the 1990s and should be followed by developers when designing their proposals.</i></p>	<p>National Grid recognise that the Holford Rules (Ref 7.3) and their accompanying notes form the basis for the approach to routeing new 400 kV OHLs. The Holford Rules have been used when considering alternatives and in considering the need for any additional mitigation measures. The iterative design and assessment of the Proposed Development has applied the Holford Rules.</p>

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements	
NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
	<p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p>
<p>2.8.8 Paragraph 3.7.10 of EN-1 sets out the need for new electricity lines of 132kV and above, including overhead lines. Although Government expects that fulfilling this need through the development of overhead lines will often be appropriate, it recognises that there will be cases where this is not so. Where there are serious concerns about the likely adverse effects of a proposed overhead line, the IPC will have to balance these against the relevant factors, including the need for the proposed infrastructure, the availability and cost of alternative sites and routes and methods of installation (including undergrounding).</p>	<p>The need for the Proposed Development and alternatives considered are reported in Chapter 2, Alternatives and Proposed Development History (Document 5.2).</p> <p>The approach to assessing landscape effects, including mitigation measures, is explained in section 4 and 9 and the results of the assessment are presented in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>
<p>2.8.9 The impacts and costs of both overhead and underground options vary considerably between individual projects (both in absolute and relative terms). Therefore, each project should be assessed individually on the basis of its specific circumstances and taking account of the fact that Government has not laid down any general rule about when an overhead line should be considered unacceptable. The IPC should, however only refuse consent for</p>	<p>The need for the Proposed Development is set out in the Needs Case (Document 7.1) and Chapter 1, Introduction (Document 5.1). Chapter 2, Alternatives and Proposed Development History (Document 5.2) sets out the alternatives considered.</p> <p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development. Further information can be found in the</p>

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements

NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>overhead line proposals in favour of an underground or sub-sea line if it is satisfied that the benefits from the non-overhead line alternative will clearly outweigh any extra economic, social and environmental impacts and the technical difficulties are surmountable. In this context it should consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The landscape in which the proposed line will be set, (in particular, the impact on residential areas, and those of natural beauty or historic importance such as National Parks, AONBs and the Broads);</i> <i>• the additional cost of any undergrounding or sub-sea cabling (which experience shows is generally significantly more expensive than overhead lines, but varies considerably from project to project depending on a range of factors, including whether the line is buried directly in open agricultural land or whether more complex tunnelling and civil engineering through conurbations and major cities is required. Repair impacts are also significantly higher than for overhead lines as are the costs associated with any later uprating.); and</i> <i>• the environmental and archaeological consequences (undergrounding a 400 kV line may mean disturbing a swathe</i> 	<p>Consultation Report (Document 6.1) and the Back check Report (Document 7.18).</p> <p>The approach to assessing the existing character, quality, value and sensitivity to change of the landscape is explained in section 4.</p> <p>The baseline landscape is described in section 7.</p> <p>The results of the assessment are reported in section 9 and summarised in section 11.</p>

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements

NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<p><i>of ground up to 40 metres across, which can disturb sensitive habitats, have an impact on soils and geology, and damage heritage assets, in many cases more than an overhead line would)</i></p>	
<p>2.8.10 <i>In addition to following the principles set out in the Holford Rules and considering undergrounding, the main opportunities for mitigating likely adverse landscape and visual impacts of electricity networks infrastructure are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>consideration of network reinforcement options (where alternatives exist) which may allow improvements to an existing line rather than the building of an entirely new line; and</i> <i>selection of the most suitable type and design of support structure (i.e. different lattice tower types, use of wooden poles etc.) in order to minimise the overall visual impact on the landscape.</i> 	<p>The need for the Proposed Development is set out in the Needs Case (Document 7.1) and Chapter 1, Introduction (Document 5.1). Chapter 2, Alternatives and Proposed Development History (Document 5.2) sets out the alternatives considered, the design evolution of the Proposed Development and how it demonstrates good design is reported in Design Report, (Document 7.17) and the Design and Access Statement (Document 7.16).</p> <p>The design of the 400 kV OHL and the siting of associated infrastructure has been developed within the underlying principle of good design. Of additional importance is the need to ensure that the design of the Proposed Development responds to the design of and utilises opportunities afforded by the existing 400 kV OHL to minimise additional landscape effects where possible.</p>
<p>2.8.11 (part) <i>There are some more specific measures that might be taken, and which the IPC could require through requirements if appropriate, as follows:</i></p> <p><i>Landscape Schemes comprising off-site tree and hedgerow planting are sometimes used for larger overhead line projects to mitigate</i></p>	<p>The approach to landscape mitigation is discussed in section 9.</p> <p>The approach to off-site measures such as landscape enhancement is presented in the Enhancement Strategy (Document 7.13).</p>

Table 7.2 Compliance with NPS (EN-5) Requirements	
NPS EN-5 Section	Where this is covered in the ES
<i>likely landscape and visual impacts, softening the effect of a new above ground line whilst providing some screening from important visual receptors. These can only be implemented with the agreement of the relevant landowner(s) and advice from the relevant statutory advisor may also be needed</i>	

Planning Policy Wales

- 2.3.8 Planning Policy Wales 9 (PPW 9) (Ref 7.11) sets out the land use policy of Welsh Government. At present the Welsh Government is consulting on the Draft 10th edition of Planning Policy Wales (PPW 10).
- 2.3.9 Chapter 5 of PPW 9 (particularly Section 5.3) emphasises the particular importance of statutory designations of National Parks and AONBs. Chapter 5 of draft PPW 10 reiterates the importance of these designations and also states that all landscapes in Wales are valued and should have their special qualities protected.
- 2.3.10 Paragraph 5.2.9 of PPW 9 refers to the importance of trees and woodlands in the landscape and the responsibility of local planning authorities to seek to protect these features where they contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality. Paragraph 5.61 to 5.64 of draft PPW 10 reiterates these points and adds that ancient and semi-natural woodland and individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees are irreplaceable resources often with significant landscape value.
- 2.3.11 Paragraph 5.3.11 of PPW 9 states that non statutory designations such as Special Landscape Areas (SLA) should not unduly restrict acceptable development. This is not explicitly stated in draft PPW 10; instead, paragraph 5.33 states that SLAs should be applied as a planning designation where the existing planning policies are not considered to give the landscape sufficient protection.
- 2.3.12 Paragraph 5.3.13 of PPW 9 refers to the importance of LANDMAP (Ref 7.5 and Ref 7.6) as an information resource as do Paragraphs 5.30 and 5.31 of PPW 10. The use of LANDMAP is discussed further in section 4.3.

- 2.3.13 Paragraph 5.113 of draft PPW 10 explains that areas subject to constraints or considered unsuitable for development may include those where conservation or enhancement of the natural and historic environment requires development to be limited, where visual intrusion will need carefully to be considered, including the policies to be pursued in Heritage Coast areas, and where there may be risks of erosion, flooding or land instability.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.3.14 There are a number of local planning policies set out in the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) 2017 (Ref 7.13) that relate to landscape. These are set out in Appendix 7.1 (**Document 5.7.2.1**).

3 Scope of Assessment and Consultation

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 This section describes the scope of the assessment of effects on landscape, with reference to the Secretary of State's (SoS) Scoping Opinion, and any other consultation with key stakeholders that has influenced the scope of the assessment work. It also considers where new information or ongoing evolution of the Proposed Development received after the Scoping Opinion has influenced the assessment work for this topic.

3.2 SECRETARY OF STATE'S SCOPING OPINION

- 3.2.1 Table 7.3 outlines the issues that were raised in the Secretary of State's (SoS) Scoping Opinion and how these have been addressed in the ES.

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion		
Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
3.32	<p>The Secretary of State agrees that the following can be scoped out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">operational visual effects on World Heritage Sites (WHSs) from direct cable burial and HDD as there would be no significant visual effects during operation;operational effects of direct cable burial on Snowdonia National Park as there would be no significant visual effects during operation;operational effects of HDD, pipe-jacking and a bridge deck on all	<p>The Proposed Development no longer includes pipe jacking or bridge deck works, hence these are not now relevant.</p> <p>Effects on ancient woodland in terms of landscape are not considered for decommissioning of the tunnel in this chapter as any tree removal would already have occurred</p>

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
	<p>receptors as all works would be located underground;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> operational effects on ancient woodland for all sub-components of the proposed development on the basis that any trees would have been removed, if required, in the construction phase; decommissioning effects on ancient woodland for HDD, direct burial, SECs, substations and the overhead line on the basis that any trees would have been removed, if required, in the construction phase. However, the Secretary of State notes that decommissioning effects on ancient woodland have remained scoped in for a bridge deck, pipe jack, and tunnelling on the basis that there is the potential for tree removal. It is unclear why these effects have been scoped out for some elements of the proposed development and not for others and advises that the ES should clearly explain the different approaches taken for different project elements; visual effects on WHSs during construction, operation and decommissioning from a tunnel, substation, pipe-jacking, HDD, a bridge deck, and SECs, due to the distance of these features from the project. Chapter 5 of the Scoping Report has not identified any 	<p>during construction.</p>

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
	specific WHSs. However, Table 4 of Appendix 3.1 of the Scoping Report details local plan policies which identify the Castle of Beaumaris, Caernarfon Castle and Town Walls as WHSs. The locations of these WHSs have not been identified within the Scoping Report, however the Secretary of State understands that they are located some distance from the proposed development and therefore agrees that these effects can all be scoped out.	
3.33	<p>The Secretary of State does not agree that the following can be scoped out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all visual effects on the Anglesey Coastal Path from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Wylfa and Pentir substations, justified on the basis of the distance of these features from the project. The Secretary of State notes from Figure 5.1 (Sheet 1 of 5) of the Scoping Report that the 'Wales Coastal Path' (which it has assumed is the same as the Anglesey Coastal Path) runs in proximity to the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station, which is the location for the Wylfa substation works. Similarly, the Wales Coastal Path appears to be located approximately 1km from the Pentir substation area (Sheet 5 of 5). On this basis, the Secretary of State 	Effects on views from the Wales Coast Path (including Anglesey Coastal Path which forms part of the Wales Coast Path) are included in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (Document 5.8).

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
	considers that there could be potential effects on the users of the Coastal Path and does not agree that it can be scoped out at this stage.	
3.56	Table 5.2 'Consultation responses' of the Scoping Report states that Gwynedd Council suggested to the Applicant that three years has previously been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate as constituting a temporary effect. The Secretary of State advises that each project should be considered on its own merits and that it is for the Applicant to define and agree with relevant consultees and explain what they consider to constitute a temporary effect, relevant to the particular effect and receptors(s) under consideration.	Assumptions relating to temporal scope (including temporary effects) are described in section 4. This approach has been discussed with stakeholders.
3.57	The landscape and visual constraints for the study area are shown on Figure 5.1 of the Scoping Report (six sheets covering the five connection route sections). However, as a result of the large scale of the figures, only a limited area beyond the Scoping Corridor is shown and not all features referenced in the text are visible on the figures. The Applicant should ensure that relevant ES figures are of a sufficient scale to identify features referenced in the ES text and include a key where relevant.	Landscape constraints and features referenced in the text are illustrated on Figure 7.1 Landscape Constraints Overview (Document 5.7.1.1); Figure 7.2 Landscape Constraints (Sheets 1-4) (Document 5.7.1.2), Figure 7.5, Landform and Drainage Overview (Document 5.7.1.5), Figure 7.6, Landform and Drainage (Sheets 1-4) (Document 5.7.1.6), and Figure 7.7 Landscape

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
		Overview (Document 5.7.1.7).
3.58	With reference to the zone of theoretical visibility, the ES should describe the model used, and provide information on the area covered, the timing of any survey work and the methodology used.	This information is provided in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (Document 5.8).
3.59	The diagram (page 96 of the Scoping Report) illustrating the approach that will be taken to the categorisation of effects from major to negligible, identifies four sensitivity values of high, medium, low and low. It is assumed that the double use of 'low' is an error; however the figure is also inconsistent with the description of landscape values provided in paragraph 5.6.38 as high, medium-high, medium, medium-low and low; and the description in paragraph 5.6.50 of the magnitude of landscape effects as very large, large, medium, small and very small. Similarly, sensitivity values for visual receptors are categorised in paragraph 5.6.87 as very high, medium high, medium, and low; but as very high, high, medium, and low in Table 5.7. The Applicant should ensure that the methodology and terminology used for the assessment is applied and described consistently throughout the EIA and in the ES.	There was a typing error on page 96 of the Scoping Report. Criteria have been amended for consistency, please refer to section 4 where categories are explained in more detail.
3.60	Although it is stated in paragraph 5.6.19 that the effects of the existing overhead line combined with the potential effects of the proposed overhead line, (which	The existing 400 kV OHL forms part of the baseline for the assessment. The list of projects that

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
	would run broadly parallel to the existing line) will be considered in the LVIA, Footnote 21 states that they could be presented as cumulative effects. The Secretary of State advises that as the existing overhead line forms part of the existing baseline it should be considered in that context, not as a development to be considered in the cumulative LVIA.	have been considered in the cumulative assessment is included in Chapter 20, Inter-Project Effects (Document 5.20).
3.61	It is also suggested (in Footnote 22) that a consistency of image between the existing and proposed new pylons could be achieved by constructing new pylons of a similar height, specification, colour and form as the existing pylons. However, no information is provided in the Scoping Report either on the existing pylons or the potential design of the new pylons. As detailed above in this Opinion, the Secretary of State would expect to see details, including the maximum parameters, of these components and other project infrastructure identified in the ES. The Secretary of State advises discussing design options for the proposed pylons with relevant consultees.	<p>The Preferred Route Option Selection Report (Document 9.4) sets out a more detail account of the rationale behind the choice of pylon and the discussions which have taken place with stakeholders in this respect.</p> <p>The Design Report (Document 7.17) describes the evolution of the Proposed Development and demonstrates that minimising harm to the landscape through sensitive routeing and design was a major consideration during its development.</p> <p>A description of the Proposed Development is included in Chapter 3, Description of the</p>

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
		Proposed Development (Document 5.3).
3.62	In accordance with NPS EN-1, potential effects of light pollution during construction on views and visual amenity should also be considered in the LVIA.	Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (Document 5.8) considers effects of lighting on visual amenity and visual receptors during construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning.
3.63	The text within Chapter 5 of the Scoping Report has focussed on the potential landscape and visual effects of the overhead line, CSECs and tunnel head houses. However, the Secretary of State notes and welcomes from Appendix 5.3 that the ES will also assess other components of the proposed development, including: substation works; direct cable burial; HDD; pipe jacking; and the bridge deck.	The Proposed Development includes a tunnel to cross the particularly sensitive landscape of the Menai Strait including the Anglesey AONB. The Menai Strait Crossing Report (Document 9.6) provides more detail on the rationale for this choice. The ES considers all components of the Proposed Development as set out in Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (Document 5.3).
3.64	Although the overhead line is included in the Scoping Report as a component potentially affecting landscape character and views, pylons themselves are not specifically referenced; for the avoidance of doubt, the Secretary of	The assessment of the OHL includes both the line (conductors) and the pylons. Any reference to pylons or to the OHL should be taken to include

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
	State considers that the assessment should include both the line itself and the pylons.	the steel lattice pylons, conductors and all other components related to the OHL, as per the definition of an 'electric line' under Part I, Section 64 of the Electricity Act 1989.
3.65	There is limited information provided in relation to the potential mitigation measures, other than broad references in this chapter to onsite and offsite planting and in paragraph 2.7.3 of Chapter 2 to native or ornamental planting and hard landscaping. Details of planting schemes should be provided within the ES, and if planting is to be relied upon for mitigation, the ES should set out anticipated growth rates to demonstrate that mitigation is achievable within the time periods specified in the ES.	Assumptions relating to growth rates are set out in section 4. Mitigation measures are set out in section 9.
3.66	The Secretary of State welcomes that the assessment will cross reference to other relevant topics, such as ecology and nature conservation and the historic environment, including in relation to potential effects of proposed mitigation measures.	The landscape takes a number of other relevant topics into consideration as listed in section 1. Intra-Project Effects are set out Chapter 19, Intra-Project Effects (Document 5.19). Proposed mitigation measures from other topics, as set out in the Schedule of Mitigation (Document 5.28), are included as part of the Proposed Development

Table 7.3: Issues Raised in the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion

Paragraph from Scoping Opinion	Issue Raised by SoS	Response
		and assessed accordingly.
3.67	The Applicant's attention is drawn to the comments of IACC and GC, particularly in relation to consideration of visual effects on residential receptors; the setting of the Anglesey AONB; infrastructure either side of the Menai Strait (such as the SECS); and potential mitigation measures such as landscaping. The Applicant should also note NRW's comments, particularly in relation to potential impacts on the Anglesey AONB (see Appendix 3 of this Opinion).	Chapter 5, EIA Consultation (Document 5.5) summarises responses to comments made by the LPAs and NRW.
3.68	The Applicant's attention is drawn to the comments of Snowdonia National Park Authority, particularly in relation to potential impacts on the National Park, the Anglesey AONB and the Llŷn AONB, which is not mentioned in the Scoping Report, other than in Table 1 of Appendix 3.1 which summarises local planning policies.	Chapter 5, EIA Consultation (Document 5.5) summarises responses to comments made by the LPAs, NRW and Snowdonia National Park Authority. Section 4 discusses how the assessment has considered potential effects on these nationally designated landscapes. The results of the assessment are reported section 9 and summarised in section 11.

3.3 CONSULTATION

- 3.3.1 Meetings have been held with Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) and Gwynedd Council, to discuss the scope and methodology of the landscape assessment, as described within this chapter. Chapter 5, EIA Consultation (**Document 5.5**) lists all the meetings which have taken place and the topics discussed.
- 3.3.2 Responses to comments from Stage 3 Consultation can be found in Chapter 5, EIA Consultation (**Document 5.5**) and also the Consultation Report (**Document 6.1**). Responses to comments from Stage 3 Consultation can be found in Chapter 5, Appendix 5.2 Schedule of responses to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (**Document 5.5.2.2**) and the Consultation Report (**Document 6.1**). Responses to comments provided during the technical stakeholder review of the draft ES are provided in Chapter 5, Appendix 5.3 Schedule of responses to the technical stakeholder review of the draft ES (**Document 5.5.2.3**).

3.4 UPDATES SINCE SCOPING

- 3.4.1 A number of minor amendments and clarifications have been made in the methodologies to address comments from the Stage 3 Consultation, details of which can be found in Chapter 5, EIA Consultation (**Document 5.5**).
- 3.4.2 The scope of the landscape assessment is outlined for ease of reference in Table 7.4, section 3.5.

3.5 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

- 3.5.1 The scope of the assessment work included within this chapter has been informed by the Scoping Opinion¹ and the responses to the PEIR from Stage 3 Consultation, as well as by discussions referred to in Chapter 5, EIA Consultation (**Document 5.5**).
- 3.5.2 Table 7.4 summarises the potential landscape receptors that have been reviewed and states whether they have been included or excluded from the landscape assessment (the majority of these receptors fall within the study area as outlined in section 6). Justifications are provided where receptors have been excluded from the assessment and cross references added against those that have been included for ease of reference.

¹<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020015/EN020015-000071-Scoping%20Opinion>

Table 7.4: Scope of Landscape Assessment		
Landscape Receptor	Included / excluded from the assessment	Reason for exclusion or cross reference to baseline and assessment
Landscape Elements		
Tree Cover	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.4, the reporting of residual effects in section 9.3 and the summary in section 11.2.
Field Boundaries	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.4, the reporting of residual effects in section 9.3 and the summary in section 11.2.
Landform	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.4, the reporting of residual effects in section 9.3 and the summary in section 11.2.
Watercourses and Waterbodies	Excluded	Following a review of Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (Document 5.3) and Chapter 4, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (Document 5.4) it is considered that there would be no likelihood of significant effects on water courses and/or waterbodies as landscape elements during any phase of the proposed development.
Landscape/ Seascape Character		
National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)	Excluded	National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) (Ref 7.14) (as published on the NRW website on 15 September 2017) have been reviewed but are not considered as landscape receptors in this assessment as they are based on the landscape evidence baseline represented by LANDMAP. This avoids duplication in the assessment as the NLCA overlap with LANDMAP

Table 7.4: Scope of Landscape Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Included / excluded from the assessment	Reason for exclusion or cross reference to baseline and assessment
		VSAAs. The location of the NLCA are illustrated on Figure 7.10, National Landscape Character Areas, Regional Landscape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (Document 5.7.1.10). Effects on landscape character are presented purely in relation to the LANDMAP VSAAs in the study area (in section 9.4).
Anglesey Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)	Excluded	The published LCAs for Anglesey (Ref 7.7) have been reviewed but are not considered as landscape receptors in this assessment; to avoid duplication. This is because effects on landscape character are presented purely in relation to the LANDMAP VSAAs (in section 9.4). Figure 7.10, National Landscape Character Areas, Regional Landscape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (Document 5.7.1.10) illustrates the locations of the LCA and also how the VSAA and LCA relate to each other. Appendix 7.3 Landscape Character Areas Relevant to the Study Area (Document 5.7.2.3) provides background baseline information relating to the LCAs identified within the study area. The results of the VSAA character assessment are cross referenced to LCAs for information in Appendix 7.3 (Document 5.7.2.3).
Gwynedd Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)	Excluded	The published LCAs for Gwynedd (Ref 7.8) have been reviewed but are not considered as landscape receptors in this assessment; to avoid duplication. This is because effects on landscape

Table 7.4: Scope of Landscape Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Included / excluded from the assessment	Reason for exclusion or cross reference to baseline and assessment
		character are presented purely in relation to the LANDMAP VSAs (in section 9.4). Figure 7.10, National Landscape Character Areas, Regional Landscape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (Document 5.7.1.10) illustrates the locations of the LCA and also how the VSAA and LCA relate to each other. Appendix 7.3 Landscape Character Areas Relevant to the Study Area (Document 5.7.2.3) provides background baseline information relating to the LCAs identified within the study area. The results of the VSAA character assessment are cross referenced to LCAs for information in Appendix 7.3 (Document 5.7.2.3).
LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAA)	Included	<p>Effects on landscape character are assessed in relation to LANDMAP VSAs. A number of VSAs have been excluded from the landscape assessment. Lists of the VSAs and detailed justifications for their exclusion can be found in Appendix 7.2 VSAA Character Assessment (Document 5.7.2.2).</p> <p>Figures 7.8 (Document 5.7.1.8) and 7.9 (Document 5.7.1.9) illustrate the locations of the VSAA.</p> <p>Baseline information can be found in section 7.5. The reporting of residual effects in relation to the VSAs included in the assessment are found in section 9.4 and the summary in section 11.3.</p>
National Marine	Excluded	National Marine Character Areas (MCA) (Ref 7.30) have been reviewed

Table 7.4: Scope of Landscape Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Included / excluded from the assessment	Reason for exclusion or cross reference to baseline and assessment
Character Areas (MCA)		and excluded from the landscape assessment as the landward parts of these areas overlap with the VSAs which are already included in the assessment. The location of the MCA are illustrated on Figure 7.11, National Marine Character Areas, Local Seascape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (Document 5.7.1.11).
Local Seascape Character Areas (SCA)	Excluded	Local Seascape Character Area (SCA) assessments (Ref 7.20 and Ref 7.31) have been reviewed and excluded from the landscape assessment as the landward parts of these areas overlap with the VSAs which are already included in the assessment. The location of the SCA are illustrated on Figure 7.11, National Marine Character Areas, Local Seascape Character Areas and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (Document 5.7.1.11).
Landscape Designations		
Snowdonia National Park	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Anglesey Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Llyn Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	Excluded	The Llyn AONB has been excluded from the landscape assessment due to the fact that at its closest point the boundary of the AONB lies approximately 19.5 km to the south-

Table 7.4: Scope of Landscape Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Included / excluded from the assessment	Reason for exclusion or cross reference to baseline and assessment
		west of the nearest point of the Order Limits for the Proposed Development. The location of the Llŷn AONB is illustrated on Figure 7.1 (Document 5.7.1.1). Based on site knowledge, professional experience and judgement it is considered that there is no likelihood that the Proposed Development would be perceptible from the AONB (or any part of its setting). The apparent height ² of a 61.5 m high pylon from this distance would be approximately 0.19 cm.
North Anglesey Heritage Coast	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Parciau Estatelands SLA	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Southern Anglesey	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of

² Apparent height or angular size of an object is the height that an object appears at arm's length and is calculated by considering the known height of an object and distance from that object. For information, for a 61.5 m tall pylon, the apparent height at 10 km is 0.38 cm, 5 km is 0.75 cm and 3 km is 1.25 cm.

Table 7.4: Scope of Landscape Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Included / excluded from the assessment	Reason for exclusion or cross reference to baseline and assessment
Estatelands SLA		residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Menai SLA	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Bangor Mountain SLA	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA	Included	Baseline information can be found in section 7.6 and the reporting of residual effects in section 9.5 and summary in section 11.4.
Registered Parks and Gardens	Excluded	Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs) have been excluded from the landscape assessment on the grounds that those which are most likely to be affected are assessed in Chapter 10, Historic Environment (Document 5.10) and the remainder are highly unlikely to be affected. Justifications for their exclusion are included in Appendix 7.4 Registered Parks and Gardens Excluded from the Landscape Assessment (Document 5.7.2.4). The location of the RPGs are illustrated on Figure 7.1 (Document 5.7.1.1) and Landscape Constraints (Sheets 1-4) (Document 5.7.1.2). Although RPGs are not included in the assessment the contribution they make towards landscape character is considered within judgements of the value of the underlying VSAA in which they fall (see Appendix 7.2 VSAA Character Assessment (Document 5.7.2.2)).

Assessment of Night Time Effects

- 3.5.3 The assessment of night time effects is dealt with as part of the visual assessment; details of the assessment of effects on night-time views is outlined in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**).

Welsh Language

- 3.5.4 Consideration has been given to the potential for this topic to impact on the Welsh language in any way, drawing upon the findings of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment (**Document 5.26**). It has been concluded that there is no potential for the sources of effects or affected receptors dealt with in this chapter to have any effects upon the Welsh language.

4 Methodology

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 This section describes the technical methods used to determine the baseline conditions, sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of effects and sets out the significance criteria which have been used for the landscape assessment.
- 4.1.2 Landscape assessment deals with the assessment of effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right (landscape receptors), whilst assessment of visual effects considers the effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people (visual receptors). Although assessed separately, landscape and visual effects are closely linked which means there is some overlap of methodology. The visual assessment methodology can be found in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**).
- 4.1.3 The purpose of the landscape assessment is to identify the nature and importance of the landscape effects that are likely to arise from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is the result of an iterative design process that has informed changes to both the Proposed Development and the evolution of mitigation measures to help reduce significant effects wherever possible.

4.2 GUIDANCE SPECIFIC TO LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

- 4.2.1 The methodology for undertaking industry standard landscape assessment has been developed in accordance with relevant guidance which is presented in the third edition of the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment' (GLVIA3) (Ref 7.15). GLVIA3 is the established best practice guidance for landscape and visual impact assessment and complies with the requirements to undertake a landscape and visual assessment as referenced in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 7.2) and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 7.10).
- 4.2.2 The assessment of landscape effects is described by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3 (Ref 7.15) as follows:

- 4.2.3 'An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character.... The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner.' Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2.
- 4.2.4 The term 'landscape effects', as defined in paragraph 2.21 of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15), means impacts or effects on '*the landscape as a resource in its own right*'. It includes direct effects upon the fabric of the landscape (such as the addition, removal or alteration of structures, woodlands, trees or hedgerows), which may alter the character and perceived quality of the area, or more general effects (indirect effects) on landscape character and designated areas of landscape arising from the introduction of new man-made features, which may be perceived from further away. In landscapes designated or valued for their scenic or landscape quality, such as National Parks, such changes can affect the purpose of the designation or its perceived value.
- 4.2.5 The three categories of landscape receptor considered in the assessment are:
- landscape elements (tree cover, field boundaries including hedgerows, cloddiau (stone clad earth banks), crawiau (slate pillar fencing) and stone walls and landform);
 - landscape character (combinations of elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects that make an area distinctive); and
 - landscape designations at a national and local level. These include the nationally designated Snowdonia National Park, Anglesey AONB, North Anglesey Heritage Coast, and a number of locally designated Special Landscape Areas (SLAs).
- 4.2.6 Landscape assessment follows a standard approach:
- establish baseline conditions against which the effects of the Proposed Development will be assessed, including judgements on the value of landscape receptors. This includes consideration of how the landscape may change in the future irrespective of the Proposed Development;

- determine the sensitivity of the receptor likely to be affected, which combines judgements about its susceptibility to change arising from a specific proposal with judgements about its value attached;
- predict the nature or magnitude of the effect likely to occur, which combines judgements about the likely size and scale of the change, the geographical extent of the area over which it is likely to occur, whether the effect would be direct or indirect, reversible or irreversible, short, medium or long term in duration, and whether it is positive, neutral or negative; and
- assess whether a significant effect is likely to arise upon a receptor, by considering the predicted magnitude of change together with the sensitivity of the receptor, taking into account any proposed mitigation measures.

4.2.7 The landscape assessment involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment and the application of professional judgement within a structured assessment framework. GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) notes:

‘...whilst there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters, ...much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgement, for example what effect the introduction of a new development or land use change may have on visual amenity, or about the significance of change in the character of the landscape and whether it is positive or negative’. GLVIA3 Paragraph 2.23

4.2.8 ‘In all cases there is a need for judgements that are made to be reasonable and based on clear and transparent methods so that the reasoning applied at different stages can be traced and examined by others.’ GLVIA3 Paragraph 2.24.

Temporal Scope

4.2.9 The Proposed Development (or parts of it) are described as temporary works or permanent works, as described in Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**). The resulting effects are described in terms of their duration as short, medium term and long-term either temporary or permanent, as follows:

- Short-term effects are defined as 0 – 5 years;
- Medium term effects are defined as 5 – 15 years; and
- Long term effects are defined as >15 years.

4.2.10 Temporary effects are considered to be reversible (i.e. through reinstatement or mitigation); short or medium term in duration; and those which would typically arise as a result of the temporary works related to construction, maintenance and/ or decommissioning. However, they may also be related to mitigation of effects of permanent development. Examples of temporary effects are as follows:

- a short term, temporary effect may be related to the loss of vegetation during construction, such as a hedgerow, which would be replanted;
- a medium term, temporary effect may be as result of a temporary construction access track (to the tunnel) being present in the landscape for up to 7 years, which would then be removed and the landscape reinstated; and
- a medium term, temporary effect may also arise as a result of the mitigation of effects of permanent works; for instance, where the effect changes once mitigation planting has matured.

4.2.11 Permanent effects are considered to be long term, irreversible effects, typically related to the permanent works.

4.2.12 Effects are assessed during construction, at winter year 1 of operation when the connection is energised and at summer of year 15 when any mitigation measures have become effective (as planting matures). Effects of maintenance and decommissioning are also considered.

Approach to the Assessment of Effects on the Setting of Nationally Designated Landscapes

4.2.13 The surroundings of National Parks and AONBs are an important consideration in landscape assessment as they can influence the overall character and quality of the landscape within the designated area. Development proposals close to these areas need to be carefully assessed to ensure that they do not affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities of the landscape within the designated area.

4.2.14 The special qualities of the Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey AONB are described in the following documents:

- Snowdonia National Park Management Plan 2010 – 2015 (Ref 7.16); and
- Anglesey AONB Management Plan 2015 – 2020 (Ref 7.17).

- 4.2.15 The need to consider the likely significant effect of development proposals within the 'setting' of the National Park and AONB is set out in national and local planning policies, including NPS EN-1 (Ref 7.2), as discussed previously in section 2.3 and local planning policies set out in Appendix 7.1 (**Document 5.7.2.1**).
- 4.2.16 It is worthwhile at this point explaining what is meant by the 'setting' of a designated landscape as it is often a material consideration in planning applications and can be easily confused with the term 'setting' when applied to designated sites as in Chapter 10, Historic Environment (**Document 5.10**).
- 4.2.17 There is no official definition of the term 'setting' in relation to landscape assets although it implies and is generally taken to mean the land surrounding the designated area which, although not in itself designated, has a complementary relationship³ and is likely to be intervisible with the designated landscape. It is important to note that the setting of a designated area does not have a clearly defined geographical border.
- 4.2.18 Instead its definition requires careful consideration of factors such as:
- are any of the key characteristics or special qualities of the designated landscape present;
 - does it have a functional or historic relationship with the designated landscape;
 - is the area intervisible with the designated landscape;
 - does it form a gateway to the designated landscape and or have a sense of approach; and
 - is there any formal reference to areas considered to form part of the setting of the designated landscapes within current published documents (such as Anglesey Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 7.7); Gwynedd Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 7.8); Special Landscape Areas (Ref 7.18); Snowdonia National Park Management Plan (Ref 7.16); Anglesey AONB Management Plan and Review (Ref 7.17 and Ref 7.28); and planning policy as outlined in Appendix 7.1 (**Document 5.7.2.1**) etc.).

³ A landscape setting is typically complementary to the designated landscape, but it can also be uncomplimentary or a detractor to the landscape within the designated area.

4.2.19 In relation to the first bullet point above, GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) (paragraph 5.47) states that:

'If the area affected by the proposals is on the margin of or adjacent to such a designated area, thought may be given to the extent to which it demonstrates the characteristics and qualities that led to the designation of the area. Boundaries are very important in defining the extent of designated areas, but they often follow convenient physical features and as a result there may be land outside the boundary that meets the designation criteria and land inside that does not.'

4.2.20 To help define the setting of the Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey AONB, information from desk top and site surveys was collated together with feedback from consultees. A significant amount of information was gathered by the baseline studies including information available in the following documents:

- Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.7);
- Isle of Anglesey County Council (2015); Anglesey AONB Management Plan 2015 – 2020 (Ref 7.17);
- Gwynedd Council and Anglesey County Council (2012), Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.18);
- Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.8);
- Snowdonia National Park Authority (2014), Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri (Supplementary Planning Guidance) (Ref 7.19); and
- Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (2014) (Supplementary Planning Guidance) (Ref 7.9).

4.2.21 The starting point for the identification of the setting of the designated areas was based on the inclusion of areas identified within published documents as follows (as shown on Figure 7.3 (**Document 5.7.1.3**) and Figure 7.4 (**Document 5.7.1.4**)):

- LCAs within Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (Ref 7.8) identified as having a relationship to, or role as part of the setting of Snowdonia

National Park and/or Anglesey AONB under the heading 'key design issues';

- SLAs within the Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.18) that are identified as forming part of the setting of Snowdonia National Park and/or Anglesey AONB; and
- All parts of the Study Area that fall within 2 km of the Anglesey AONB boundary (as identified in the AONB Management Plan, Management Objective 3: Development (Ref 7.17)).

4.2.22 Consideration was then given to whether or not any additional parts of the landscape should be included in relation to the other factors set out in paragraph 4.2.14. It was concluded that there was no reason to include any other areas in addition to those identified and shown on Figures 7.3 (**Document 5.7.1.3**) and 7.4 (**Document 5.7.1.4**).

4.2.23 The assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on areas considered to form part of the setting of Snowdonia National Park and/or Anglesey AONB was undertaken following the standard approach outlined later in this section. This involved consideration of the sensitivity of the landscape alongside the magnitude of change likely to arise to determine the overall importance or significance of effect. Because these landscapes are considered to fall within the setting of the designated landscape, their value is likely to be elevated. This may affect their sensitivity to the Proposed Development and therefore any concluding judgements on likely significance of effect.

4.2.24 In addition to identifying likely significant effects on landscape within the setting of designated areas a second step was to establish whether elements of the Proposed Development, which lie within the setting, are likely to affect the designated landscape in terms of the purpose of the designation or its special qualities.

4.2.25 This was done by making a judgement on whether the Proposed Development would:

- influence the character of the landscape within the designated area and peoples' appreciation of it;
- affect any functional or historical relationship between the designated landscape and its setting;

- affect peoples' sense of approach and arrival to the designated landscape;
- block or impinge on views out of the designated landscape, particularly from public viewpoints (whether or not they are promoted); and
- block or impinge on key promoted views towards the designated landscape.

4.2.26 This was done by combining information from the landscape and viewpoint assessment.

*Approach to Assessment of Effects of the 400 kV Overhead Line
Component of the Proposed Development*

4.2.27 The assessment of the landscape effects arising from the 400kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is complex. The presence of the existing OHL is considered in the baseline and has an influence on judgements relating to the susceptibility of the landscape to a new 400 kV OHL (in terms of the current influence that the existing 400 kV has on landscape character). Not only does the assessment have to consider new sections of 400 kV OHL but it also has to take account of modifications to the existing OHL as explained in section 1.

4.2.28 Much of the proposed 400 kV OHL would comprise the addition of sections of new line in close parallel to the existing, some sections of OHL would deviate away from the existing. There would also be modifications and/ or replacement of the existing line in some places. It is not simply the addition of a totally independent new 400 kV OHL in the landscape; although the operational phase of the Proposed Development would result in parallel 400 kV OHLs within much of the study area. Bearing this in mind, the factors considered relevant to the assessment include:

- the distance between the two 400 kV OHLs;
- the area of landscape likely to be affected and whether this is greater than the area currently affected by the existing 400 kV OHL;
- the overall character of the landscape, the way that it is experienced and its sensitivity to a new 400 kV OHL;
- the siting and design of sections of the proposed 400 kV OHL in relation to the existing OHL – for example how the design, scale and position of new and existing pylons relate;

- the presence of other lower voltage OHLs, wind turbines and other vertical features which together may affect the character of the landscape; and
- the potential for mitigation either through undergrounding of lower voltage lines or planting.

4.3 BASELINE DATA GATHERING AND FORECASTING METHODS

4.3.1 The first stage in the landscape assessment was to establish the nature of the existing landscape in order to provide an understanding of the landscape within the study area (as described in section 6) and its wider environment, including its constituent elements and features, its character and the way this varies spatially, its history, condition, the way it is experienced and the value attached to it. This is referred to as the 'baseline landscape environment' or 'landscape baseline'. The approach to making judgements in relation to landscape value is set out in section 4.5 and the outcomes are presented in section 7.

4.3.2 The landscape baseline forms the basis for the identification and description of the landscape changes that may result from the Proposed Development.

Sources

4.3.3 Available desktop information has been reviewed to gain an understanding of the landscape baseline including Ordnance Survey (OS) data, Google Earth Pro and stakeholder feedback.

4.3.4 Further information has been obtained from a review of the following documents:

- Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) (Ref 7.13)
- Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.7);
- Anglesey Dark Skies (Ref 7.20);
- Anglesey AONB Management Plan 2015 – 2020 (Ref 7.17);
- Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment (Ref 7.21);
- Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.8);
- Gwynedd Landscape Design Guide (Ref 7.22);

- Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.18);
- Eyri Local Development Plan (2007 – 2022) (Ref 7.23);
- Snowdonia National Park Management Plan 2010 – 2015 (Ref 7.16);
- Landscapes and Seascapes of Eyri (Supplementary Planning Guidance) (Ref 7.19);
- Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (JLDP Supporting Document) (Ref 7.9);
- Penrhyn Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2010 – 2015 (Ref 7.24);
- Wales National Landscape Character Areas (Ref 7.14); and
- Wales Tranquil Areas Map (Ref 7.25).

LANDMAP

- 4.3.5 LANDMAP (Ref 7.5 and Ref 7.6) has also been extensively used to gather baseline information.
- 4.3.6 LANDMAP is an all Wales landscape resource managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (formerly the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)). LANDMAP records and evaluates the landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape in a nationally consistent GIS database.
- 4.3.7 LANDMAP adopts a whole landscape approach which covers all landscapes, whether designated or undesignated. It classifies the landscapes of Wales into five spatially related datasets (layers) or aspects: Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscapes and Cultural Landscape. Information on each is detailed in the LANDMAP Guidance Note 3: Guidance for Wales (Ref 7.12). Together these identify what gives a particular area its sense of place, what makes it distinctive and what types of change and pressures the landscape might be sensitive to. The use of information from all five aspects provides a criteria based approach that promotes sustainable decision making and ensures that no aspect of the landscape is overlooked.
- 4.3.8 The landscape assessment, which has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact assessment (EIA), utilises data from all five LANDMAP aspects. This is described further in section 4.5.

- 4.3.9 Each of the five aspects within LANDMAP is subdivided into discrete geographical units (GIS polygons) referred to as aspect areas. Each mapped aspect area is defined by its recognisable landscape characteristics and/ or qualities. It is important to note that the boundaries of the aspect areas are not always the same between the five spatial layers. Accompanying each aspect area is a description (Collector Survey Record) which describes and documents the landscape character, qualities and features. Management recommendations are also provided.
- 4.3.10 Each Collector Survey Record holds information on the unique perspective of the LANDMAP layer concerned, with collector survey records being produced independently for each of the five layers. Therefore when key characteristics are referred to across several layers for the same geographic area, the value of their importance is typically emphasised. However, it is only by assessing each layer on its own that it becomes clear which aspects of the landscape character and qualities are important to consider in respect of the components of the Proposed Development.
- 4.3.11 The geographic boundaries for the baseline description and the subsequent landscape assessment in terms of landscape character reference LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAAs). These are considered sufficiently detailed to reflect changes in landscape character along the length of the Proposed Development. The results of the assessment on the VSAAAs (Appendix 7.2 Document 5.7.2.2) has also been summarised and cross referenced to the published Anglesey and Gwynedd LCAs for information, in Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**).

Site Visits

- 4.3.12 The findings of the desktop study have been informed by a programme of seasonal site surveys undertaken between late summer 2015 and winter 2017/18. Site visits during spring, summer, autumn and winter have helped to build a comprehensive picture of the landscape of the study area, in particular the difference between summer and winter, when there would be less apparent vegetation coverage.
- 4.3.13 To inform the assessment a series of viewpoint photographic surveys has been undertaken at locations agreed with stakeholders. Whilst the main aim of these viewpoint surveys is to obtain baseline photographs, the site visits also provided the opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of the landscape character of the study area. Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**) and Appendix 8.2 Viewpoint Assessment (**Document 5.8.2.2**) provide further details on photography and viewpoints.

Future Baseline

- 4.3.14 The landscape is dynamic and is influenced by social, economic, technological and climatic changes, all of which can influence patterns of land use, land cover and land management. As such, the baseline for the landscape assessment is constantly evolving. Because of this, consideration has been given to how the landscape may change in the future irrespective of the Proposed Development. This is reported in section 7.3.

4.4 TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 4.4.1 Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) were primarily undertaken for the visual assessment reported in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**); however, these have also been taken into consideration in the landscape assessment in relation to anticipated perceptibility of the Proposed Development in the landscape.
- 4.4.2 The method for production of ZTVs is included in section 4 of Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**).

4.5 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Evaluating Landscape Sensitivity

- 4.5.1 An assessment of the sensitivity of landscape receptors is made by combining judgements about the value attached to the landscape (which is established and reported as part of the baseline) with judgements about the susceptibility of the landscape to change arising from the Proposed Development.
- 4.5.2 Judgements on the value attached to the landscape baseline are unrelated to the nature of a development proposed, whilst judgements on susceptibility may vary in response to the type of development proposed and the attributes of the area in which it is to be located.

Landscape Value

- 4.5.3 The relative value of the landscape is one of the key contributing factors in determining landscape sensitivity.
- 4.5.4 Table 7.4 below sets out the approach that has been applied to judgements relating to the value of landscape elements (as landscape receptors).

Table 7.4: Value of Landscape Elements	
Landscape Element	Value
Trees	Trees are considered to be important landscape elements which contribute towards the pattern, scale and character of the landscape. The value of trees as landscape elements is considered to be high .
Field Boundaries (hedgerows, cloddiau, crawiau and stone walls)	Field boundaries are considered to be important landscape elements which contribute towards the pattern, scale and character of the landscape. The value of field boundaries is considered to be high .
Landform	The value of the landform of the study area is generally considered to be medium , with the exception of rocky outcrops and other particularly distinctive landform within the study area which has a high value, including Mynydd y Garn, Parys Mountain, Mynydd Bodafon in Anglesey and Moel Rhiwen and Moel y Ci in Gwynedd.

4.5.5 Irrespective of the presence, or not, of formal designation, an area of landscape may be valued for many reasons. These reasons may include its quality, scenic beauty, tranquillity or remoteness, its recreation opportunities, nature conservation or its historic and cultural associations. Development will not necessarily be incompatible with valued qualities of a landscape as this will depend on the nature of the proposal and the characteristics of the landscape.

4.5.6 In terms of landscape value, nationally and internationally designated landscapes are generally accorded the highest value. The absence of a formal landscape designation however, does not necessarily imply that a landscape is of lower value. Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) describes value as, ‘... the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society, bearing in mind that a landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.... a review of existing landscape designations is usually the starting point in understanding landscape value, but the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered... Landscapes or their component parts may be valued at the community, local, national or international level....’

4.5.7 In response to this, Table 7.5 sets out the typical importance of landscape receptors.

Table 7.5: Importance of Landscape Receptors	
Importance	Description
International/ National	Landscapes which are internationally or nationally designated for their landscape value: National Parks, AONBs, LANDMAP overall evaluations categorised as Outstanding
Regional/ Local	Regionally or locally designated landscapes including Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), LANDMAP overall evaluations typically categorised as High, or areas or features which local evidence indicates as being of more value than the surrounding area.
Community Importance	Everyday landscape, which may be valued by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value. LANDMAP overall evaluations typically categorised as Moderate
Limited	Despoiled or degraded landscape with little or no evidence of being valued by a community. LANDMAP overall evaluations typically categorised as Low

4.5.8 The quality of a valued landscape is often explained in a citation for a designation, but where this isn't available, value can be assessed through the application of a criteria based comparative landscape approach supported by published documentation such as tourist leaflets, art and literature. This is in line with the European Landscape Convention (Ref 7.1) which promotes an 'all-landscapes approach', founded on the recognition of value in all landscapes.

4.5.9 The appraisal of landscape value (in terms of landscape character) began by appraising the LANDMAP VSAs. The starting point was overlaying the LANDMAP Overall Evaluations for each of the five evaluated aspects⁴ on the LANDMAP VSAs, as shown on figures A1.1, A1.2, A2.1 and A2.2

⁴ In accordance with best practice, consideration is given to all of the LANDMAP overall evaluations (Low – Outstanding) for each of the five evaluated aspects (Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape).

included within Annex A of Appendix 7.2, VSAA Character Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.2**). This helped to identify any concentrations of Outstanding and High evaluation scores within the different VSAA's these being an indication of more highly valued landscapes. The LANDMAP Overall Evaluations are recorded in the following datasets:

- Geological Landscape – GL33: Overall Evaluation
- Landscape Habitats – LH45: Overall Evaluation
- Visual and Sensory – VS50: Overall Evaluation
- Historic Landscapes – HL40: Overall Evaluation
- Cultural Landscapes – CL40: Overall Evaluation

4.5.10 Areas which have been evaluated by LANDMAP as Outstanding or High in terms of their overall evaluation are likely to be more sensitive to the Proposed Development, especially where a number of these overlap.

4.5.11 This information was then supplemented by a review of other LANDMAP datasets which were used to inform the judgements on value as set out in Table 7.6. A series of factors (or criteria) have been identified as indicators of relative landscape value. Table 7.6 includes an explanation as to how these have been applied to indicate higher or lower value and which of the LANDMAP datasets is applicable to each of the factors.

4.5.12 Other data sources which have been used include OS plans, the Wales Tranquil Areas Map (Ref 7.25) and desk top research to identify designated areas. Field surveys have also been undertaken to help inform the value of the individual VSAA's.

4.5.13 The landscape within each VSAA has been systematically assessed against each of the value factors and judgements made on a sliding scale indicating a lower or higher value. These judgements have then been considered together to inform an overall evaluation of the relative value of the landscape which is described as either **high**, **medium - high**, **medium**, **medium - low** or **low**.

Table 7.6: Assessing Relative Landscape Value of VSAA's

Factors used to judge value and data sources	Definition		
	Lower value	↔	Higher value

Table 7.6: Assessing Relative Landscape Value of VSAs			
Factors used to judge value and data sources	Definition		
	Lower value	↔	Higher value
LANDMAP overall evaluations Data Sources: LANDMAP	GL33: Geological Landscape Overall Evaluation LH45: Landscape Habitats Overall Evaluation VS50: Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation HL40: Historic Landscapes Overall Evaluation CL40: Cultural Landscapes Overall Evaluation		
	Indicators: <i>Low to moderate LANDMAP overall evaluation</i>	↔	Indicators: <i>High to outstanding LANDMAP overall evaluation</i>
Landscape character and quality Data Sources: LANDMAP VS25 Sense of Place LANDMAP VS27: Condition LANDMAP VS47: Integrity LANDMAP VS48: Character	Areas where the landscape character/ quality is positive and intact are likely to have a higher value than areas where landscape character/ quality has been lost or is perceived as negative. Intactness of the landscape is demonstrated by, amongst other things: presence of characteristic natural and man-made elements, which are generally in good condition; and absence of significant incongruous or detractive elements.		
	The landscape has relatively low landscape quality Indicators: <i>Weak or negative sense of place</i> <i>Poor condition</i> <i>Low to moderate evaluation of integrity</i> <i>Low to moderate evaluation</i>	↔	The landscape has relatively high landscape quality Indicators: <i>Strong or positive sense of place</i> <i>Good condition</i> <i>High to outstanding evaluation of integrity</i> <i>High to outstanding evaluation</i>

Table 7.6: Assessing Relative Landscape Value of VSAs

Factors used to judge value and data sources	Definition		
	Lower value	↔	Higher value
<p>Scenic quality</p> <p>Data Sources: LANDMAP VS46: Scenic Quality</p>	<p>Areas of attractive scenery, sense of place and local distinctiveness will typically be more highly valued than less scenic areas. This includes landscapes designated for their natural beauty but also areas of undesignated landscape.</p> <p>Scenic landscapes are typically those that appeal to the senses through, for example, combinations of some of the following: distinctive, dramatic or striking landform or patterns of land cover; strong aesthetic qualities such as scale, form, colour and texture; or visual diversity which contributes to the appreciation of the landscape.</p>		
	<p>The area of landscape under consideration has relatively low scenic quality</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Low to moderate evaluation of scenic quality</i></p> <p><i>Unattractive</i></p> <p><i>Negative/ weak character/ sense of place</i></p>	↔	<p>The area of landscape under consideration has relatively high scenic quality</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>High to outstanding evaluation of scenic quality</i></p> <p><i>Attractive</i></p> <p><i>Strong/ positive character/ sense of place</i></p>
<p>Rarity</p> <p>Data Sources: LANDMAP GL31: Rarity/ uniqueness LANDMAP CL33: Rarity LANDMAP HL38: Rarity LANDMAP VS25: Local distinctiveness</p>	<p>The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare landscape character type is indicative of a higher value landscape.</p>		
	<p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Low to moderate LANDMAP evaluation</i></p>	↔	<p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>High to outstanding LANDMAP evaluation</i></p>

Table 7.6: Assessing Relative Landscape Value of VSAAs

Factors used to judge value and data sources	Definition		
	Lower value	↔	Higher value
LANDMAP VS49: Rarity			
<p>Conservation interests</p> <p>Data Sources: Wide range of GIS data sources including spatial datasets from data.gov.uk ;</p>	<p>The presence of multiple designated cultural heritage and ecological features and designated landscapes is indicative of a higher value landscape, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a landscape falls within a designated landscape such as a National Park, AONB, SLA etc. this is reflective of a more highly valued landscape; albeit value may vary locally within a designated landscape. The presence of internationally or nationally designated heritage assets: World Heritage Sites; Scheduled (Ancient) Monuments. The presence of historic landscape assets, which although not protected by designation are considered to be of national value: Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales and Registered Parks and Gardens. The presence of internationally or nationally designated natural heritage assets: Ramsar sites; SACs; SPAs; SSSIs; and National Nature Reserves and ancient woodland. 		
	<i>The area of landscape under consideration has few or no designated sites</i>	↔	<i>The area of landscape under consideration has a high density of designated sites</i>
<p>Recreation value</p> <p>Data Sources: OS Maps Tourist information Site visits</p>	<p>The extent to which experience of the landscape makes an important contribution to recreational use and enjoyment of an area is a measure of landscape value and is indicated by the presence of features such as country parks, nationally designated and regionally promoted trails, formal cycle routes, promoted viewpoints, visitor facilities such as car parks, density of the local public rights of way network</p>		

Table 7.6: Assessing Relative Landscape Value of VSAs			
Factors used to judge value and data sources	Definition		
	Lower value	↔	Higher value
	and key focal/ designated visitor attractions such as hillforts/ castles/ church towers. Landscapes can be highly valued at different scales ranging from large nationally valued landscapes such as National Parks, through smaller locally valued landscapes to those which are valued for recreation at a small scale community level.		
	<p>The area of landscape under consideration has low recreational value.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Low density of recreational features including rights of way, open access land and visitor attractions where an appreciation of the landscape is integral to the visitor experience</i></p>	↔	<p>The area of landscape under consideration has relatively high recreational value.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>High density of recreational features including rights of way, open access land and visitor attractions where an appreciation of the landscape is integral to the visitor experience</i></p>
<p>Perceptual aspects & tranquillity</p> <p>Data Sources:</p> <p>LANDMAP VS24: Perceptual and Sensory Qualities</p> <p>LANDMAP VS25 Sense of Place</p> <p>Wales Tranquil Areas Map</p>	The extent to which the landscape provides opportunities to experience a sense of relative wildness, remoteness and/ or relative tranquillity. This may be influenced by presence or lack of overt man-made structures, visual and audible intrusions, or perceived naturalness.		
	The landscape has a low relative wildness, remoteness and/ or tranquillity, with overt man-made structures and/ or	↔	The landscape has a high relative wildness, remoteness and/ or relative tranquillity, including a lack of overt man-made structures, freedom from visual and

Table 7.6: Assessing Relative Landscape Value of VSAs

Factors used to judge value and data sources	Definition		
	Lower value	↔	Higher value
	<p>visual and audible intrusion.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Noisy; threatening; unattractive</i></p> <p><i>Weak or negative sense of place</i></p> <p><i>Close to visible signs of human activity and development</i></p>		<p>audible intrusion and a perceived naturalness.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Remote; tranquil; wild; spiritual; attractive; peaceful</i></p> <p><i>Strong or positive sense of place</i></p> <p><i>Physically or perceptually remote or tranquil - no audible, visual intrusion</i></p>

4.5.14 As mentioned previously in section 4.3 the appraisal of landscape value is based on LANDMAP VSAs. The judgements have then been cross referenced to the Anglesey and Gwynedd Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) for information in Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**). They have also been taken into consideration when making judgements relating to landscape designations.

Landscape Susceptibility

4.5.15 Paragraph 5.40 of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) defines the susceptibility of the landscape as, 'the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or features, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies'.

4.5.16 Unlike judgements on the value attached to the landscape, the assessment of landscape susceptibility must reflect the individual project and requires:

- Identification of the important components of the landscape that make up a particular landscape and how they are likely to be affected by a proposed development; and

- Identification of the various aspects of a proposed development, at all stages, that are likely to have an effect on those important components.⁵

4.5.17 Judgements regarding susceptibility of landscape elements to the Proposed Development have been described in the narrative text in section 9.

4.5.18 Judgements regarding the susceptibility of the character of the landscape are based on VSAA landscape assessment within Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**). A number of factors have been taken into consideration (including physical, perceptual and experiential), all of which may contribute to landscape character and may be affected by the Proposed Development. The existing 400 kV OHL has been taken into account as an existing component of the baseline landscape. These are set out in the Tables 7.7 and 7.8 below together with an explanation as to how the factors were applied to indicate higher or lower susceptibility of VSAAs to new sections of 400 kV OHL (Table 7.7), and for a THH/ CSEC and/ or substation (Table 7.8). Susceptibility of the landscape to the Proposed Development differs depending on the component of the Proposed Development being assessed. The Tables also identify which of the Holford Rules (Ref 7.3), Horlock Rules 'NGC Substations and the Environment, Guidelines on Siting and Design' (Ref 7.4) and LANDMAP datasets are applicable to each of the factors.

4.5.19 The susceptibility of the landscape is described as **high, medium-high, medium, medium-low** or **low**⁶. The rationale in support of the assessment is set out for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line

Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility	↔	Higher susceptibility

⁵ For the Proposed Development, construction, operation and decommissioning

⁶ When assessing the value, susceptibility, sensitivity and magnitude of change, some of the threshold categories have been subdivided to better reflect the nuances of the local landscape or visual conditions found within the study area and therefore do not necessarily reflect the subdivisions presented in Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**).

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line

Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility	↔	Higher susceptibility
<p>Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)</p> <p>Data Sources: LANDMAP VS4 Topographic Form LANDMAP VS Classification Level 2</p>	<p>Steep, dramatic or elevated landforms will typically be more susceptible to 400 kV OHLs. This is because they are often prominent and distinctive in character and can also lead to skylining of OHLs. Single and narrow ridges are particularly vulnerable especially where the slopes of the ridgeline are well defined/ steep/ or with rock outcrops. More complex landforms may provide some screening/ backclothing opportunities for pylons, but care has to be taken not to dominate intricate landforms.</p> <p>Valleys and low rolling hills are generally less susceptible because they have greater potential to provide backclothing and enclosure, limiting the perceptibility of an OHL.</p> <p>Landforms that are smooth, regular and convex, or flat and uniform may be less susceptible to 400 kV OHLs although this can depend on other factors such as tree cover.</p> <p>Flat landforms may be more susceptible where there is an absence of surrounding higher landform to provide a backcloth.</p>		
	<p>A new 400 kV OHL may be accommodated well into the landform.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Valleys and low rolling hills</i></p> <p><i>Simple featureless landform</i></p> <p><i>Flat and uniform landform</i></p>		<p>A new 400 kV OHL may conflict with prominent and distinctive landforms.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Dramatic or rugged hills</i></p> <p><i>Irregular or complex landform</i></p> <p><i>Steep and elevated landforms</i></p> <p><i>Prominent or distinctive landforms</i></p>

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line



Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
<p>Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)</p> <p>Data Sources: LANDMAP VS5: Landcover Pattern LANDMAP VS Classification Level 3</p>	<p>This factor is not concerned with the particular material sensitivity of a type of landcover (which is considered in other environmental topics such as consideration of susceptibility of habitats in Chapter 9, Ecology and Nature Conservation (Document 5.9)), but with the character of the landscape created through the landscape pattern. Complex landscapes comprising a variety or mosaic of characteristic or susceptible landscape features such as trees and woodlands, hedgerows or traditional/ historic field patterns, are typically more vulnerable to 400 kV OHLs than simple uncluttered landscapes where there are few characteristic landscape features, or where such patterns have been obscured. Tree and woodland cover offers the potential to screen pylons (particularly in combination with undulating landform) although care must be taken not to allow the pylons to detract from or dominate locally distinctive features such as tree knolls, ancient specimen trees or avenue trees. Where landscape complexity is due to past or current commercial/ industrial influences, this indicates lower rather than higher susceptibility. Areas of commercial forestry and intensive farming may also indicate lower susceptibility.</p>		
	<p>A new 400 kV OHL may be accommodated well within land cover.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Low density of sensitive landscape features</i></p> <p><i>Simple, regular or uniform landscape</i></p>		<p>A new 400 kV OHL may interrupt distinctive landcover patterns.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>High density of sensitive landscape features</i></p> <p><i>Complex, irregular or intimate landscape</i></p> <p><i>Open hillsides</i></p> <p><i>Water bodies</i></p>

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line



Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
	<p><i>Developed land, derelict or waste ground</i></p> <p><i>Commercial forestry</i></p> <p><i>Lowland farmland</i></p>		
<p>Scale</p> <p>Data Sources:</p> <p>LANDMAP VS8: Scale</p>	<p>Larger scale landscapes, where pylons appear more in proportion, are typically less susceptible to 400 kV OHLs than small scale or intimate landscapes, where pylons would be likely to be more prominent. A large height differential between valley floors and hilltops may help reduce susceptibility by lessening the perceived size of the pylons but the apparent scale of the landform could be diminished by the height of the pylons.</p> <p>Comparison of pylons with landscape features such as field patterns, landform individual trees and buildings may also emphasise their size.</p>		
	<p>The 400 kV OHL may be accommodated well within the scale of the landscape.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Large scale landscapes</i></p>		<p>The 400 kV OHL may appear out of scale within the landscape.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Intimate and small scale landscapes</i></p>

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line

Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility	↔	Higher susceptibility
<p>Skylines (Holford Rule 4)</p> <p>Data sources: LCA Descriptions Topographic data Site based appraisal</p>	<p>Landscapes with distinctive ridges or skylines are likely to be more susceptible to a new 400 kV OHL than skylines that are less prominent or have been affected by contemporary structures. The presence of distinctive or historic landscape features such as hilltop monuments, church towers or vernacular villages, increases susceptibility as OHLs can detract from or conflict with these features. Skylines which form prominent settings for settlement are also likely to be more susceptible.</p>		
	<p>Skylines are not considered prominent and therefore are less susceptible. There would be no conflicts with strong visual features and focal points/ landmarks and/ or prominent settings.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Poorly defined/ less prominent skylines</i></p> <p><i>Skylines with few visual foci</i></p> <p><i>Existing vertical features (modern development)</i></p> <p><i>Cluttered skylines</i></p>	↔	<p>There are strong visual features and focal points/ landmarks and/ or prominent settings which may be highly susceptible to 400 kV OHL development. A new 400 kV OHL may overwhelm these features.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Prominent/ distinctive skylines</i></p> <p><i>Strong visual features and focal points</i></p> <p><i>Uninterrupted/ undeveloped skylines</i></p>

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line

Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility	↔	Higher susceptibility
<p>Human influence</p> <p>Data Sources:</p> <p>LANDMAP VS6: Settlement Pattern</p> <p>LANDMAP VS18: Level of Human Access</p> <p>LANDMAP VS27: Condition</p>	<p>This factor is concerned with the presence of built structures and human intervention in the landscape. The presence of modern (particularly vertical) structures such as wind turbines, transport, utility or communication infrastructure or industrial development may reduce landscape susceptibility to a new 400 kV OHL, as may the visible influence of quarrying, commercial forestry or landfill. The frequency of built form and human intervention in more contemporary densely settled areas may also indicate a reduced susceptibility to the introduction of a new 400 kV OHL.</p>		
	<p>The landscape includes overt man-made structures or land use and a new 400 kV OHL would be relatively unobtrusive.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Modern urban development/ infrastructure</i></p> <p><i>Inappropriate use of construction materials</i></p> <p><i>Presence of industrial scale movement (e.g. quarrying, commercial forestry)</i></p> <p><i>Busy, frequently accessed</i></p>	↔	<p>The landscape does not include overt man-made structures or land use and a new 400 kV OHL may form a substantial intrusion.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Sparsely settled/ rural/ farms</i></p> <p><i>Un-populated areas</i></p> <p><i>Presence of historic/ vernacular buildings/ structures or settlement</i></p> <p><i>Small scale residential settlement/ no large scale modern development</i></p> <p><i>Quiet, calm</i></p> <p><i>Rarely accessed</i></p>

Table 7.7: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line




Factors used to judge susceptibility and data sources	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
Settlement Pattern (Holford Rules 1 & 2) Data Sources: LANDMAP VS6: Settlement Pattern OS Data Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) Site Visits	This relates to settlement pattern in relation to landscape character, rather than to visibility and views, which is discussed in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (Document 5.8). Because 400 kV OHLs cannot easily deviate around individual or small groups of properties ⁷ , landscapes with a dense dispersed settlement pattern are considered more sensitive than landscapes where settlement is clustered into villages.		
	Indicators: <i>Urban</i> <i>Villages</i> <i>Clustered</i> <i>No settlements</i> <i>Sparsely settled</i>		Indicators: <i>High density of dispersed farms/ rural properties</i> <i>Historic settlement pattern/ strong time-depth</i>

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility

⁷ Although it is possible for 400 kV OHLs to deviate around individual or small groups of properties this would require a higher number of angle pylon. Holford Rules 2 and 3 recommend that the use of angle pylons is minimised.

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation



Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
<p>Landform (Horlock Rules Guideline 4)</p> <p>Data Sources: LANDMAP VS4 Topographic Form LANDMAP VS Classification Level 2</p>	<p>Steep, dramatic or elevated landforms will typically be more susceptible to a THH/ CSEC and/ or a substation. This is because they are often prominent and distinctive in character and typically require more extensive modification during construction. Single and narrow ridges are particularly vulnerable especially where the slopes of the ridgeline are well defined/ steep/ or with rock outcrops. More complex landforms may provide some screening/ backclothing opportunities for this type of development, but care has to be taken not to dominate intricate landforms.</p> <p>Valleys and low rolling hills are generally less susceptible because they have greater potential to provide backclothing and enclosure, limiting the perceptibility of a THH/ CSEC or substation.</p> <p>Landforms that are smooth, regular and convex, or flat and uniform may be less susceptible to this type of development, particularly if there is frequent tree cover and other man made elements to provide screening and context.</p> <p>Valleys and low rolling hills are generally less susceptible because they have greater potential to provide backclothing, screening and enclosure, limiting the perceptibility of this type of development.</p>		
	<p>A new THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may be accommodated well into the landform.</p> <p>Indicators: <i>Valleys and low rolling hills</i> <i>Simple featureless landform</i></p>		<p>A new THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may conflict with prominent and distinctive landforms.</p> <p>Indicators: <i>Dramatic or rugged hills</i> <i>Irregular or complex landform</i> <i>Steep and elevated landforms</i> <i>Prominent or distinctive</i></p>

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation



Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
	<i>Flat and uniform landform</i>		<i>landforms</i>
<p>Landcover Pattern</p> <p>Data Sources: LANDMAP VS5: Landcover Pattern LANDMAP VS Classification Level 3</p>	<p>This factor is not concerned with the particular material sensitivity of a type of landcover (which is considered in other environmental topics), but with the character of the landscape created through the landscape pattern.</p> <p>Open, simple and uncluttered landscapes where there are few characteristic landscape features are more susceptible to this type of development, particularly where there is sparse tree cover.</p> <p>Landscapes with a very intricate, complex mosaic of characteristic or high frequency/ density of susceptible landscape features such as: trees and woodlands; hedgerows or traditional/ historic field patterns; and designed landscapes with formal patterns are typically also more vulnerable to this type of development as the scale and nature of the development may conflict with the landscape. Where landscape complexity is due to past or current commercial/ industrial influences, this indicates lower rather than higher susceptibility. Areas of commercial forestry and intensive farming may also indicate lower susceptibility.</p> <p>Agricultural landscapes which are characterised by a varied landcover pattern which incorporates frequent woodland blocks and trees are typically less vulnerable to this type of development. Tree and woodland cover offers the potential to screen this type of development (particularly in combination with undulating landform) although care must be taken not to allow the development to detract from or dominate locally distinctive features such as tree knolls, ancient specimen trees or avenue trees.</p>		
	A new THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may be accommodated		A new THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may interrupt distinctive landcover patterns.

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation


Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
	<p>well within land cover.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Medium scale, lowland, rural landcover with small blocks of woodland and/ or frequent hedgerow trees</i></p> <p><i>Developed land, derelict or waste ground</i></p> <p><i>Commercial forestry</i></p>		<p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>High density of sensitive landscape features</i></p> <p><i>Complex, irregular or intimate landscape</i></p> <p><i>Open hillsides</i></p> <p><i>Water bodies</i></p> <p><i>Simple landscapes with low density of landscape features</i></p> <p><i>Simple, featureless, regular or uniform landscape</i></p>

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation



Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
<p>Field Pattern, Scale & Enclosure</p> <p>Data Sources:</p> <p>LANDMAP VS8: Scale & VS7 Boundary Type</p> <p>LCA descriptions</p> <p>OS data</p> <p>Aerial imagery (Google Earth)</p> <p>Site visits</p>	<p>Landscapes with more regular, medium to large scale field patterns are less sensitive to this type of development whereas small scale intimate landscapes with more complex, smaller and irregular field patterns are considered to be highly sensitive. For instance, if a THH/ CSEC and/ or substation was developed within a number of adjacent irregular and smaller sized fields, disrupting the boundaries, this could affect the perceived character, pattern and scale of the landscape. Furthermore, care has to be taken to ensure that the apparent scale of the field pattern is not diminished by the size of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Landscapes which are large to vast in scale with no field boundaries such as flat coastal and unenclosed upland landscapes are similarly high in sensitivity as the Proposed Development would disrupt the distinct open character of the landscape.</p> <p>Landscapes which are characterised by high/ overgrown hedgerows / or field boundaries with frequent trees are considered less susceptible to this type of development; whereas landscapes with field boundaries bounded by low managed hedgerows, walls and fences are considered more susceptible as these are more open.</p>		
	<p>The THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may be accommodated well within the scale of the landscape.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Medium to large scale fields with frequent hedgerow trees</i></p>		<p>The cable THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may appear out of scale within the landscape.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Intricate small scale fields</i></p> <p><i>Mosaic of complex / rugged / irregular field patterns</i></p> <p><i>Intimate landscapes</i></p> <p><i>Large to vast, unenclosed landscapes</i></p>

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation



Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility		Higher susceptibility
	<p><i>Simple / regular / Uniform field pattern</i></p> <p><i>A large proportion of unmanaged / high hedgerows / field boundaries</i></p>		<p><i>Ancient field patterns</i></p> <p><i>Open landscapes with field boundaries characterised by a large proportion of well managed low hedgerows, fences and/ or walls.</i></p>
<p>Human influence</p> <p>Data Sources:</p> <p>LANDMAP VS6: Settlement Pattern</p> <p>LANDMAP VS18: Level of Human Access</p> <p>LANDMAP VS27: Condition</p>	<p>This factor is concerned with the presence of built structures and human intervention in the landscape. The scale and style of the THH/ CSEC and/ or substation is important in this regard as design can help it integrate into the context of the landscape.</p> <p>The presence of modern (particularly agricultural or commercial buildings of a similar scale to the Proposed Development) in addition to transport, utility or communication infrastructure or industrial development may reduce landscape susceptibility to this type of development as may the visible influence of quarrying, commercial forestry or landfill. The frequency of built form and human intervention in more contemporary densely settled areas may also indicate a reduced susceptibility to the introduction of this type of development, although settlements and properties of a more historic or of vernacular character will sit less comfortably with a building the scale and style of that proposed by the development, thereby increasing sensitivity.</p>		
	<p>The landscape includes overt man-made structures or land use and a new THH/ CSEC and/ or substation would be relatively unobtrusive.</p>		<p>The landscape does not include overt man-made structures or land use and a new THH/ CSEC and/ or substation may form a substantial intrusion.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Sparsely settled/ rural/</i></p>

Table 7.8: Assessing the Susceptibility of the Landscape to a THH / CSEC and/ or substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Definition		
	Lower susceptibility	↔	Higher susceptibility
	<p>Indicators:</p> <p><i>Modern urban development/ infrastructure</i></p> <p><i>Inappropriate use of construction materials</i></p> <p><i>Presence of industrial scale movement (e.g. quarrying, commercial forestry)</i></p> <p><i>Busy, frequently accessed</i></p>		<p><i>farms</i></p> <p><i>Un-populated areas</i></p> <p><i>Presence of historic/ vernacular buildings/ structures or settlement</i></p> <p><i>Small scale residential settlement/ no large scale modern development</i></p> <p><i>Quiet, calm</i></p> <p><i>Rarely accessed</i></p>

4.5.20 The VSAA susceptibility judgements have then been taken into consideration when making judgements relating to landscape designations.

Landscape Sensitivity Judgements

4.5.21 The value and susceptibility of each landscape receptor are considered together to determine the sensitivity of the receptor. The relationship between susceptibility to change and value can be complex and is not linear. For example a highly valued landscape (such as an AONB) may in some areas have a low susceptibility to change, due to the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the development being proposed.

4.5.22 Para 5.46 GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) recognises that the complexity of the relationship between the value of a landscape (in policy terms) and its susceptibility to development is an important consideration when assessing the effects of change in, or close to, designated landscapes. The following examples are provided:

- ‘An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically, or by definition, have high susceptibility to all types of change.
- It is possible for an internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape to have relatively low sensitivity to change resulting from the particular type of development in question, by virtue of both the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the proposal.
- The particular type of landscape change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.’

4.5.23 GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) recognises that designated landscapes do not necessarily have high sensitivity particularly if they lie to the edge of a designated area. This is because the boundaries of designated landscapes were often defined following roads or other physical features and potentially included land within the boundary that did not necessarily meet the designation criteria. Conversely an area close to, but outside, a designated area may have very high sensitivity if it forms part of the setting of the designated area. Therefore although nationally designated landscapes, such as Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey AONB, may be accorded the highest level of value⁸ in the assessment, and the default position is that the sensitivity of the landscape is high, it may be the case that the susceptibility of the local landscape within the designated area may not be high, for example because the criteria and factors used to support the case for designation are underrepresented in the specific study area. In this case the sensitivity of the landscape may as a result be classed as medium (although should this occur it is justified and documented).

4.5.24 The sensitivity of landscape receptors is described as **high**, **medium-high**, **medium**, **medium-low** or **low** as set out in Table 7.9 below. The rationale in support of the assessment is set out for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

Table 7.9: Definition of Sensitivity	
Sensitivity	Definition
High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly sensitive to change from the type and scale of

⁸ No reference to the value of an area of landscape, here or in any of the survey material, should be taken to imply that the landscape in question does not fulfil the criteria for designation as National Park or AONB.

Table 7.9: Definition of Sensitivity	
Sensitivity	Definition
	development being assessed. Key landscape characteristics are highly vulnerable and unable to accommodate the development without significant effects on character.
Medium-High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are very sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed. Key landscape characteristics are vulnerable and unable to accommodate the development without some significant effects on character.
Medium	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed. Although the landscape may be able to absorb some development if sensitively sited and designed, it may introduce new inappropriate characteristics or result in a change in character.
Medium - Low	Few of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.
Low	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust and unlikely to be adversely affected by the type and scale of development being assessed.

4.5.25 It is important to note that the landscape sensitivities identified in this assessment are purely relative to the landscape of North Wales and to the nature of the development proposed.



Magnitude of Change

4.5.26 As explained in paragraphs 5.48 – 5.52 of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15), the nature or magnitude of change that is likely to occur is determined by reference to its size/ scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility.

Scale of Change



4.5.27 The size/scale of an effect is determined by considering the amount of change experienced including the extent or proportion of loss or addition of existing landscape elements, the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual

aspects of the landscape may be altered and whether the change affects its key characteristics and overall character, see Table 7.10 below.

Table 7.10: Judging the Size/ Scale of Effect on the Landscape		
Smaller Scale		Larger Scale
The development would be accommodated satisfactorily within the landscape context (i.e. it fits into the landscape) and would not alter the perception of the landscape. It would not affect the key characteristics of the landscape.		The development would have a strong influence on perception of the landscape and would conflict with or override its key characteristics.

Geographical Extent

4.5.28 The geographical extent is the area over which the effects are experienced. It is not the same as size/ scale as a small-scale change may affect a wider area, or vice-versa. The geographical extent is described at the site level within the Order Limits, within the immediate setting of the Proposed Development, at the scale of the VSAA or on a larger scale and affecting several VSAA's, see Table 7.11.

Table 7.11: Judging the Geographical Extent of Effect on the Landscape		
Limited Extent		Wider Extent
The development would be seen only locally, with limited effect on wider landscape character.		The development would have a widespread influence on perception of the landscape.

Duration and Reversibility

4.5.29 In accordance with GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15), this is a separate, but linked consideration and the duration of effect may be described as short-term (0-5 years), medium term (5 -15 years) or long term (> 15 years). A development may also be considered in terms of whether the effects are reversible or irreversible.⁹

⁹ Reversibility refers to whether the predicted effects are reversible, rather than the development itself. Whilst in theory, all landscape and visual effects are reversible, through complete removal of a proposed development and reinstatement of existing conditions, this isn't always the case, whether related to reinstatement following

Overall judgement on magnitude

4.5.30 The judgements on the size scale of effect and geographical extent are considered together to derive an overall magnitude of landscape change or effect for each receptor, which has been determined through informed professional judgement guided by the descriptions in Table 7.12. The magnitude of landscape change is described as **high**, **medium-high**, **medium**, **medium-low**, **low**, **negligible** or **no change**. The rationale in support of the assessment is set out for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

4.5.31 For some receptors, the judgement on magnitude may need to be adjusted (either up or down) to reflect the duration of the change and whether it is likely to be reversible.

Table 7.12: Judging the Magnitude of Landscape Effect	
Magnitude of Change	Description
High	Considerable change to the landscape over a wide area or intensive change over a limited area with dramatic consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will form a dominant landscape element and post development the baseline situation will be fundamentally changed, potentially creating a different landscape character. If designated, affecting the reasons for the designation.
Medium-High	Substantial change to the landscape over a wide area or considerable change over a limited area, with consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will form a prominent landscape element and post development the baseline situation will be substantially changed. If designated, affecting the reasons for the designation.
Medium	Noticeable change to the landscape over a wide area or conspicuous change over a limited area, with some consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will form a conspicuous landscape element and post development the baseline situation may be noticeably

temporary works or mitigation of effects of permanent works. A notable example is ancient woodland, which is considered irreplaceable in the medium to long-term.

	changed. If designated, unlikely to affect the reasons for the designation.
Medium-Low	Slight change to the landscape over a wide area or noticeable change over a limited area, with few consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will be perceptible but post development, the baseline landscape may exhibit some differences, but will be largely unchanged. If designated, not affecting the reasons for the designation.
Low	Inconspicuous change to the landscape over a wide area or slight change over a limited area, with very limited consequences for elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will be just perceptible and post development, the baseline landscape will appear largely unchanged. If designated, not affecting the reasons for the designation.
Negligible	Almost indiscernible change to the landscape, with no consequences for elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will be barely perceptible and post development, the baseline landscape will appear unchanged. If designated, not affecting the reasons for the designation.
No Change	The assessment also identifies areas where no landscape change is anticipated. In these instances, ' no change ' is inserted into the appropriate magnitude of effect column and the resulting effect is identified as 'no effect'.

Significance

- 4.5.32 The overall approach to evaluating the significance of effect is explained in Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**).
- 4.5.33 Not all landscape effects are significant. Moreover a significant landscape effect does not necessarily mean that such an effect will be unacceptable to the decision maker considering an application for consent. This is a matter that the decision maker will weigh in the planning balance alongside other factors. What is important is that the likely significant landscape effects of a proposed development are transparently assessed and described in order that the determining authority can bring a balanced and well-informed judgement to bear as part of the decision-making process.
- 4.5.34 IEMA's report, The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (Ref 7.26), identifies a range of different factors that should be considered when determining the significance of an effect. These include:

- the legal and policy context, which offers protection to the environment and community;
- knowledge and experience of significance from previous assessments;
- details of the development being proposed, such as construction and operational activities, and the nature of the effects associated with such activity;
- details about the environmental sensitivity of the area that will be affected; and
- feedback from scoping and consultation often including views from the local community.

4.5.35 Paragraph 5.53 of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15) notes that significance of landscape effects is not absolute and *'can only be defined in relation to each development and its specific location'*.

4.5.36 For the purposes of this assessment, effects are categorised as **major**, **moderate**, **minor** or **negligible** and where **'no effect'** is anticipated this is also stated. Each of these categories covers a broad range of effects and represents a continuum or sliding scale as illustrated in the diagram below. This diagram has been adapted from the 'EIA Significance Evaluation Matrix' Figure 6.3 in IEMA's report, *The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK* (Ref 7.26). Because these categories cover effects across a relatively wide range, judgements are sometimes made about whether particular effects are at the higher or lower end of a category with explanations of why these conclusions have been reached.

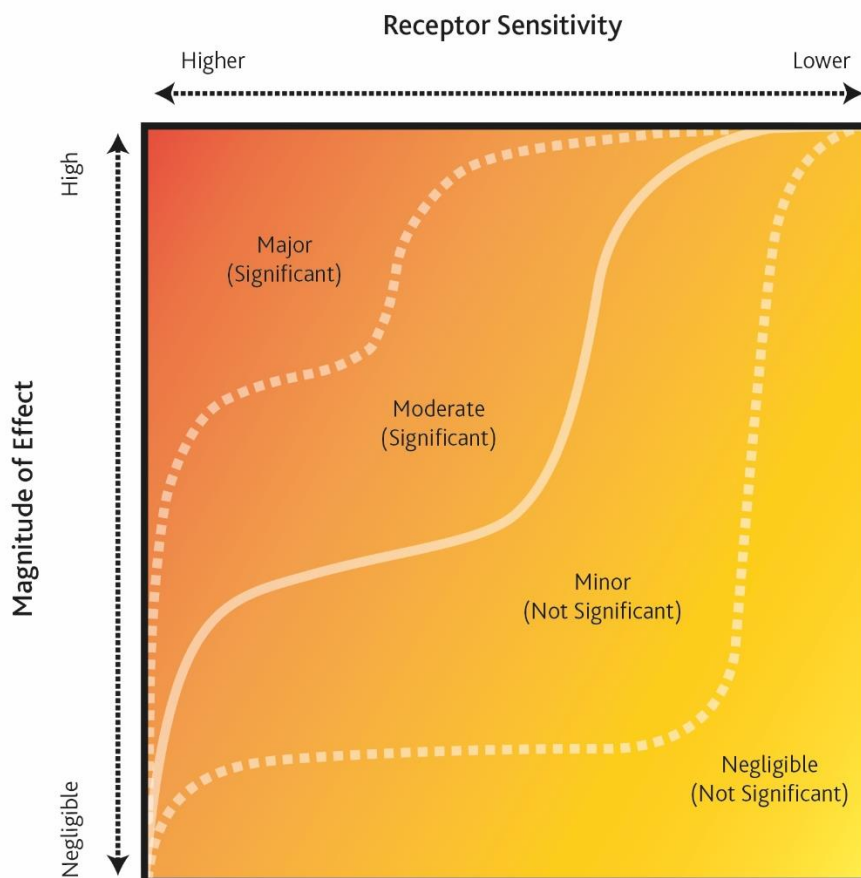


Image 7.1 – Significance Evaluation Matrix

Adapted from Figure 6.3 EIA Significance Evaluation Matrix from IEMA's Report - The State of EIA Practice In The UK, (2011)

- 4.5.37 Although this diagram is useful in that it demonstrates that there is a gradual transition both within and between the categories, the two axis are not necessarily evenly weighted and the diagram should be employed only as a guide to inform an assessment. The final decision on the level of effect and therefore significance ultimately relies on professional judgement which, in the assessment, is supported through qualitative text to draw out the important issues, describe the effects and explain the underlying rationale. The relationship between landscape receptors and effects is not generally a linear one and there are no hard or fast rules about what makes an effect significant.
- 4.5.38 To determine the overall significance of each landscape effect, the separate judgements about the sensitivity of the landscape and the predicted magnitude of landscape change are combined to allow a final judgement to be made as to whether or not the effect is considered significant using guidance presented in Table 7.13. The nature of the effects is described as either be positive (beneficial), neutral or negative (adverse).

Table 7.13: Judging Significance of Landscape Effect	
Category	Criteria
Major Adverse (significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a high magnitude of change that typically has direct effects (but not always) on a more highly sensitive landscape receptor.</p> <p>If designated, affecting the reasons for the designation.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would greatly conflict with the character of the landscape, forming a dominant and intrusive feature which would substantially erode its key characteristics potentially creating a different landscape character.</p>
Moderate Adverse (significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a medium magnitude of change with typically direct effects (but not always) on a landscape receptor.</p> <p>If designated, affecting some of the reasons for the designation.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would give rise to some conflicts with the character of the landscape, forming a noticeable feature which would have some consequences for the characteristics of the landscape baseline.</p>
Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a low magnitude of change with some direct or indirect effects on a landscape receptor. The Proposed Development would not greatly alter the perception of the landscape nor conflict greatly with its key characteristics.</p>
Negligible (Not Significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a negligible magnitude of change to a landscape receptor.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be accommodated within the landscape. It would not substantially undermine the valued characteristics of the landscape nor alter the perception of the landscape.</p>
Minor Beneficial (Not Significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a low magnitude of change with some direct or indirect effects on a landscape receptor. The Proposed Development would not greatly alter the perception of the landscape nor conflict greatly with its key characteristics.</p>

Table 7.13: Judging Significance of Landscape Effect	
Category	Criteria
Moderate Beneficial (significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a medium magnitude of change with typically direct effects (but not always) on a landscape receptor.</p> <p>If designated, enhancing some of the reasons for the designation.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would give rise to some improvements and/ or enhancements to the character of the landscape, forming a noticeable feature which would have some positive effects on the characteristics of the landscape baseline.</p>
Major Beneficial (significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would typically give rise to a high magnitude of change that typically has direct effects (but not always) on a more highly sensitive landscape receptor.</p> <p>If designated, enhancing the reasons for the designation.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would greatly improve and/or enhance the character of the landscape, would restore or reinstate valued characteristics, elements or features.</p>

4.5.39 In accordance with the EIA Regulations (see Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**)) it is important to determine whether the identified effects are likely to be significant. For the purposes of this assessment, any landscape effect judged to be 'major' or 'moderate' are deemed to be significant.

4.6 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Construction and Operation Effects

4.6.1 The assessment of construction effects assumes that the final structures being constructed would not be present in the landscape. For instance, assessment of construction effects of the proposed 400 kV OHL takes into consideration working areas, access tracks, foundations and the presence of construction vehicles / equipment etc. but not the finished structure of each pylon and conductors. The presence of the finished structures are assessed in the operational phase.

Growth Rates

- 4.6.2 Growth rates for proposed landscape replacement/ mitigation planting are based on information from the Forestry Commission Research Branch. Table 7.14 below presents the assumptions made in relation to average growth rates for a selection of trees planted at 450 mm. These rates assume good cultivation and management.

Table 7.14: Tree and Shrub Growth Rates (Planted as 450 mm whips)			
Species	Growth Year 1	Subsequent years growth	Assumed Minimum Height at Year 15
Oak	200 mm	300 - 400 mm	2900 - 3800 mm
Willow	200 mm	600 mm	8600 mm
Scots Pine	100 mm	200 mm	2900 mm
Hawthorn	150 mm	300 mm	4350 mm
Blackthorn	150 mm	300 mm	4350 mm
Birch	100 mm	300 mm	4300 mm

- 4.6.3 It is assumed that tree species planted at standard sizes (3.5-4.5 m) would grow at a rate of 300 mm per year and therefore would achieve a minimum height between 8-9 m by operation year 15.

Mitigation (On Site) and Enhancement Planting (Off Site)

- 4.6.4 The assessment considers the effects of secured mitigation planting only, as identified in the Schedule of Mitigation (**Document 5.28**).
- 4.6.5 Although enhancement planting off site may help to reduce effects these have not been considered in the assessment as they cannot be secured/ relied on.

Technical Limitations of the ZTV

- 4.6.6 The ZTVs have been generated in GIS using the Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 Digital Terrain Model. This data set takes no account of the screening effects of buildings and vegetation, which may in reality preclude visibility from certain areas. As a result they are referred to as 'bare earth' ZTVs and provide the 'worst case' or largest area from which a development may theoretically be visible.
- 4.6.7 As the ZTVs are theoretical, to take into account local screening elements within the landscape and confirm locations from where the different

components of the Proposed Development would actually be visible (i.e. a more realistic scenario), extensive fieldwork has been undertaken, the results of which have informed the assessment.

5 Basis of Assessment

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The basis of assessment section sets out the assumptions that have been made in respect of the design flexibility maintained within the draft DCO (**Document 2.1**), and the consideration that has been given to alternative scenarios and the sensitivity of the assessment to changes in the construction commencement year.
- 5.1.2 Details of the available flexibility are included in Chapter 3, Description of Proposed Development, (**Document 5.3**), and Chapter 4, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.4**) and are also considered in Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**).

5.2 FLEXIBILITY ASSUMPTIONS

- 5.2.1 The main assessment has been undertaken based upon the design shown on the Works Plans (**Document 4.4**), the Construction Plans (**Documents 5.4.1.1 and 5.4.1.2**) and the Design Plans (**Document 4.13**). To take account of the flexibility allowed for in the draft DCO (**Document 2.1**), consideration has been given to the potential for effects to be of greater significance should any of the permanent or temporary infrastructure elements be moved within the LOD or Order Limits.
- 5.2.2 Where relocating temporary or permanent infrastructure within the LOD may have changed the significance of an effect, an environmental commitment has been made, to restrict works in these areas. The Schedule of Environmental Commitments is provided in Volume 7 (**Document 7.4.2.1**) for more information.
- 5.2.3 The assumptions made regarding the use of flexibility for the main assessment, and any alternative assumptions, are set out in Table 7.15 below.

Table 7.15 Flexibility Assumptions

Element of flexibility	Proposed Development assumption for initial assessment	Flexibility assumptions considered.

Table 7.15 Flexibility Assumptions

Element of flexibility	Proposed Development assumption for initial assessment	Flexibility assumptions considered.
Lateral Limits of Deviation for the OHL	Each pylon is assessed in its current lateral location as shown on the Works Plans (Document 4.4). The conductors have been assessed based on the location of the pylons and centreline shown in on the Works Plans (Document 4.4).	The assessment has considered the possible effects of locating pylons or conductors anywhere within the LOD. Areas were excluded where the significance of the effect could increase. These are identified on the Schedule of Environmental Commitments (Document 7.4.2.1).
Vertical Limits of Deviation for pylons	Assessed at the height shown on the Indicative Pylon Schedule (Document 5.3.2.1)	The assessment has considered the possible effects of pylons being 6 m above the heights shown on the Pylon Schedule (i.e. all pylons having two, 3 m extensions).
Pylon footprint	The pylon footprint would have no material difference to the landscape assessment therefore has not been considered.	The pylon footprint would have no material difference to the landscape assessment therefore has not been considered.
Pylon foundation type	The type of foundation used is not considered relevant to this assessment	The type of foundation used is not considered relevant to this assessment.
Tunnel alignment within LOD	This is not applicable to the landscape assessment as it has no bearing on the above ground layout of the Proposed Development.	This is not applicable to the landscape assessment as it has no bearing on the above ground layout of the Proposed Development.
Tunnel depth	This is not applicable to the landscape assessment as it has no bearing on the above ground layout of the Proposed Development.	This is not applicable to the landscape assessment as it has no bearing on the above ground layout of the Proposed Development.

Table 7.15 Flexibility Assumptions

Element of flexibility	Proposed Development assumption for initial assessment	Flexibility assumptions considered.
Tunnel construction compounds (Braint and Tŷ Fodol Construction Compounds)	Construction work could take place anywhere within the areas identified on the Works Plans (Document 4.4).	Not applicable as this has already been taken into account for the initial assessment.
Braint THH/CSEC, Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC, Pentir Substation and Wylfa Substation	The assessment has been undertaken based on the maximum parameters shown on Design Plans (Document 4.13) and as per the Design Guide (Document 4.19).	Not applicable as this has already been taken into account for the initial assessment.
Access tracks and working areas	Access tracks and working areas would be located where they are currently shown on the Construction Plans (Document 5.4.1.1).	The assessment has considered the possible effects of locating access tracks and working areas anywhere else within the Order Limits. Areas were excluded where the magnitude of effects or sensitivity of receptors could increase. These are identified on the Schedule of Environmental Commitments (Document 7.4.2.1).
Penmynydd Road Compound	Construction work could take place anywhere within the area identified on the Works Plans (Document 4.4).	Not applicable as this has already been taken into account for the initial assessment.
Pentir Construction Compound	Construction work could take place anywhere within the area identified on the Works Plans (Document 4.4).	Not applicable as this has already been taken into account for the initial assessment.
Third Party Services	For the purposes of assessing construction landscape effects	Not applicable

Table 7.15 Flexibility Assumptions

Element of flexibility	Proposed Development assumption for initial assessment	Flexibility assumptions considered.
	<p>it has been assumed that all third party services within the LOD would be undergrounded as shown on the Third Party Services Construction Plans (Document 5.4.1.2)</p> <p>Access tracks and working areas would be located where they are currently shown on the Third Party Services Construction Plans (Document 5.4.1.2).</p> <p>For the purposes of assessing operational landscape effects it has been assumed that the third party services would remain as per the baseline.</p>	

5.3 CONSIDERATION OF SCENARIOS

5.3.1 There are three sets of options which have been considered by the assessment. These are:

- option A and B as explained in Chapter 3, Description of The Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**);
- direction of tunnelling (Scenarios 1, 2 and 3) as explained in Chapter 4, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.4**); and
- construction traffic using the existing A5025 (Link 1) alignment or using the new alignment as proposed by Horizon Nuclear Power as explained in Chapter 4, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.4**)

5.3.2 Table 7.16 details where these scenarios are relevant to the landscape assessment and how they have been assessed and reported in section 9 mitigation and residual effects.

Table 7.16 Consideration of Scenarios	
Option	How it has been considered within the assessment
Option A and B	<p>This is relevant to the assessment of effects on landscape character in one discrete part of the study area in Section D.</p> <p>The difference between Option A and Option B has been considered in terms of how this may affect the assessment of the effects on landscape character of the relevant VSAA (Appendix 7.2 Document 5.7.2.2).</p>
Direction of tunnelling (Scenarios 1, 2 and 3)	The landscape assessment has assumed that either Braint or Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound could hold storage of excavated material arising from the tunnel.
Construction traffic using the existing A5025 alignment or using the new alignment as proposed by Horizon Nuclear Power	<p>It is considered that in terms of landscape effects the difference between these two options as Construction Traffic Routes would be negligible.</p> <p>This is therefore not considered further in this chapter.</p>

5.4 SENSITIVITY TEST

Construction Start Date

5.4.1 Under the terms of the draft DCO (**Document 2.1**), construction could commence in any year up five years from the granting of the DCO which is assumed to be 2025. Consideration has been given to whether the mitigation proposed or residual landscape effects reported would be any different if the works were to commence in any year up to 2025. It has been concluded that there would be no difference. It has therefore not been necessary to undertake a more detailed assessment for an alternative programme to that set out in Chapter 4, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.4**).

Duration of Construction Activities

- 5.4.2 It is possible that some construction activities may take a longer or shorter length of time to complete than currently predicted in the construction programme used for the purposes of assessment. To ensure a robust assessment, additional consideration has been given to any difference in the effects as assessed should there be any increase or decreases in the duration of individual construction activities, or indeed the construction programme as a whole.
- 5.4.3 In terms of the assessment of landscape effects it is considered that there is no potential for changes to the duration of construction activities, or the programme as a whole, to alter the assessment findings as reported in section 9 Mitigation and Residual Effects.

6 Study Area

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 This section describes the spatial scope and justification for the study area for the landscape assessment.

6.2 STUDY AREA

- 6.2.1 In accordance with the EIA Regulations (see Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**)), which require the identification of the 'likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment' (Schedule 4 Part 1 Paragraph 20), the landscape assessment focuses on those areas which are likely to experience significant effects.
- 6.2.2 The Landscape Study Area extends 5 km from the maximum extent of the Limits of Deviation (LOD) for the 400 kV OHL (for both Options A and B combined); from the centre of proposed pylon 4ZB001A (to the east of Pentir Substation) and from the parameters for the THHs and CSEC elements of the Proposed Development (a definition of the LOD and parameters is included in Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**)). This approach is considered appropriate and proportionate. The inclusion of a buffer off the centre of proposed pylon 4ZB001A allows for consideration of effects of the extension to the existing Pentir Substation that lies outside the LOD and parameters.
- 6.2.3 Although construction works within the Order Limits extend wider than the LOD and parameters it is considered that this Study Area is more than sufficient to identify any potential significant effects arising from these. The Landscape Study Area does not include construction traffic routes outside the Landscape Study Area as these are limited to traffic along the A5025 (Link 1) and B5112 (Link 26). It is considered that the use of these existing roads during construction would not result in significant cumulative effects.
- 6.2.4 At a 5 km distance, a 61.5 m tall pylon¹⁰ would appear to be approximately 0.75 cm high in the landscape¹¹ when viewed at arm's length. It would

¹⁰ The height of the tallest pylon as shown on the Indicative Pylon Schedule (**Document 5.3.2.1**) is 61.5 m.

therefore be unlikely to give rise to significant landscape effects. To cover the unlikely eventuality that a pylon may give rise to a significant effect beyond this distance, key sensitive landscape receptors which may be affected by the Proposed Development have also been included in the assessment, including Snowdonia National Park which at its closest point is approximately 6.2 km from the LOD.

- 6.2.5 To fully consider the flexibility of the design, the potential for pylons to be an additional 6 m taller was considered. Eight of the proposed pylons have the potential to be taller than the 61.5 m if the vertical LOD is required, with one potentially being 67.5 m. At 5 km this would appear 0.82cm high in the landscape and remains unlikely to give rise to significant landscape effects.
- 6.2.6 To support the definition of a study area and the assessment, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps have been produced for the different elements of the Proposed Development. These illustrate theoretical visibility during the operational phase. As the ZTVs were primarily undertaken for the visual assessment they are found in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**) as follows: ZTV for the proposed 400 kV OHL Figure 8.2 (**Document 5.8.1.2**), ZTV for the proposed Braint THH/CSEC, Figure 8.3 (**Document 5.8.1.3**), ZTV for Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC Figure 8.4 (**Document 5.8.1.4**) ZTV for Wylfa Substation Extension Figure 8.5 (**Document 5.8.1.5**) and ZTV for Pentir Substation Extension Figure 8.6 (**Document 5.8.1.6**). The method for production of ZTVs is included in section 4 of Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**).
- 6.2.7 It is important to note that different parts of the study area were used to assess landscape sensitivity to the different components of the Proposed Development as follows:
- The 5 km study area was used to consider landscape sensitivity to a proposed new 400 kV OHL;
 - A more focussed 5 km study area was used to consider landscape sensitivity to proposed THH/CSEC based on parameters as per the Design Plans (**Document 4.13**). This study area was also used to consider landscape sensitivity in relation to the proposed Pentir Substation extension; and

¹¹ Apparent height or angular size of an object is the height that an object appears at arm's length and is calculated by considering the known height of an object and distance from that object. For a 61.5 m tall pylon, the apparent height at 10 km is 0.38 cm, 5 km is 0.75 cm and 3 km is 1.25cm.

- As the proposed works to Wylfa Substation would be entirely contained within the existing substation footprint, it was considered that there would be no effects on the wider landscape and therefore only the VSAA that the works would fall within has been considered in terms of landscape sensitivity to that element of the Proposed Development.

7 Baseline Conditions

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 This section reports on the findings of baseline studies, identifying receptors within the study area which may be affected by the Proposed Development. It also anticipates changes in the landscape baseline prior to construction.
- 7.1.2 The landscape overview, LANDMAP VSAs, landscape character areas, and designations described in this section are shown on the figures listed in section 1.
- 7.1.3 There are also references made to viewpoint locations; more information and photos for viewpoints can be found in the Viewpoint Assessment in Appendix 8.2 (**Document 5.8.2.2**).

7.2 LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

- 7.2.1 The study area encompasses much of the eastern side of Anglesey together with a small part of north Gwynedd on the mainland.
- 7.2.2 The proposed 400 kV OHL would cross the island of Anglesey in a general north-west to south-east direction from Wylfa on the coast, running inland, toward the Menai Strait on the south coast. This eastern half of Anglesey comprises rolling and undulating lowland landform, punctuated by the elevated and isolated rocky outcrops of Parys Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon. LANDMAP describes inland parts of Anglesey as *'Heaths, pastoral landscapes with craggy knolls, and low rugged hills.... The pastoral land use has retained prehistoric, medieval and post medieval influences including standing stones, irregular fieldscapes, stone walls and clawdd hedgebanks.'*¹² LANDMAP descriptions state that *'much of the scenic and visual distinctiveness is associated with coastal natural landforms and features, including headlands, rivers, dunes, beaches and saltmarshes. South-western coasts are more open to prevailing winds and have more windswept landscapes with larger dunes, some of which reach inland and impound lakes.... much of the scenic and visual distinctiveness is*

¹² Area Statement North-west Wales Landscape -

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/685443/as-north-west-wales-landscape-final-april-2018.pdf>

*associated with coastal natural landforms and features, including headlands, rivers, dunes, beaches and saltmarshes.... Coastal views across to Great Orme, Snowdonia and the Llŷn Peninsula provide a grander scale of setting*¹³

- 7.2.3 The proposed 400 kV connection would cross the Menai Strait from Anglesey in a tunnel and re-emerge as an OHL in Gwynedd, where the rolling landform transitions towards the upland fringes of Snowdonia. LANDMAP describes this part of Gwynedd as including '*much rural lowland and coast, plus several outlying hills and mountains. The landscape of Arfon is generally pastoral but has a few landed estates including Penrhyn, Faenol and Glynllifon. The coast of Arfon is that of the incised and rapidly flowing Menai Strait, either end of which there are extensive sheltered intertidal areas at Foryd Bay and Traeth Lafan, noted for their wildlife.*'¹³
- 7.2.4 Much of the proposed connection would follow a similar route to that of the existing 400 kV OHL between Wylfa and Pentir Substations. The paragraphs below describe the context of the study area in more detail.

The Landscape of Anglesey

- 7.2.5 Anglesey is a relatively low-lying island located to the north-west of Wales in the Irish Sea. Low hills are spaced relatively evenly over the island. The highest six are Holyhead Mountain (220 mAOD), Mynydd Bodafon (178 mAOD, Mynydd Eilian (177 mAOD) Mynydd y Garn (170 mAOD) Bwrdd Arthur (164 mAOD) and Mynydd Llwydiarth (158 mAOD). LANDMAP references some of these as '*Small, distinct, windswept and rugged mountains exist at Holyhead and Bodafon, which stand out in longer distance views. Also, Parys Mountain is a striking upland open cast copper mine landscape of relic workings and tips and strangely coloured, exposed minerals.*'¹³
- 7.2.6 The landform of the island of Anglesey typically falls from north-east to south-west, with ridgelines generally following the same pattern. This can be seen on Figures 7.5 and 7.6 Landform and Drainage (**Document 5.7.1.5 and 5.7.1.6**). Although there are few natural lakes or large watercourses, there are two large water supply reservoirs operated by Welsh Water. These are Llŷn Alaw to the north of the island and Llŷn Cefni in the centre of the island, which is fed by the Afon Cefni. To the south/south-east the

¹³ Area Statement North-west Wales Landscape -

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/685443/as-north-west-wales-landscape-final-april-2018.pdf>

island is separated from the Welsh mainland by the Menai Strait; a narrow stretch of tidal water approximately 25 km long and about 250 m wide at its narrowest. LANDMAP acknowledges the Menai Strait as being ‘.... *important to the island’s identity, beside which there are a number of landed estates, notably Plas Newydd. The Menai Suspension Bridge and Point Britannia form the only crossing points and offer dramatic views over the strait.*’¹⁴

- 7.2.7 Figure 7.7, Landscape Overview (**Document 5.7.1.4**), provides an overview of infrastructure and settlements as discussed in the text below. There are several towns and villages scattered around the island; this together with frequent dispersed farms and rural properties makes it quite evenly populated. The largest towns are Holyhead, Llangefni, Benllech, Menai Bridge, Llanfairpwll and Amlwch.
- 7.2.8 The island's rural coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and features many sandy beaches, especially along its eastern coast between the towns of Beaumaris and Amlwch and along the western coast from Ynys Llanddwyn through Rhosneigr to the little bays around Carmel Head. The northern coastline has dramatic cliffs interspersed with small bays. The Anglesey Coastal Path (which forms part of the Wales Coast Path) is a 201 km path, which follows nearly the entire coastline. The fine sandy beaches and attractive coastline attract many visitors to Anglesey.
- 7.2.9 The landscapes of Anglesey are in places influenced by industry and modern infrastructure. On the north coast is Wylfa Nuclear Power Station. Anglesey also has three onshore windfarms and a number of single and double wind turbines. The A55 is a major road which bisects Anglesey, running between Holyhead and the Britannia Bridge. The A5 runs broadly parallel to the A55. An existing 400 kV OHL runs from Wylfa Nuclear Power Station towards Llanfairpwll and crosses over the Menai Strait alongside the Britannia Bridge. A 132 kV OHL (on steel lattice towers) runs between Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and Valley. A much smaller 66 kV OHL runs roughly parallel to the A55 and A5 between Valley and Llanfairpwll. There is a wide range of smaller industries, mostly located in industrial and business parks especially at Holyhead, Llangefni and Gaerwen.

¹⁴ Area Statement North-west Wales Landscape -

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/685443/as-north-west-wales-landscape-final-april-2018.pdf>

The Landscape of Gwynedd

- 7.2.10 The county of Gwynedd is located in the north-west of Wales. It offers a range of dramatic landscapes from the broad coastal and estuarine landscapes found to the coast, to rolling uplands and rugged mountains found inland in Snowdonia.
- 7.2.11 The landform of Gwynedd generally falls from the mountainous interior of Snowdonia to the coast. The Llŷn Peninsula is a notable plateau dominated by many distinctive volcanic hills and mountains. Gwynedd contains numerous river systems with their source generally in the uplands and, in the north, draining into Conwy Bay, the Menai Strait and Caernarfon Bay. There are a relatively large number of lakes and reservoirs found in Gwynedd, most of the largest being in Snowdonia.
- 7.2.12 Much of Gwynedd is sparsely populated. Busy port and coastal towns contrast markedly with the highly rural areas inland. The largest towns within or close to the study area are Bangor and Caernarfon.
- 7.2.13 Gwynedd is home to both the Llŷn AONB and Snowdonia National Park.
- 7.2.14 Snowdonia National Park is governed by Snowdonia National Park Authority and at 213,000 ha is the largest of the three national parks in Wales. It offers an impressive range of landscapes from rugged mountains, rolling uplands and spectacular coastlines. It is valued, amongst other things, for its diverse range of landscapes, its cultural and historic landscape, its complex geology and the range of both active and contemplative activities that it offers.
- 7.2.15 The Llŷn AONB is focused around the coast of the Llŷn Peninsula but also includes many of the peninsulas volcanic hills and mountains. Large stretches of the northern coast consist of steep cliffs with off shore islands and stacks, with sandy beaches being found to the south. This attractive coastline attracts many visitors to the Llŷn Peninsula, with visitors attracted to perception of remoteness in addition to the beautiful coastline.
- 7.2.16 The landscapes of Gwynedd are in places influenced by industry and modern infrastructure. The A55 is a major road which runs from the east along the north Gwynedd coastline and around Bangor to the Britannia Bridge. The A487 is also a main road which runs west from the A55 along the north Gwynedd coast and through Caernarfon. In addition to the existing 400 kV OHL that runs from Wylfa to Pentir, there are two other sections of 400 kV OHL that connect into/ out of the existing Pentir Substation. One runs from Connaahs Quay to Pentir (4ZB) and the other from Pentir to Trawsfynydd (4ZC). There is a wide range of other industries,

mostly located in industrial and business parks especially at Bangor and Caernarfon.

7.3 FUTURE BASELINE PREDICTIONS

- 7.3.1 Predicting the future baseline landscape involves a degree of speculation and uncertainty, as acknowledged at paragraph 5.33 of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.15).
- 7.3.2 The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy (Ref 7.8) reviewed as part of the desk-based landscape assessment identifies '*Future Issues*' for each landscape character area. The Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey (Ref 7.18) also includes some discussion regarding pressures on the Special Landscape Areas in terms of the '*Need*' for the designation. The Anglesey AONB Management Plan (Ref 7.17) identifies forces for change in relation to future pressures on the landscape, this includes consideration of the Anglesey Energy Island Programme.
- 7.3.3 The National Landscape Character Areas (published by Natural Resources Wales) (Ref 7.14) and the Anglesey Landscape Strategy (Ref 7.7) have also been reviewed; neither of these documents contain text relating to future issues or forces for change.
- 7.3.4 When considering the future baseline landscape, consideration has been given to ash dieback. This is a disease of ash trees caused by a fungus of Asian origin called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (H. fraxineus; formerly called *Chalara fraxinea*). The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and is usually fatal. Mapping by Defra and the Forestry Commission (Ref 7.27) confirms the presence of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) on Anglesey and also within Gwynedd. The Arboricultural Impact Report (**Document 5.30**) has not identified the presence of ash dieback in trees surveyed for the Proposed Development. The future baseline therefore assumes that there would be loss of ash trees in the long-term across the study area, but that other tree species would occupy gaps created in the short-term and overall levels of vegetation would remain similar to existing.
- 7.3.5 As previously stated, it is recognised that no landscape is static and that the landscape across the study area is under different pressures and continually changing. Further to a review of the above, in terms of landscape character, it is considered that the character of the baseline landscape would not significantly change in the future (up to and including 2025).

7.4 LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Tree Cover

- 7.4.1 The distribution of trees and woodland are reflected in Figure 7.1 (**Document 5.7.1.1**) and Figure 7.2 (**Document 5.7.1.2**). In broad terms, the landscape of the study area can be described as a rural landscape relatively sparse of tree cover in the north but becoming increasingly well treed towards the south. LANDMAP describes Anglesey as having *'comparatively few trees compared to other parts of Wales (3% cover) and much of this is contained within two large coniferous woodlands, at Newborough and Pentraeth.'*
- 7.4.2 The landscape around Sections A and B (see Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development (**Document 5.3**)) of the Proposed Development comprises sparse tree cover (Figure 7.2 (**Document 5.7.1.2**)). Intermittent small pockets of trees are typically located towards corners of fields or within and surrounding settlements and properties; such as around Brynddu and Carrog Isa to the east of Llanfechell. Riparian tree cover follows watercourses such as the Afon Wygyr. There are relatively few hedgerow trees. The most notable areas of tree cover in the north are associated with Wylfa Nuclear Power Station, and screen planting associated with the former 'Rhosgoch Shell Oil Plant/Depot' and narrow strips of woodland which run along the edges of Llyn Alaw reservoir.
- 7.4.3 Tree cover increases within the central parts of the study area, around Sections C and D of the Proposed Development; most notably towards the east (Figure 7.2 (**Document 5.7.1.2**)). Within and around the Parciau Estatelands SLA there are relatively large areas of mixed, ornamental and coniferous woodlands. Further examples of large blocks of coniferous woodland can also be found around the banks of Cefni Reservoir. Large belts of deciduous riparian woodland also follow the Afon Cefni. Other notable areas of woodland are associated with parks and gardens such as at Plas Gwyn and Plas Berw; around historical properties such as Tregain and Tre-Ysagwen (Hotel) to the south of Capel Coch; around Plas Llandyfnan to the north of Talwrn; and at Gylched Covert to the south of Talwrn.
- 7.4.4 The landscape around Sections E and F of the Proposed Development is noticeably well treed (Figure 7.2 (**Document 5.7.1.2**)). The parkland estates of Plas Newydd and Vaynol include large blocks of broadleaved deciduous woodland interspersed with ornamental woodlands associated with pleasure grounds and gardens. The SLAs of Southern Anglesey Estatelands and

Vaynol Estate and Surrounds are also noted for their well wooded characters which are integral to their special qualities.

- 7.4.5 Outside of these estate lands, coniferous woodland is more prevalent, being particularly noteworthy around the substation at Pentir, to Greenwood Forest Park and to the slopes and uplands within and around the North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA. These larger woodlands are interspersed with blocks and belts of relatively large broadleaved woodland, many of which are linear in their nature such as those which accompany the Sustrans National Cycle Routes 5 and 82 or woodlands which accompany water courses or ridgelines and valleys such as the Afon Cegin valley.

Ancient Woodland

- 7.4.6 Ancient Woodland is discussed within section 7 of the Arboricultural Assessment (**Document 5.30**)

- 7.4.7 Ancient Woodland Inventory 2011 records follow a similar pattern to other woodland in terms of pattern and spread in that there are relatively few blocks to the north of the study area, with this coverage increasing to the central areas and becoming more prevalent to the south around the Menai Strait and within Gwynedd. The Proposed Development has been planned in order to avoid blocks of Ancient Woodland where possible. There are however three areas where the Order Limits for the above ground works contain areas of Ancient Woodland. These woodlands are located in Gwynedd. They are as follows:

- A very small part of Plantation on Ancient Woodland (PAWS) woodland to the north of the substation at Pentir and west of the southern tip of the forestry block of Coed Rhos-fawr. The woodland abuts a lane located to the north of Pentir Substation and the Order Limits encroach on a small length of the very southern edge of the woodland as it accompanies this road;
- A Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS) located adjacent to Fodolydd Road; and
- A block of PAWS located to the west of Pentir Substation. It is contained almost entirely within the Order Limits. Although most of this woodland has been included to ensure the long term retention and management of this area to provide effective screening of the substation.

- 7.4.8 It should be noted that whilst other areas of Ancient Woodland fall within the Order Limits between the proposed Braint THH/CSEC), and Tŷ Fodol

THH/CSEC, the Proposed Development (with the exception of construction traffic using existing roads) would be underground in a tunnel at this point, hence all other areas of woodland would remain unaffected and are therefore not considered further in this chapter.

- 7.4.9 Furthermore, mapping of Ancient Woodland shows that a small (0.6 ha) block of Restored Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (RASW) located east of the Afon Erddreiniog and north of Erddreiniog Covert near Capel Coch (Grid reference 246046, 381142) could have a very small portion of its eastern boundary clipped by the western edge of the Order Limits.

Veteran Trees

- 7.4.10 Ten veteran trees have been identified by the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (**Document 5.30**), six within the Order Limits. These are trees which, because of their age, size or condition, are of exceptional cultural, landscape or nature conservation value.

Value

- 7.4.11 As discussed in section 4, trees are considered to be important landscape elements which contribute towards the pattern, scale and character of a landscape. Value is therefore considered to be **high**.

Field Boundaries

- 7.4.12 Field boundaries across the study area comprise a mix of hedgerows, stone walls and post and wire fencing (as described in more detail in Chapter 9, Ecology and Nature Conservation, (**Document 5.9**)). This pattern is seen across the study area with more managed hedgerow being evident to the south-east of the study area.
- 7.4.13 There are also examples of local features such as cloddiau (stone faced earth banks, often with a hedgerow on top) which can be found both on Anglesey and within Gwynedd. Crawlau (slate pillar fencing) is a distinct boundary made of slate and within the study area is found locally around the Pentir area of Gwynedd.
- 7.4.14 Upland areas such as at Parys Mountain, Mynydd Bodafon and the fringe areas of Snowdonia are characterised by an absence of boundaries or by the prevalence of stone walls.
- 7.4.15 As discussed in section 4, field boundaries are considered to be highly important landscape elements which contribute towards the pattern, scale and character of a landscape. Value is therefore considered to be **high**.

Landform

- 7.4.16 As has been described in the landscape overview, the landform of Anglesey typically falls from north-east to south-west, with ridgelines generally following the same pattern. Low hills are spaced relatively evenly over the island. The landform of Gwynedd generally falls from the mountainous interior of Snowdonia to the coast and estuaries of the north and west.
- 7.4.17 As discussed in section 4, the value of the landform of the study area is considered to be **medium**, with the exception of particularly distinctive landform within the study area which has a **high** value, including distinctive rocky outcrops and landform such as at Mynydd Mechell Mynydd y Garn, Parys Mountain, Mynydd Bodafon in Anglesey and Moel Rhiwen and Moel y Ci in Gwynedd.

7.5 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 7.5.1 The baseline value of the landscape character of the study area has been reported by VSAA and described in Table 7.17 which provides a summary list of the 51 VSAA's that have been considered. The full baseline descriptions and reasoning for values for each VSAA can be found in Appendix 7.2, VSAA Character Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.2**). VSAA locations are illustrated on Figure 7.8 (**Document 5.7.1.8**) and Figure 7.9 (**Document 5.7.1.9**) and values illustrated on Figure B1.1 and B1.2 of Appendix 7.2, VSAA Character Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.2**).

Table 7.17 VSAA's within the Study area			
VSAA Reference	VSAA Name	Value	Relationship with a designated landscape
Anglesey Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas			
YNSMNVS002	Mynydd y Garn	High	Anglesey AONB covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS003	Mynydd Eilan	High	Anglesey AONB and Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA fall partially within VSAA
YNSMNVS004	Mynydd Bodafon	High	Anglesey AONB covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS008 (North)	North-west Drumlins (North)	Medium	Anglesey AONB falls within western part of VSAA

Table 7.17 VSAs within the Study area			
VSAA Reference	VSAA Name	Value	Relationship with a designated landscape
YNSMNVS008 (South)	North-west Drumlins (South)	Medium	N/A
YNSMNVS009	Mynydd Mechell	High	Mynedd Mechell & Surrounds SLA covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS010	Drumlins with Windfarms	Medium	Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA falls within eastern part of VSAA
YNSMNVS011	North Coast Hinterland	High	Anglesey AONB and Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA fall partially within VSAA
YNSMNVS012	Central Smooth Belt	Medium	Anglesey AONB falls partially within the VSAA. Parciau Estatelands SLA covers whole VSAA.
YNSMNVS013	Central/south-West Craggy Belt	Medium -High	Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA falls partially within VSAA
YNSMNVS014	Benllech Hinterland	Medium -High	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS017	Eastern Smooth Belt	Medium -High	Part of Anglesey AONB and part of Beaumaris Wooded Slopes and Llandoeg Vale SLA fall within the VSAA
YNSMNVS018	South-west ridges	Medium -High	Part of Anglesey AONB and all of Southern Anglesey Estatelands fall within the VSAA
YNSMNVS022	Pentraeth Valleys	Medium -High	Very small proportion of Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA falls within the VSAA
YNSMNVS023	Llangefni Dingle	High	N/A
YNSMNVS024	Cwm Cadnant	High	Very small proportion of Anglesey AONB falls within the VSAA
YNSMNVS026	Menai Straits	High	Anglesey AONB covers the

Table 7.17 VSAs within the Study area			
VSAA Reference	VSAA Name	Value	Relationship with a designated landscape
	Slopes - South		majority of the VSAA
YNSMNVS027	Malltraeth Marsh South Slopes	Medium -High	Part of Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA fall within VSAA
YNSMNVS028	Malltraeth Marsh	Medium -High	Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA covers the entire VSAA within the Study Area
YNSMNVS035	North Coast	High	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS036	Cemlyn	High	Anglesey AONB covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS038	Traeth Dulas	High	Anglesey AONB covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS043	Menai Straits - Mid Section	High	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS044	Menai Straits South	High	Anglesey AONB covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS056	Llyn Alaw	Medium -High	N/A
YNSMNVS057	Cefni Reservoir	Medium -High	N/A
YNSMNVS059	Llangefni	Medium	Very small proportion of Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA falls within the VSAA
YNSMNVS060	Amlwch	Medium	N/A
YNSMNVS061	Menai Bridge	High	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS062	Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	Medium	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS068	Cemaes	Medium	N/A
YNSMNVS069	Llanfechell	Medium	N/A

Table 7.17 VSAs within the Study area			
VSAA Reference	VSAA Name	Value	Relationship with a designated landscape
YNSMNVS070	Llanerchymedd	Medium	N/A
YNSMNVS075	Pentraeth	Medium	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS078	Gaerwen	Medium	Very small proportion of Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA falls within the VSAA
YNSMNVS086	Wylfa Power Station	Medium -Low	N/A
YNSMNVS087	Parys Mountain	High	Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA covers whole VSAA
YNSMNVS091	A55 Corridor	Medium	Part of Anglesey AONB and part of Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA fall within VSAA
YNSMNVS093	Menai Straits Slopes - North	High	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
YNSMNVS095	Pentraeth Valleys Maritime	High	Part of Anglesey AONB falls within VSAA
Gwynedd Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas			
GWNDDVS002	Bangor	Medium	Small parts of VSAA fall within Vaynol Estate and Surrounds SLA and Bangor Mountain & Minffordd Rural Hinterland SLA
GWNDDVS005	Vaynol Estate	High	Vaynol Estate and Surrounds SLA covers whole VSAA
GWNDDVS006	Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor)	Medium -High	The majority of Bangor Mountain & Minffordd Rural Hinterland SLA falls within VSAA
GWNDDVS011	Waen-Pentir	Medium -High	Part of North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA falls within VSAA
GWNDDVS012	Cefn-du	High	The majority of the VSAA is covered by North-Western

Table 7.17 VSAs within the Study area			
VSAA Reference	VSAA Name	Value	Relationship with a designated landscape
			Fringes of Snowdonia SLA
GWNDDVS014	Afon Rhythallt	Medium -High	N/A
GWNDDVS015	Afon Seiont	Medium	N/A
GWNDDVS017	Plas Menai	Medium	N/A
GWNDDVS018	Llanrug	Medium	N/A
GWNDDVS025	Y Felinheli	Medium -High	N/A
GWNDDVS086	Mud/shingle	High	Part of Vaynol Estate and Surrounds SLA fall within VSAA

7.6 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

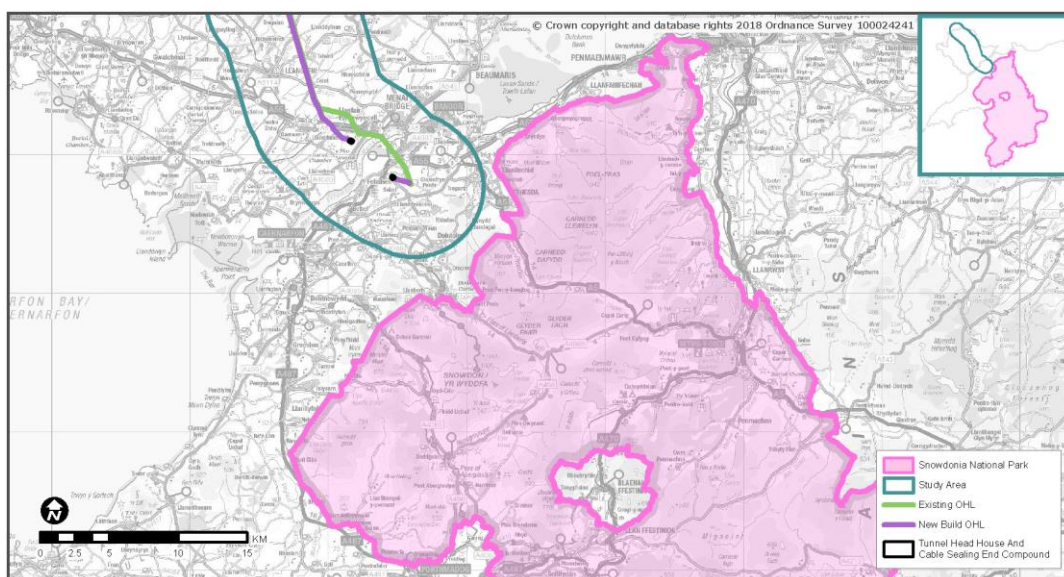
7.6.1 The following ten landscape related designations (both statutory and non-statutory) have been identified across the study area as follows:

- Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (Statutory National Designation);
- Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);
- Parys Mountain & Slopes Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);
- Parciau Estatelands Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);
- Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);
- Southern Anglesey Estatelands Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);
- Menai Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);

- Bangor Mountain Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation);
- North-western Fringes of Snowdonia Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Non-statutory Local Policy Designation); and
- North Anglesey Coast Heritage Coast (Non-statutory¹⁵).

7.6.2 In addition to landscape related designations within the study area, this chapter also includes consideration of effects on Snowdonia National Park (Statutory National Designation) which lies wholly outside the study area.

7.6.3 The locations of landscape designations identified are shown on Figure 7.1 (**Document 5.7.1.1**), Figure 7.2 (**Document 5.7.1.2**), Figure 7.3 (**Document 5.7.1.3**) and Figure 7.4 (**Document 5.7.1.4**). The following paragraphs describe the designated areas that have been considered along with the value attributed to them.



Snowdonia National Park

Image 7.2: Snowdonia National Park

7.6.4 At 213,000 ha, Snowdonia National Park is the largest of the three National Parks in Wales and attracts thousands of visitors each year. It was designated in 1951 and is administered by its own National Park Authority.

¹⁵ Heritage Coasts are not statutory designations but the planning authorities must take them into account when making decisions regarding development (<http://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/ProtectedSitesHeritageCoast/?lang=en>)

The National Park lies approximately 1 km outside the southern boundary of the study area as illustrated in Image 7.2. At its closest point it is approximately 6.2 km from the LOD of the Proposed Development (5.67 km to the nearest point of the Order Limits).

7.6.5 The current management plan for Snowdonia National Park (2010-15) (Ref 7.16) identifies its special qualities as follows (those which are of particular relevance to the landscape are highlighted in bold):

- the diversity of high quality landscapes and coastal areas within a small geographic area - ranging from coast to rolling uplands to the rugged mountains for which Snowdonia is famed;
- the robust sense of community cohesion, belonging and vibrancy which combine to give a strong 'sense of place';
- continuing vibrancy of the Welsh language as the primary language in many social and professional environments. This aspect is evident in local place names that reflect the area's cultural heritage;
- an area which has inspired some of the nation's most notable culture, folklore, art, literature and music, an influence which continues to the present day;
- the opportunity for people to understand and enjoy the National Park actively, whilst maintaining areas of tranquillity and solitude, thus promoting aspects of health, well-being and personal reflection;
- extensive opportunities for recreation, leisure and learning for people of all ages and ability;
- landscapes and townscapes which chart human interaction over centuries, from Neolithic times to the present day. This is evident in archaeological remains, place and field names, oral and written history and present day land management practices. Snowdonia's architectural heritage is reflected in the density of Listed Buildings and the wider historic environment;
- complex, varied and renowned geology, vital in influencing the disciplines of geology and geography internationally; and
- varied biodiversity reflecting Snowdonia's landscapes, geology, land management practices and climate. Some species and habitats are of national and international significance, for example species which are remnants of the last Ice-Age, providing a glimpse of semi-Arctic

habitats. Snowdonia is the most southerly point in the UK for many such species.

7.6.6 Whilst the National Park is largely valued for its lack of development, there are areas where the landscape is affected by existing 400 kV overhead line (OHL) infrastructure and lower voltage OHL.

7.6.7 Figure 7.4 (**Document 5.7.1.4**) illustrates the areas have been identified by others forming part of the setting of Snowdonia National Park. These are recognised in published documents (as explained in section 4) and are listed below, as follows:

- North-western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA;
- Gwynedd LCA 1: Bangor Coastal Plain (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAAs) – The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy states that this LCA has a relationship to Snowdonia National Park (Ref 7.8);
- Gwynedd LCA 3: Llanberis and Bethesda (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAAs) – The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy states that this LCA has a relationship to Snowdonia National Park (Ref 7.8); and
- Anglesey LCA 11 – Eastern Menai Strait (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAAs) – The Anglesey Landscape Strategy states that ‘*an important consideration of the LCA is its close visual interrelationship with the mainland and the borrowed views towards Snowdonia from the A545*’ (Ref 7.7).

7.6.8 As a nationally designated asset, designated and protected due to the quality of its landscape, the overall value of Snowdonia National Park is **high**, and is of National importance.

7.6.9 Areas considered to fall within the setting of the National Park are considered to be **highly** valued, albeit there are some slightly lower judgements of value relating to underlying VSAAs that fall within Bangor Coastal Plain LCA 1 (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for judgements relating to value of underlying VSAAs).

7.6.10 Table 7.18 below lists viewpoints that are considered to fall within the area considered to be the setting of Snowdonia National Park. The baseline descriptions relating to these views is presented in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**). The majority of viewpoints represent general

views of the landscape. None have been identified as being relevant to peoples' sense of approach and arrival to the National Park.

Table 7.18: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the National Park

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
VP-6/10	View from viewpoint on the A5 to the east of Llanfairpwll	YNSMNVS026 Anglesey LCA 11
VP-6/16	View from Wales Coast Path on the A487 near Vaynol	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 01 On boundary of Vaynol Estate and Surrounds SLA
VP-6/18	View from Fford Fodolydd near Fodol	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 04
VP-6/19	View from road in Caerhun	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 01
VP-6/21	View from road in Seion	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 04
VP-6/23	View from Rhiwlas	GWNDDVS011 Gwynedd LCA 02
VP-6/24	View from PRow on Moel Y Ci	GWNDDVS012 Gwynedd LCA 03
VP-6/25	View from Moel Rhiwen	GWNDDVS012 Gwynedd LCA 03 North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA
VP-6/26	View from road to the west of Pentir near Garth Farm	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 04
VP-6/27	View from B4366 on eastern edge of Bethel	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 04
VP-6/30	View from B4547 near Nant-Y-Garth	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 04
VP-6/31	View from southern edge of Bangor	GWNDDVS002

Table 7.18: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the National Park

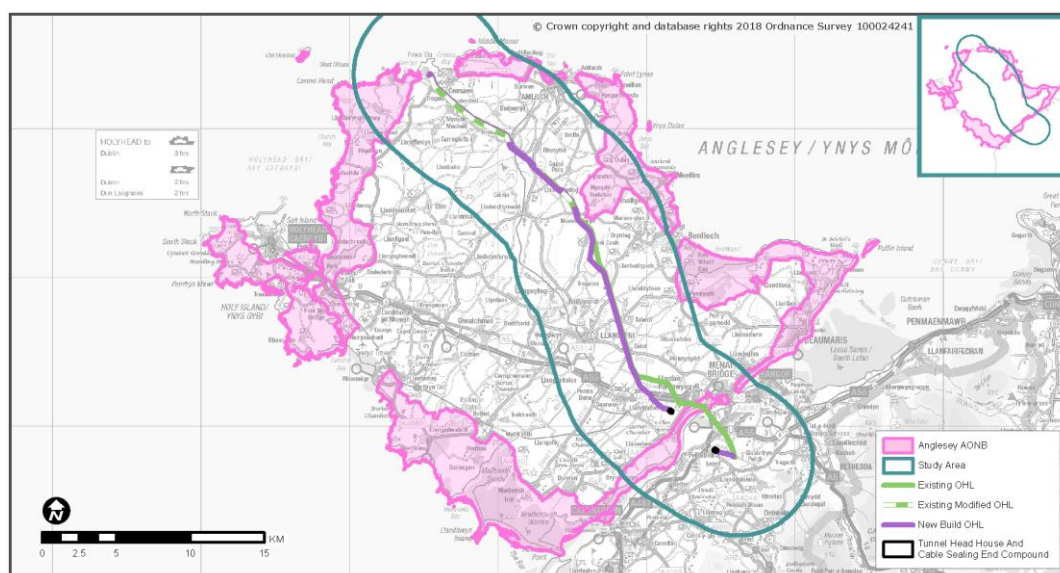
VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
	within new housing estate	Gwynedd LCA 01

7.6.11 Although there are some promoted views which take in the skyline of the National Park, they are not considered to fall within the setting of the National Park. These are discussed in detail in Chapter 8, Visual Assessment (**Document 5.8**); and are as follows:

- VP-3/05 View from trig point on Mynydd Bodafon;
- VP-5/11 View from the A5152 at promoted viewpoint north of A55; and
- VP-6/10 View from viewpoint on the A5 to the east of Llanfairpwll.

7.6.12 No viewpoints have been taken from within the National Park due to its distance from the Proposed Development.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



Anglesey AONB

Image 7.3: Anglesey AONB

7.6.13 Anglesey AONB was designated in 1966 in order to '*protect the aesthetic appeal and variety of the island's coastal landscape and habitats from inappropriate development.*' (Ref 7.28)

7.6.14 The AONB wraps around the coast being '*predominantly a coastal designation covering most of Anglesey's 201km (125 miles) coastline*'¹⁶ as illustrated in Image 7.3. The AONB excludes the immediate landscape around Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and the settlement of Cemaes which are located on the north coast, RAF Valley in the west, Benllech in the east and an area around Menai Bridge to the south of the island.

7.6.15 In accordance with the AONB Management Plan (Ref 7.17), Anglesey AONB has a number of special qualities including the following (those which are considered to be of particular relevance to the landscape are highlighted in bold):

- Expansive Views/Seascapes;
- Peace and Tranquillity;
- Islands around Anglesey;
- Broadleaved Woodlands;
- Lowland Coastal Heath;
- Species Rich Roadside Verges;
- Ecologically Important Coastal and Wetland habitats (including rocky shores, mudflats and estuaries, saltmarshes, beaches and dunes);
- Built Environment including Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings;
- Archaeology and Ancient Monuments/Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens;
- Rural Agricultural/Coastal Communities;
- Welsh Language;
- Soil, Air and Water Quality;
- Public Rights of Way Network;
- Accessible Land and Water.

¹⁶ <http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/planning-and-waste/countryside/areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-aonbs/the-anglesey-aonb/>

7.6.16 Much of the AONB falls outside the study area; however, some parts do fall within the study area, as follows (note - these have been given a brief name in bold below for ease of reference in the subsequent descriptions):

- **'AONB North Coast'**: along the north coast either side of Wylfa and Cemaes that fall within Section A;
- **'AONB Eastern Inland'**: where the AONB boundary runs inland, wrapping around the distinctive summit of Mynydd Bodafon that fall within Section B, C and D; and
- **'AONB South Coast'**: along the northern bank of the Menai Strait, incorporating the designed landscape of Plas Newydd, that fall within Section E and F.

7.6.17 Figure 7.3 (**Document 5.7.1.3**) illustrates the areas identified as part of this study which are considered to form part of the setting of Anglesey AONB. These are recognised in published documents (as explained in section 4) and listed below, as follows:

- Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA - The summary justification for this SLA designation includes the fact it is considered as *'setting to the Anglesey AONB – mountain and slopes descend to the coast; strong intervisibility between the sea, coast and mountain'* (Ref 7.18);
- Parciau Estatelands SLA - The summary justification for this SLA designation includes the fact it is considered as *'Setting to the Anglesey AONB'* (Ref 7.18);
- Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA - The summary justification for this SLA designation includes the fact it *'forms immediate backdrop to Anglesey AONB and the Menai Straits'* (Ref 7.18);
- Menai SLA - The summary justification for this SLA designation includes its *'strong intervisibility with the Anglesey AONB and setting to the protected landscape'* (Ref 7.18);
- Gwynedd LCA 1: Bangor Coastal Plain (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAAs) – The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy states that this LCA has a relationship to Anglesey AONB (Ref 7.8);
- Gwynedd LCA 4: Caernarfon Coast & Plateau (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAAs) – The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy suggests that

the north-western part of this LCA has an important role in providing a setting to Anglesey AONB (Ref 7.8);

- Gwynedd LCA 16: Menai Coast (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAs) - The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy suggests that this LCA has an important relationship to Anglesey AONB and states that the '*area provides a setting to the Menai Straits as well as the Anglesey AONB, which lies on the opposite site of the water*' (Ref 7.8); and areas that fall within a 2 km buffer of Anglesey AONB which are not already included in the above areas. The AONB Management Plan, Management Objective 3 identifies the need for robust assessment of any development that falls within 2 km of the AONB boundary. This implies that these areas may be considered to be part of the setting of the AONB, although this is not explicitly stated.

7.6.18 As a nationally designated landscape the overall value of the AONB is considered **high**, and of National importance.

7.6.19 With regard to judgements of value of the setting of the Anglesey AONB, the SLAs considered to fall within the setting (as explained in section 4) are considered to be **highly** valued. Judgements relating to the value of the LCAs that form part of the AONB setting are **slightly lower** (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for judgements relating to value of underlying VSAs). Judgements relating to areas that fall outside the SLAs and LCAs and are within 2 km are varied, being generally **medium** adjacent to the AONB North Coast and AONB Eastern Inland and **medium-high** adjacent to AONB South Coast.

7.6.20 Table 7.19 below lists viewpoints that fall within the AONB. The baseline descriptions relating to people experiencing these views is presented in Appendix 8.2, Viewpoint Assessment (**Document 5.8.2.2**).

Table 7.19: Summary of Viewpoints within the AONB		
VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA
VP-1/14	View from road north-west of Llanfairynghornwy	YNSMNVS008
VP-1/15	View from Mynydd-y-Garn	YNSMNVS002
VP-1/18	View from Llanbadrig Point near Ty'n-Llan and St Patricks Church	YNSMNVS011
VP-1/20	View from road within the AONB near Ty-Du	YNSMNVS011

Table 7.19: Summary of Viewpoints within the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA
VP-1/21	View from road within the AONB near Llanlleiana	YNSMNVS011
VP-1/22	View from Wales Coast Path at Llanlleiana Head/ Dinas Gynfor	YNSMNVS011/ YNSMNVS035
VP-1/23	View from Wales Coast Path near Ogof Gynfor	YNSMNVS035
VP-1/28	View from Wales Coast Path at Cerrig Brith	YNSMNVS035
VP-1/34	View from layby opposite Marine Terrace looking over Cemaes Bay	YNSMNVS011
VP-1/35	View from the beach car park at Cemaes	YNSMNVS011
VP-1/36	View from local road near Capel Siloam south of Cemlyn Bay	YNSMNVS008
VP-1/37	View from Wales Coast Path at Cemlyn Bay	YNSMNVS035
VP-2/18	View from Mynydd Eilian	YNSMNVS003
VP-2/31	View from Wales Coast Path at Dulas Bay	YNSMNVS012
VP-3/03	View from Mynydd Bodafon towards Capel Coch and Snowdonia	YNSMNVS004
VP-3/05	View from trig point on Mynydd Bodafon	YNSMNVS004
VP-4/18	View from Trig Point near Hermon and the Wales Coast Path	YNSMNVS094
VP-5/15	View from Trig Point at Bwrdd Arthur	YNSMNVS015
VP-6/02	View from Plas Newydd	YNSMNVS026
VP-6/10	View from viewpoint on the A5 to the east of Llanfairpwll	YNSMNVS026

7.6.21 Table 7.20 below lists viewpoints that are considered to fall within the setting of the AONB. The baseline descriptions relating to people experiencing these views is presented in Appendix 8.2, Viewpoint Assessment (**Document 5.8.2.2**).

Table 7.20: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
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Table 7.20: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
VP-1/01	View from Maes Garnedd in Tregele	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/02	View from the A5025 between Tregele and Cemaes	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/03	View from western edge of Cemaes on A5025 adjacent to Ty Capel	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/04	View from Ffordd y Felin near Bryngwyn and Cysgod-Y-Twr	YNSMNVS010 Anglesey LCA 6
VP-1/05a	View north from the standing stones to the north-west of Llanfechell	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/05b	View east from the standing stones to the north-west of Llanfechell	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/17	View from layby on A5025 near Groes-Fechan	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/25	View from road within Parys Mountain SLA near Penrhyd Lastra	YNSMNVS010 Anglesey LCA 6 Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA
VP-1/26	View from PRoW near Craig y Gwynt south of Llanfairynghornwy	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/27	View from the A5025 near Betws	YNSMNVS010 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/29	View from Wales Coast Path near Porth Wylfa	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 04
VP-1/30	View from Wales Coast Path at Wylfa Head	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 04
VP-1/31	View south from A5025 at Junction Road to Wylfa	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/32	View from the A5025 near Tregynrig Bach	YNSMNVS010

Table 7.20: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
		Anglesey LCA 5
VP-1/38	View from entrance to Coed Cottages	YNSMNVS008 Anglesey LCA 5
VP-2/10a	View from Parys Mountain Special Landscape Area and Trig Point	YNSMNVS087 Anglesey LCA 07 Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA
VP-2/10b	View from Parys Mountain Special Landscape Area and Trig Point	YNSMNVS087 Anglesey LCA 07 Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA
VP-2/16	View from Capel Parc	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-2/21	View from Llandyfrydog	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-2/22	View from road between Llandyfrydog and Capel Parc near Bodneithor	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-2/28	View from road south of Capel Parc near Rhianfa	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-2/29	View from road to north of Llandyfrydog near existing 400 kV OHL	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-2/32	View from road to south of Parys Mountain near properties	YNSMNVS010 Anglesey LCA 07 Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA
VP-3/01	View from Lon Leidr south of Llandyfrydog	YNSMNVS010 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/02	View from Hebron	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/04	View from Capel Coch near Maes Gwynedd	YNSMNVS012

Table 7.20: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
		Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/06	View from road between Maenaddwyn and Mynydd Bodafon	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/07	View from Maenaddwyn	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/08	View from Church of St Michaels Church north of Capel Coch	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/09	View from road between Capel Coch and Maenaddwyn	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 08
VP-3/11	View from road between Maenaddwyn and Brynteg	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 17 Parciau Estatelands SLA
VP-3/13	View from PRoW within Parciau Estatelands Special Landscape Area	YNSMNVS012 Anglesey LCA 17 Parciau Estatelands SLA
VP-4/01	View from B4422 on bridge over A55	YNSMNVS013 Anglesey LCA 17 Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA
VP-4/12	View from the B5109 west of Pentraeth near Tan-y-Graig Farm	YNSMNVS022 Anglesey LCA 09
VP-4/13	View from PRoW by the A55 within Malltraeth Marsh and Surrounds SLA	YNSMNVS028 Anglesey LCA 15 Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA
VP-4/14	View from PRoW within Malltraeth Marsh and Surrounds SLA	YNSMNVS028 Anglesey LCA 15 Malltraeth Marsh

Table 7.20: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
		& Surrounds SLA
VP-4/16	View from PRow within Malltraeth Marsh and Surrounds SLA south of A55	YNSMNVS028 Anglesey LCA 15 Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA
VP-4/17	View from B4422 between Bethel and Llangristiolus near Tan Lan	YNSMNVS013 Anglesey LCA 16 Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA
VP-5/07	View from Star	YNSMNVS017 Anglesey LCA 12
VP-5/14	View from Bryn Celli Ddu	YNSMNVS018 Anglesey LCA 12
VP-5/16	View from Pentraeth Road (A5025) north of Menai Bridge	YNSMNVS017 Anglesey LCA 12
VP-6/01	View from A4080 between Llanfairpwll and Brynsiencyn	YNSMNVS018 Anglesey LCA 12 Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA
VP-6/03	View from bridge over the A55 to the west of Llanfairpwll	YNSMNVS091 Anglesey LCA 12
VP-6/04	View from Wales Coast Path on PRow on A4080 near Aber Braint	YNSMNVS018 Anglesey LCA 13 Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA
VP-6/05	View from bridge over the railway to the west of Llanfairpwll	YNSMNVS062 Anglesey LCA 12
VP-6/11	View from Britannia Bridge	GWNDDVS005 Gwynedd LCA 16

Table 7.20: Summary of Viewpoints within the Setting of the AONB

VP Ref	Name	Located within VSAA/ LCA/ SLA
		Menai SLA
VP-6/12	View from Menai Bridge	N/A
VP-6/14	View from Wales Coast Path within Vaynol Park	GWNDDVS005 Gwynedd LCA 16 Menai SLA
VP-6/16	View from Wales Coast Path on the A487 near Vaynol	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 1
VP-6/18	View from Fford Fodolydd near Fodol	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 4
VP-6/19	View from road in Caerhun	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 1
VP-6/21	View from road in Seion	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 4
VP-6/26	View from road to the west of Pentir near Garth Farm	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 4
VP-6/27	View from B4366 on eastern edge of Bethel	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 4
VP-6/30	View from B4547 near Nant-y-Garth	GWNDDVS006 Gwynedd LCA 4
VP-6/31	View from Lon y Wyddfa at Penrhos Garnedd	GWNDDVS002 Gwynedd LCA 1

7.6.22 The majority of these viewpoints represent general views of the landscape. Three have been identified as being relevant to peoples' sense of approach and arrival to the AONB as follows:

- VP-6/11 View from Britannia Bridge;
- VP-6/12 View from Menai Bridge; and
- VP-6/14 View from Wales Coast Path within Vaynol Park.

Heritage Coast

7.6.24 Heritage Coasts are not statutory designations but the planning authorities must take them into account when making decisions regarding development because they were established and defined to protect coastlines from insensitive development¹⁷.

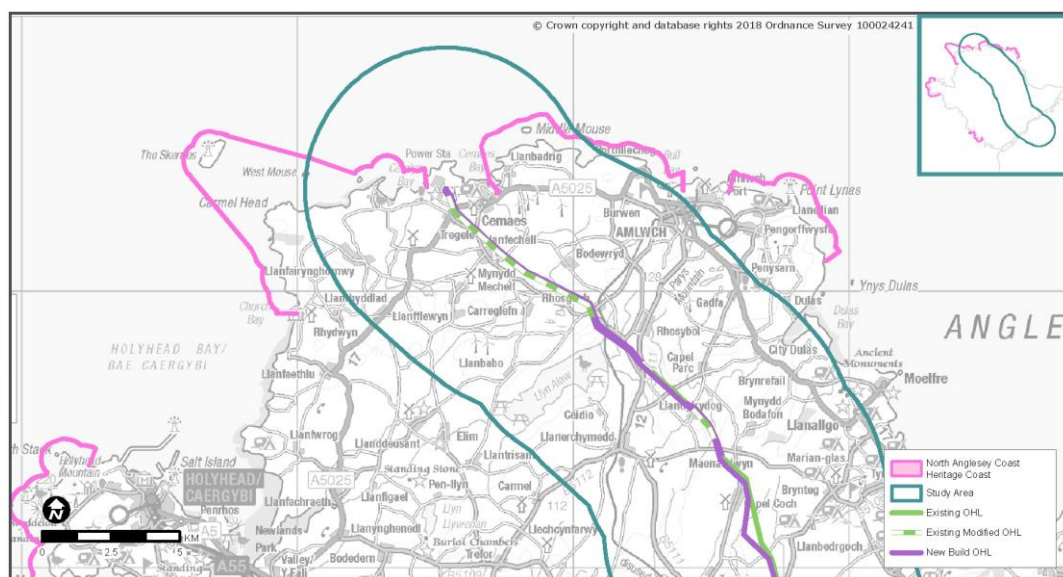


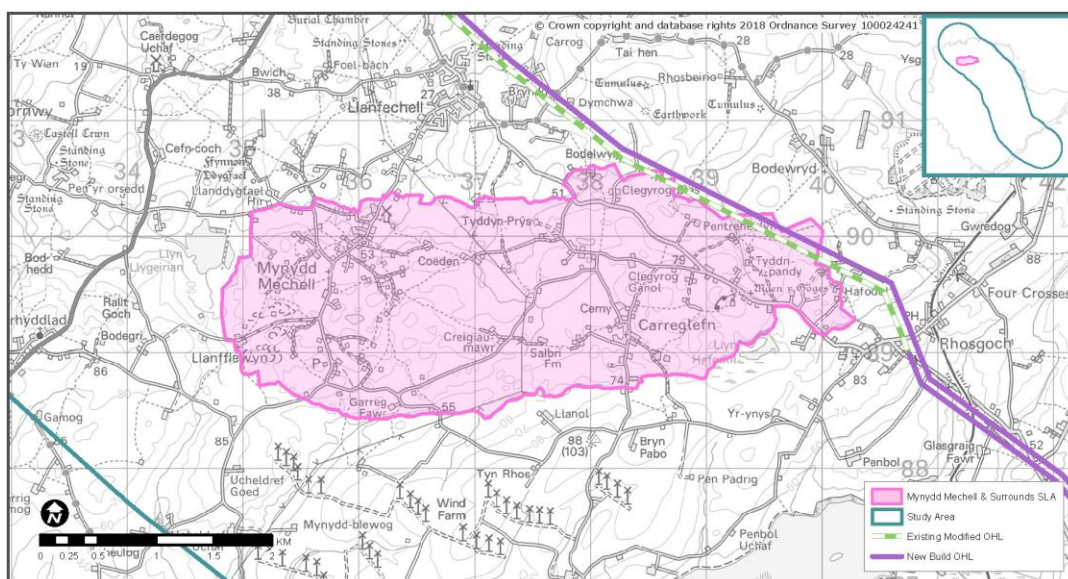
Image 7.4: North Anglesey Heritage Coast

7.6.26 In view of the open and undeveloped character of the North Anglesey Coast Heritage Coast and its close association with the AONB, its value is considered to be **high**, and of National importance.

¹⁷ <http://lle.gov.wales/Catalogue/Item/ProtectedSitesHeritageCoast/?lang=en>

Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

- 7.6.27 Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are defined by the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) as ‘*areas of high landscape importance for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape*’ (2008) (Ref 7.18). In 2012, the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU) commissioned a review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). This review concluded there was ‘robust justification’ for designating 16 geographically discrete SLAs located across Anglesey and Gwynedd. Development proposals within a SLA or which might affect the setting of a SLA are expected to take account of the relevant ‘Special Qualities’ of the SLA. These are outlined below for each SLA and are taken into account in order to establish landscape value and susceptibility.
- 7.6.28 A total of eight SLA fall wholly or partly within the study area as illustrated in Figure 7.1 (**Document 5.7.1.1**) and Figure 7.2 (**Document 5.7.1.2**). A key plan is also included below for each SLA in order to help identify where it is located in relation to the study area and to illustrate how the Proposed Development relates to it.



Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA

Image 7.5: Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA

- 7.6.29 The Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA is located towards the north of the study area, to the west of Section A. A short section of the existing 400 kV OHL lies just inside its eastern edge as illustrated on Image 7.5.

7.6.30 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the landscape setting are:

- *The distinctive, small scale craggy landscape, with a wild upland and deeply rural character, contrasting with surrounding smoothly rolling, drumlin formed landscape;*
- *Its intricate network of small irregular fields, paths, tracks, winding roads and sparse settlement pattern;*
- *Variety of habitats & vegetation cover, with a patchwork of semi-natural habitats set within improved grassland, such as small marshy areas and ponds, crags, heathland and gorse (including Salbri and Llŷn Hafodol & Cors Clegyrrog SSSIs);*
- *Unity of the landscape, with vernacular features such as dry stone walls and stone buildings; and*
- *Historic and cultural significance of the landscape, with strong field patterns, evidence of past historic land use and settlement from prehistoric times.*

7.6.31 The Mynydd Mechell SLA is considered to be a special landscape because of its distinctive, small scale craggy landform and intricate network of small fields and pattern of paths, tracks and sparse settlement. The patchwork of habitats, unity of landscape features and the high historic and cultural significance of the landscape are all factors which mean that the overall value of the SLA is considered to be **high**, and of local / regional importance.

Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA

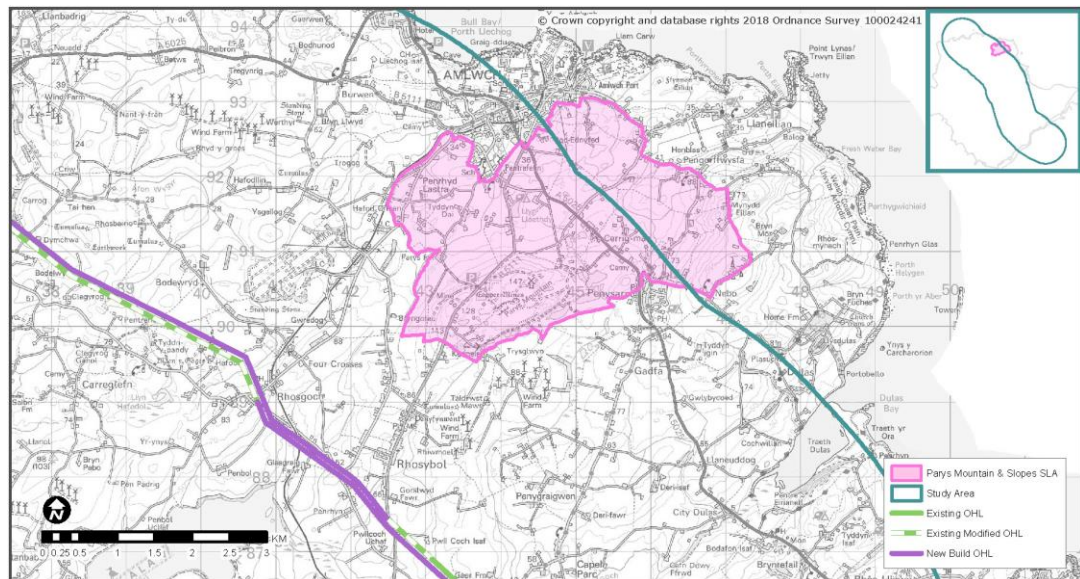


Image 7.6: Parys Mountain SLA

7.6.32 Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA is located to the east of Section B in an area south of Amlwch, as shown in Image 7.6, and south and east of the AONB as illustrated on Figure 7.2, Landscape Constraints (**Document 5.7.1.2**).

7.6.33 The SLA includes the prominent and distinctive ridge of Parys mountain which, at 150 m AOD creates a dominant local feature surrounded by undulating farmland. The landform and colourful outcrops are a legacy of former copper mining and have created a distinctive feature in north-east Anglesey, being visually linked to the coast, the sea and the AONB.

7.6.34 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLAs landscape setting are;

- *Its function as a unique, iconic and distinctive feature in north-east Anglesey;*
- *Its visual prominence when viewed from the AONB-designated coastline, with strong visual links between the sea, coast, AONB and SLA;*
- *Its expansive vistas and long distance views;*
- *Its nationally important historic and cultural legacy (part of the Amlwch and Parys Mountain Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest);*
- *Its unique geology and soil conditions giving rise to nationally important lichens, heathlands and wetlands (within the Mynydd Parys SSSI); and*

- *Its remote character with general absence of modern development.*

7.6.35 The SLA is considered to be a special landscape because of its visual prominence and distinctive landscape with its high cultural significance. It provides a setting to the AONB and has strong intervisibility between Anglesey's coastal and mountain landscapes. Value overall is considered to be **high**, and of local / regional importance.

Parciau Estatelands SLA

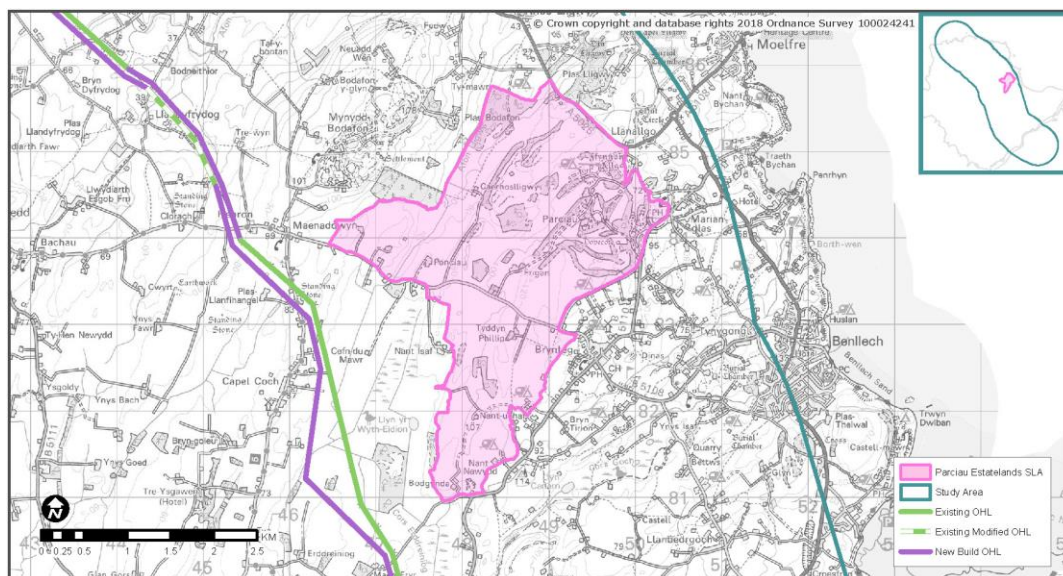


Image 7.7: Parciau Estatelands SLA

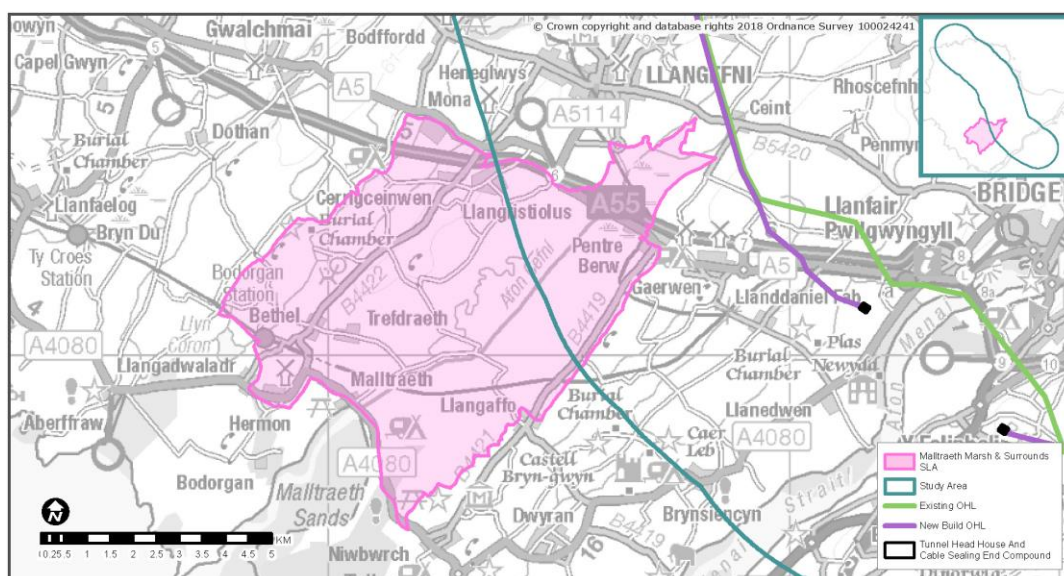
7.6.36 Parciau Estatelands SLA is located to the east of Section C as shown in Image 7.7, and directly adjacent to the AONB at Mynydd Bodafon and west of Benllech as illustrated on Figure 7.2, Landscape Constraints (**Document 5.7.1.2**). The landscape has a strong estate/parkland character and has many valued historic, archaeological and ecological sites. It provides a setting for the AONB and the higher ground provides a peaceful and remote vantage point towards Snowdonia to the south and the AONB to the north and east.

7.6.37 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLAs landscape setting are;

- *The strong estate/parkland feel of the landscape with valued historic features and archaeological sites (Scheduled Monuments covering the prehistoric hut groups at Caerhoslligwy, Parciau Roman hillfort and a dovecot at Parciau);*

- *Nationally important semi-natural habitats at Tyddyn Y Waen SSSI (fen meadow, flushes, willow) and Penrhos Lligwy SSSI (lowland heath, mire and flushes). These provide valued connections to the adjacent Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve/Ramsar site/SAC – the largest of Anglesey's fens;*
- *The landscape's function as a setting to the Anglesey AONB;*
- *Significant views from higher ground to the adjacent AONB and Snowdonia on the distant southern horizon; and*
- *The peaceful and strongly rural character of the landscape, with a general lack of modern development.*

7.6.38 The Parciau Estatelands SLA is described by the JPPU as being significant due to its peaceful parkland character which feels like a managed estate with large areas of mixed and ornamental woodlands, pastoral farmland and patches of gorse, heathland and wetland. It provides a setting to the AONB. Value overall is considered as **high**, and of local / regional importance.



Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA

Image 7.8: Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA

7.6.39 Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA is located to the south-west of the study area as illustrated on Image 7.8.

7.6.40 It is formed by the flat, open, undeveloped expanse of the reclaimed marshland of Malltraeth Marsh and the lightly settled higher ground which rises to the west and east. It is surrounded by rising ground and ridgelines which provide a striking contrast, including the mountains of Snowdonia. It

provides varied landcover, nationally valued wetland habitats, outstanding historic and cultural landscapes and a distinctive setting to the AONB.

7.6.41 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLAs landscape setting are:

- *The open, undeveloped character of Malltraeth Marsh and the lightly settled, rural character of the surrounding higher ground;*
- *The outstanding historic and cultural importance of the landscape, particularly the 18th century water-control system and colliery relics on the Marsh (including the lakes Llynnau Gwaith-glo);*
- *Nationally valued wetland habitats within Malltraeth Marsh SSSI (including drainage ditches, reedbeds and wet pasture) supporting important birdlife.*
- *The varied land cover and intricate landscape patterns of the higher land surrounding the Marsh;*
- *The landscape's function as a setting to the Anglesey AONB;*
- *Long, open significant views across the surrounding landscapes, with the mountains of Snowdonia providing a scenic backdrop; and*
- *Its sense of naturalness and tranquillity.*

7.6.42 The Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA is described by the JPPU as being important because of its low lying, open and treeless marshland character contrasting with the surrounding craggy higher ground with views southward to Snowdonia providing a distinctive backdrop. Value overall is considered to be **high**, and of local / regional importance.

Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA

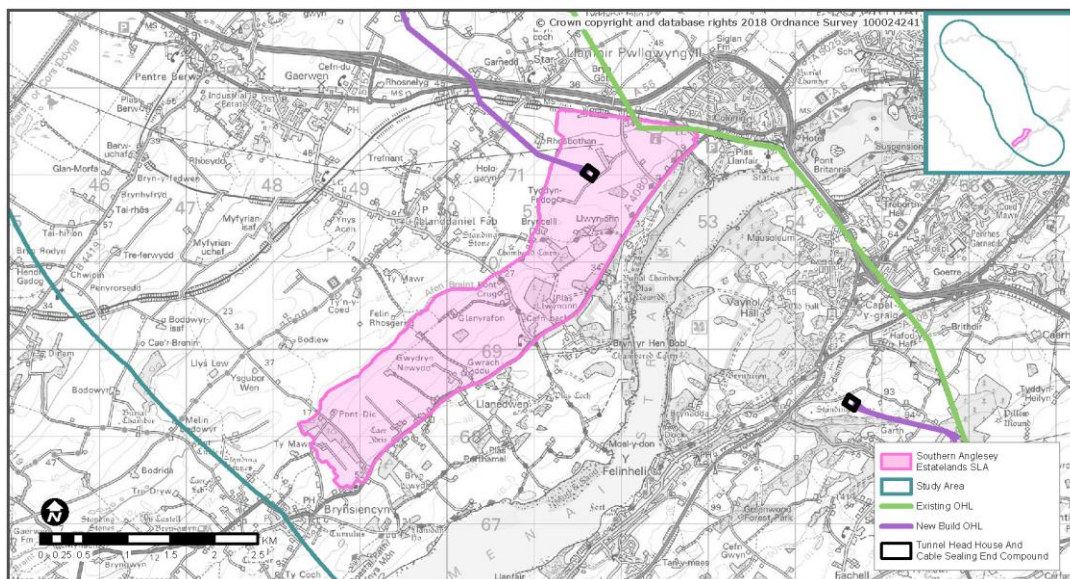


Image 7.9: Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA

7.6.43 This SLA is located within Section F, in Anglesey as illustrated on Image 7.9. A short section of the existing 400 kV OHL lies just inside its north-east edge.

7.6.44 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLAs landscape setting are;

- *The strong estate feel of the landscape, as part of the Grade I listed 18th/19th century Plas Newydd estate;*
- *The mosaic of grazed pastures (including wood pasture), estate woodland plantings and mature specimen trees in fields and hedgerows;*
- *Its function as an immediate setting to part of the Anglesey AONB;*
- *Its strong intervisibility with the adjacent AONB, and scenic views across the Menai Strait to the mountains of Snowdonia; and*
- *The peaceful and strongly rural character of the landscape, with a general absence of modern development.*

7.6.45 The Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA is described by the JPPU as providing a valued extension of the wider Grade I listed Plas Newydd estate. It comprises a mosaic of grazed pasture interspersed with informal woodland blocks, estate woodland, mature field specimen trees and hedgerows and lack of development. Its location adjacent to the AONB

means that it forms part of its immediate setting, parts are also intervisible with Snowdonia National Park across the Menai Strait. Overall, the SLA is considered to be of **high** value and of local / regional importance.

Menai SLA

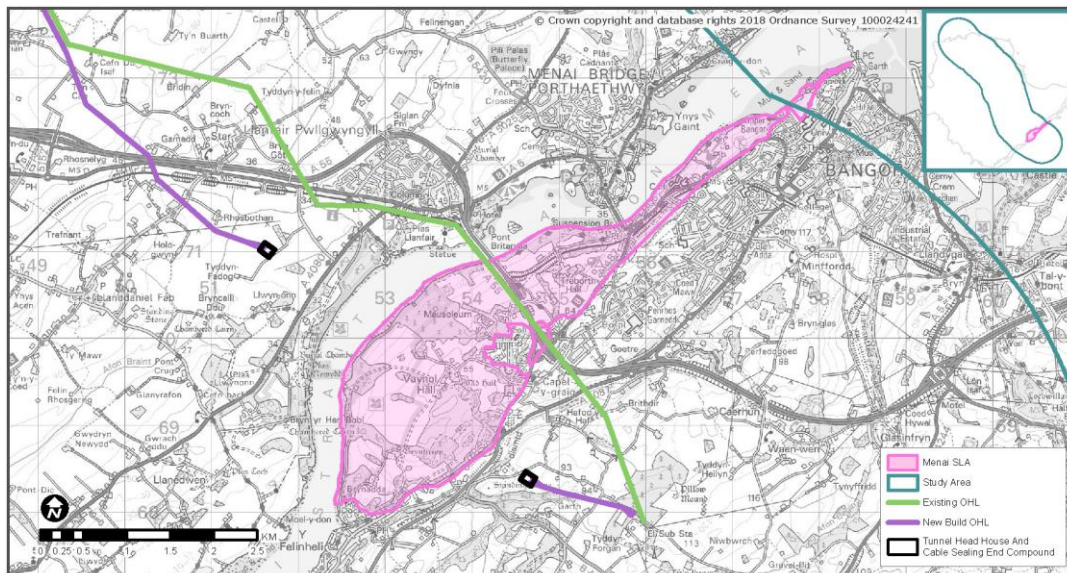
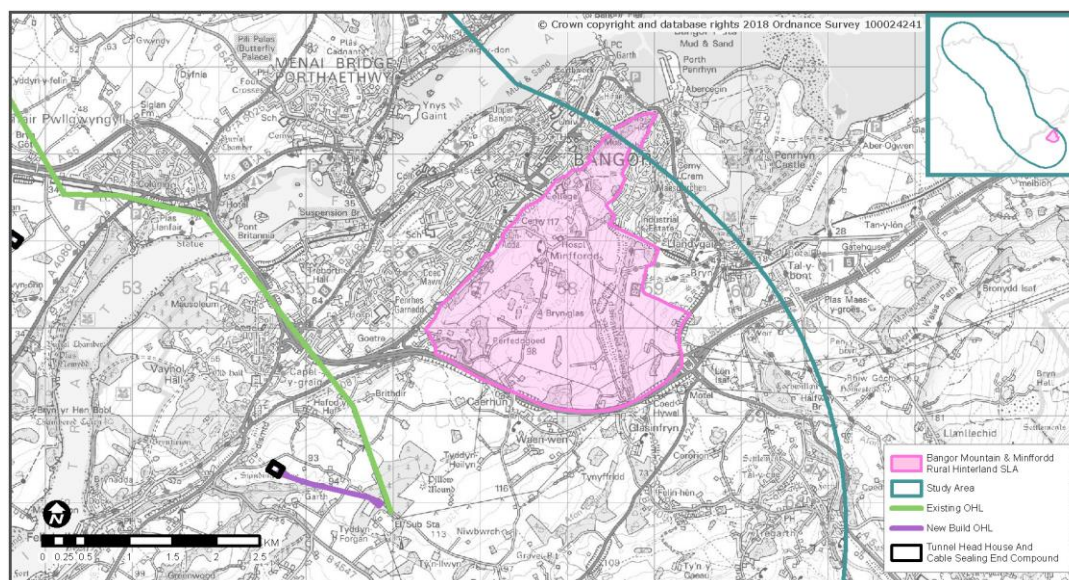


Image 7.10: Menai SLA

- 7.6.46 Menai SLA lies immediately to the south of the Menai Strait in Gwynedd, within Section F as illustrated on Image 7.10.
- 7.6.47 It has a strong cultural and historic character, reinforced by the inclusion of the Vaynol Park, which is a Grade I Registered Park and Garden. This SLA is important for its nationally important historic buildings and monuments, the national importance of its sessile oak, hazel and ash woodlands and internationally important intertidal habitats. Additionally, it provides a valuable landscape setting to the Menai Strait and the AONB as well as being intervisible with Snowdonia National Park, the AONB and Gwynedd coastline.
- 7.6.48 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLAs landscape setting are:
- *The strong cultural and historic character of the landscape, particularly the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of the Faynol Estate (which lies within the wider Dinorwig Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest);*
 - *The presence of nationally important historic buildings and monuments within the estate's ornamental parkland setting;*

- *The landscape's function as a valued setting to the adjacent Menai Strait and Anglesey AONB;*
- *The national importance of its sessile oak, hazel and ash woodlands on the rocky slopes above the Menai Strait shoreline (within the Coedydd Afon Menai SSSI) and the proximity of internationally important intertidal habitats within the Menai Straits and Conwy Bay SAC;*
- *Its intervisibility with Snowdonia National Park to the south, the Anglesey AONB and the Conwy coastline; and*
- *Its high levels of relative tranquillity and large areas free from modern development.*

7.6.49 The Menai SLA is described by the JPPU (Ref 7.18) as being significant because of its relationship to the Menai Strait, the Vaynol Estate and the AONB to the North of the Strait. Its location affords it spectacular views both north across the Menai Strait to the AONB and southwards to the National Park. Overall its value is assessed as **high**, and of local / regional importance.



Bangor Mountain SLA

Image 7.11: Bangor Mountain SLA

7.6.50 Bangor Mountain SLA lies to the east of Section F in Gwynedd as illustrated on Image 7.11.

7.6.51 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should

be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLA's landscape setting are;

- *Its distinctive landform and undeveloped character;*
- *Important views to and from the city of Bangor and its function as a distinctive setting to the city;*
- *Its mosaic of habitats – mixed woodland, rough grassland, scrub – which provide important local wildlife refuges;*
- *The cultural significance of the eastern part of the landscape as part of the area's 19th and 20th century slate mining industry – within the Ogwen Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance.*
- *The intervisibility between the SLA and the Menai Strait, Anglesey AONB and Snowdonia National Park;*
- *Its role in softening the transition between development, open countryside and the National Park;*
- *Its popularity for informal recreation; and*
- *Its levels of relative tranquillity and naturalness in the context of its location within development.*

7.6.52 Its relative naturalness and tranquillity in a location close to development heightens its importance as a transitional and recreational landscape between the national park, countryside and development. Overall it is considered to have **high** value, and of local / regional importance, albeit with some pockets of lower value where its boundary overlaps with the fringe of Bangor located to the north-west.

North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA

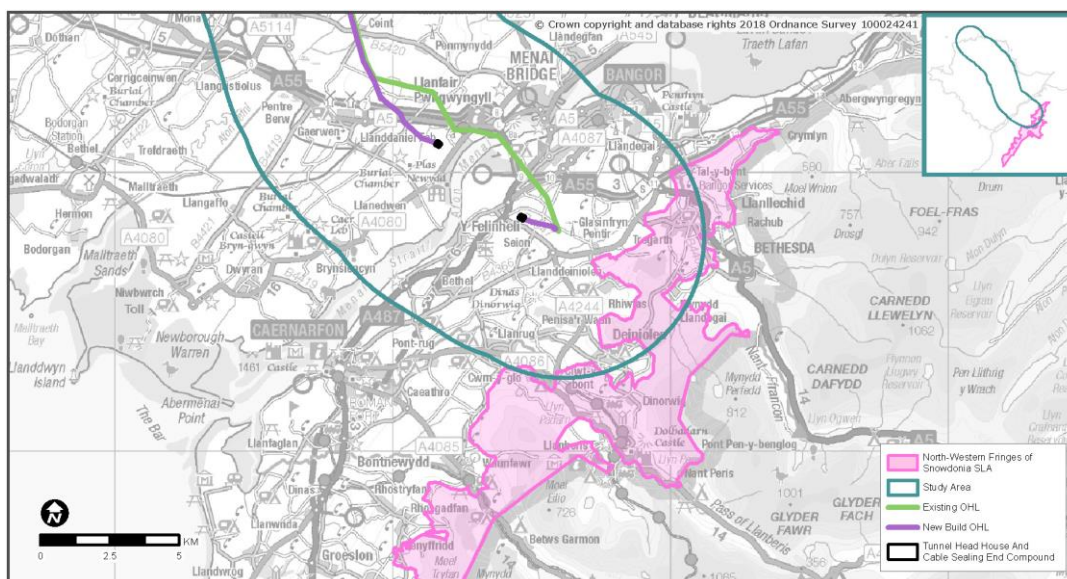


Image 7.12: North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA

7.6.53 The North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA lies to the south-east of Section F in Gwynedd as illustrated on Image 7.12.

7.6.54 The following special qualities are identified within the Statement of Value and Significance in the JPPU review of the SLAs (Ref 7.18). These should be taken into account when considering development within the SLA or which might affect the SLAs landscape setting are

- *The rugged upland qualities of the landscape, with strong feelings of remoteness on hill summits;*
- *The open character of the uplands and hill summits, contrasting with the enclosed small-scale farmland and mining villages below;*
- *Valued tracts of semi-natural habitat (including acid grassland, heathland, wetland scrub and oak woodland), including parts of the Snowdonia SSSI and SAC, Llŷn Padarn SSSI, Coed Dinorwig SSSI/LNR, and Moel Tryfan SSSI;*
- *The historic and cultural significance of the landscape, particularly its slate mining heritage within the Ogwen Valley, Dinorwig and Nantlle Valley Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest;*
- *The landscape's function as a distant backdrop to the Llŷn and Anglesey AONBs; and*
- *The strong cultural and visual relationship between the SLA and Snowdonia National Park.*

7.6.55 The North-western fringes of Snowdonia SLA are considered to have special qualities which include its rugged upland character, its remote hill summits, valued habitats and historic and cultural significance. It also provides a strong cultural and visual link with the National Park as well as providing a distant backdrop to the Llŷn and Anglesey AONBs. Its value is assessed as **high**, and of local / regional importance.

8 Potential Effects

8.1 INTRODUCTION

8.1.1 This section describes the type of landscape effects that could occur as a result of the Proposed Development in the absence of control and management measures and mitigation measures.

Construction

8.1.2 The sources of potential landscape effects during the construction phase includes:

- Site clearance, tree felling and boundary/hedgerow removal;
- Topsoil stripping and earthworks;
- Undergrounding of third party services;
- Movement of construction related traffic including delivery and removal of material to and from site and workers travelling to and from site;
- Movement of vehicles and plant along temporary access tracks within the Order Limits;
- Construction of temporary bellmouths and access tracks;
- General construction activities including the use of large scale construction equipment, construction compounds and temporary buildings and scaffolding required for construction, parking on-site and material stockpiles; and
- Temporary hoardings and/or security fencing or signage.

8.1.3 The sources of potential landscape effects during the construction phase does not include the finished structures i.e. pylons, tunnel head houses etc.

Operation

8.1.4 Source of potential landscape effects during the operational phase includes:

- The introduction of the finished structures of the 400 kV OHL and gantries into the landscape;

- The introduction of the finished, operational parts of Braint THH/CSEC;
- The introduction of the finished, operational parts of Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC;
- The finished extension of the substation at Pentir;
- The finished works at the existing Wylfa Substation (within the existing boundary);
- The introduction of the finished new permanent access road and hard surfacing associated with Braint THH/CSEC;
- The introduction of the new finished new permanent access road and hard surfacing associated with Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC;
- Effects of mitigation measures proposed by other topics, particularly re-contoured landform and new planting in relation to the mitigation of ecological and/ or visual effects;
- Vegetation management to ensure safe electrical clearances to the OHL; and
- Localised widening of public highways.

Maintenance

- 8.1.5 Activities during maintenance of the Proposed Development would be somewhat similar to those during construction, but generally these would be limited to a shorter period of time and be less intrusive. It is assumed that total vegetation clearance would not be required as any trees beneath the new 400 kV OHL would have been removed during construction, and there would be less disruption (if any) to field boundaries.

Decommissioning

- 8.1.6 Activities during decommissioning of the Proposed Development would be very similar to those during construction but it is assumed that these would take place for a shorter duration. Pylons could be removed, but much of the foundations below ground would be left in situ. Effects during decommissioning are treated the same as during construction.

Table 7.21 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Potential	Description	Receptor	Phase
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Effect			C	O	M	D
Short-term, direct loss and/ or alteration of landscape elements	The potential for short-term, direct loss/ changes to landscape elements that are restricted to the Order Limits and considered to be temporary / reversible. Loss and / or changes to landscape elements such as trees, woodland, hedgerows, cloddiau (stone faced earth banks), crawiau (slate fence), walls and landform. Assumes loss/changes could be reversible, with replacement either in-situ or elsewhere within the order limits.	Tree Cover	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Field Boundaries	✓		✓	✓
		Landform	✓			✓
Long term, direct loss and/ or alteration of landscape elements	The potential for long term, direct loss/ changes to landscape elements that is restricted to the Order Limits. Loss and / or changes to landscape elements such as trees, woodland, hedgerows, cloddiau (stone faced earth banks), crawiau (slate fence), walls and landform.	Tree Cover	✓	✓	✓	
		Field Boundaries	✓	✓		
		Landform	✓	✓		
Direct change to landscape	There is potential for the character of the landscape to be directly	VSAAs	✓	✓	✓	✓
		SLAs	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 7.21 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development						
Potential Effect	Description	Receptor	Phase			
			C	O	M	D
character	affected as a result of activities and/ or the presence of infrastructure being within it, over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.					
Perceptual change to landscape character	There is potential for the character of the landscape to be indirectly affected as a result of the perception of activities and/or the presence of infrastructure (albeit outside the boundary of the receptor) over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	VSAAs	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Snowdonia National Park	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Anglesey AONB	✓	✓	✓	✓
		North Anglesey Heritage Coast	✓	✓	✓	✓
		SLAs	✓	✓	✓	✓

9 Mitigation and Residual Effects

9.1 INTRODUCTION

- 9.1.1 This section reports the magnitude and significance of effects, the mitigation measures and the residual significance.

9.2 MITIGATION

- 9.2.1 As discussed in Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**), mitigation measures typically fall into one of three categories: Mitigation by Design (DM); Control and Management Measures (CMM); and Mitigation Measures (MM).

Mitigation by Design

- 9.2.2 Mitigation by design has been integral to reducing the landscape effects of the Proposed Development. Measures that have been incorporated into the design have included:
- Sensitive routeing and siting of infrastructure and temporary works (as per the Design Report, **Document 7.17**);
 - Synchronisation of pylons with the existing 400 kV OHL, refer to Chapter 6, EIA Approach and Methodology (**Document 5.6**) for further information on synchronisation;
 - Undergrounding of a 4 km section of the Proposed Development including at the Menai Strait and Anglesey AONB to avoid effects on an area of high landscape value;
 - Use of low height pylons on entry and exit to and from the CSECs to reduce their visibility within the wider landscape; and
 - A commitment to reduce effects to vegetation within the Order Limits as per the Schedule of Environmental Commitments (**Document 7.4.2.1**).

- 9.2.3 For details of the design evolution, refer to the Design Report (**Document 7.17**) which describes the design process and how effects have been reduced by the above.

Control and Management Measures

- 9.2.4 The following measures have been included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (**Document 7.4**) which relate to mitigating effects on landscape receptors:

Table 7.22: General CEMP Measures Relevant to Landscape Effects		
Code	Description	Reason
TH11	A Tree and Hedgerow Protection Strategy will be produced; this will be in accordance with the Trees and Hedgerows Potentially Affected Plans (Document 4.11).	Reduces the effects of construction by committing to minimise vegetation loss and protect all vegetation to be retained.
TH12	An Arboricultural Clerk of Works will be appointed as required and will be responsible for overseeing and monitoring all arboricultural measures. All trees and hedgerows to be retained are shown on the Trees and Hedgerows Potentially Affected Plans (Document 4.11). . These plans will be refined prior to construction by the Arboricultural Clerk of Works to identify trees and hedgerows for removal. All retained trees and hedgerows will be protected in accordance with the Tree and Hedgerow Protection Strategy.	Reduces the effects of construction by committing to minimise vegetation loss and protect all vegetation to be retained.
TH13	Retained hedgerows and trees will be protected by clearly defined root protection areas to prevent damage/	Reduces the effects of construction by committing to protect all vegetation to be

Table 7.22: General CEMP Measures Relevant to Landscape Effects

Code	Description	Reason
	compaction of roots by plant and other machinery.	retained.
TH14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tree and Hedgerow Protection Strategy will include: a schedule of all trees and hedgerows to be removed; a schedule of all trees which require pruning coppicing or pollarding; a schedule of all trees and hedgerows to be retained including specification for temporary physical protection including clearly defined root protection areas to prevent damage / compaction of roots by other machinery; reinstatement measures in accordance with Figure 1 (Document 7.4.1.1); and details of an auditable system of compliance. 	Reduces the effects of construction by committing to protect all vegetation to be retained.
TH21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Boundary Features Protection Strategy will be produced; this will include: Identification of all cloddiau and crawiau within the Order Limits to be removed and retained; a schedule of all boundaries to be removed; 	Commits to reinstating all boundaries including cloddiau, crawiau, stone walls or fencing which substantially reduces the potential residual effects on these features and gives potential for betterment.

Table 7.22: General CEMP Measures Relevant to Landscape Effects

Code	Description	Reason
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A photographic record of all boundaries to be removed so that they can be reinstated accordingly; • a schedule of all boundaries to be retained including specification for temporary physical protection; • reinstatement measures for all boundaries which will include the Technical Specification for Welsh cloddiau¹⁸; and • details of an auditable system of compliance. 	
R2	To facilitate the reinstatement of land, soil and watercourses, pre-condition surveys will be discussed with landowners and where agreed, carried out of land within working areas. Where required this will include a photographic record, written description and topographical survey, which will be used to ensure appropriate reinstatement of land.	Reduces the effects of construction by committing to reinstate land.
R3	Reinstatement will be in accordance with the relevant	Commits to reinstating the landscape affected by

¹⁸ The Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain has produced a leaflet on the Technical Specifications for Welsh Cloddiau. Since types of cloddiau vary, details will be made specific to the location of the proposed cloddiau using the leaflet as guidance: <http://www.dswales.org.uk/files/PrintClawdd%20Spec%20English.pdf>

Table 7.22: General CEMP Measures Relevant to Landscape Effects

Code	Description	Reason
	parts of the BMS (Document 7.7) include making good of any damage or disturbance to any soil structure, native or other planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping or structures, where in-situ reinstatement is possible.	construction in-situ (where possible). This includes cloddiau, crawiau, stone walls or fencing which substantially reduces the potential residual effects on these features and gives potential for betterment.
R4	Trees, hedgerows and boundary features will be reinstated in accordance with TH11, TH12, TH13, TH14 and TH21.	Reduces the effects on vegetation by committing to provide replacements either in situ or within the Order Limits.

Mitigation Measures

9.2.5 In addition to control measure R4, a number of areas of planting have been proposed to mitigate effects of vegetation loss and integrate the Proposed Development into the landscape. These areas of planting are all located within the Order Limits and include:

- To mitigate loss of trees adjacent to the Sewage Works at Carrog Isa, in Section A (as shown on Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**)), a corridor would be planted up where an existing low voltage OHL is being removed. The adjacent woodland is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO);
- Planting of a copse adjacent to the B5110 in Section C (as shown on Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**)) to mitigate the loss of trees on the opposite side of the road;
- Replanting of a clearing within Gylched Covert in Section D to mitigate loss of vegetation, (as shown on Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**)). It is important to note that the Proposed Development would not remove ground flora from under the OHL alignment, only vegetation which is required to be removed for clearances to the proposed conductors;
- An area of planting at Ceint in Section D (as shown on Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**)) to mitigate for losses of larger trees on the end of a woodland block;

- Planting around Braint THH/CSEC, in Section F. An illustrative landscape plan has been produced for the site and can be found in the Design Guide (**Document 7.19**) and a more detailed landscape mitigation plan found on Figure 7.14 (**Document 5.7.1.14**);
- Planting around Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC, in Section F. An illustrative landscape plan has been produced for the site and can be found in the Design Guide (**Document 7.19**) and a more detailed landscape mitigation plan found on Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**); and
- Planting around Pentir Substation extension in Section F to mitigate the loss of existing screening and the landscape effects of the extension. Proposals for this planting can be found in the Design Guide (**Document 7.19**) and a more detailed landscape mitigation plan found on Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**).

Enhancement Measures

9.2.6 The Enhancement Strategy (**Document 7.13**) sets out the details for a number of enhancement measures which could benefit landscape character including:

- Enhancement of hedgerows;
- Planting to create green links and improve connectivity;
- Creation of community woodlands; and
- A Voluntary Residential Planting Scheme (VRPS) for properties identified as having a significant visual effect from the proposed Development.

9.2.7 Although there is a commitment to undertake these measures it is important to note that the final extent, location and form of these schemes is subject to voluntary agreement with interested parties. As such these measures have not been taken into account in terms of the assessment of residual effects.

9.3 LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

9.3.1 This section provides an assessment of effects on landscape elements as a result of their direct loss or disturbance to their fabric. Mitigation measures which apply to the element in question are set out where applicable, and the residual effect on the landscape element is described and assessed, taking these measures into account. This section should be read in conjunction with Figure 7.17, Effects on Landscape Elements (**Document 5.7.1.17**). This figure illustrates the location of trees, woodland and field boundaries

within the order limits together with the potential effects on trees and hedgerows.

Tree Cover

- 9.3.2 As landscape elements in their own right, trees are considered to be highly susceptible to 400 kV OHL, THH/CSEC and substation developments. Due to construction and operational requirements (i.e. clearance zones under conductors) and the linear nature of 400 kV OHL developments it is often not possible to maintain the baseline situation in terms of retaining all existing tree cover. With regard to THH/CSEC and substations, these types of developments are typically more geographically contained. However, where trees exist within development boundaries, it is also generally not possible to maintain the baseline situation, as their removal (or part removal) may be required. Given the high value identified in the baseline section (section 7.4) of this report and the high susceptibility, overall sensitivity of tree cover to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.3.3 Whilst there would be some permanent loss of trees within the immediate setting of the Proposed Development, this has been minimised where possible through the design process and the application of control and management measures set out in the CEMP (**Document 7.4**).
- 9.3.4 For Option A, a total of 123 individual trees and 6.97 ha of tree groups are identified on the Trees and Hedgerows Potentially Affected Plans (**Document 4.11**) as requiring removal. A total of 125 trees and 5 ha of tree groups would be affected/managed.
- 9.3.5 For Option B, 124 trees and 6.98 ha of tree groups are identified on the Trees and Hedgerows Potentially Affected Plans (**Document 4.11**) as requiring removal. A total of 124 trees and 4.99 ha of tree groups would be affected/managed.
- 9.3.6 Details of the anticipated tree loss and affected/managed trees can be found in the Arboricultural Report (**Document 5.30**). Anticipated tree loss as a result of construction is most notable in the following places:
- **Section A:** Swathe of screen planting from the 'Sylvia Crowe mounds' at Wylfa;
 - **Section A:** Corner of a small area of woodland at Carrog Isa, to the east of Llanfechell;

- **Section C:** Areas of trees/woodland to the east and south-east of Capel Coch (where the Proposed Development deviates away from the existing OHL);
- **Section C:** A small island of woodland bounded by roads, immediately adjacent to the B5110 (north of Talwrn);
- **Section D:** The eastern edge of Gylched Covert to the south of Talwrn including one veteran tree;
- **Section D:** Small areas of trees/ woodland to the east of Ceint;
- **Section F:** Potential loss of an edge of woodland at Llŵyn-ogan;
- **Section F:** Woodland at Nant Y Garth; and
- **Section F:** Woodland around Pentir Substation.

9.3.7 Where possible trees would be replaced/replanted in situ following construction as detailed in the CEMP (**Document 7.4**). Vegetation would be reinstated as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (**Document 7.4.1.1**). There would be several locations where this would not be possible and as such mitigation planting has been proposed as nearby as possible to reduce effects (refer to Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**)). Overall there would be a net gain in tree numbers as a result of the mitigation measures proposed around Braint THH/CSEC, Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and the extension to Pentir Substation. Illustrative landscape plans have been produced for these sites and can be found in the Design Guide (**Document 7.19**) and more detailed landscape mitigation plans found on Figure 7.14 (**Document 5.7.1.14**), Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**) and Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**).

9.3.8 The scale of effects on tree cover would be relatively modest and contained within the Order Limits, albeit along an approximate 30 km long construction corridor. The magnitude of change during construction is judged to be **medium**.

9.3.9 Given the **high** sensitivity of tree cover to the Proposed Development and the predicted **medium** magnitude of change during construction (whilst any replacement planting is immature), construction effects would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

9.3.10 During Operation year 1, mitigation proposals would be in place but replacement trees would be immature. The magnitude of change is

considered to be remain **medium** at Operation year 1, reducing to **negligible** by year 15 due to the maturation of mitigation proposals.

- 9.3.11 Given the high sensitivity of tree cover to the Proposed Development and the predicted medium magnitude of change at year 1, operational effects would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 9.3.12 Given the high sensitivity of tree cover to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change at year 15, operational effects would be **negligible (not significant)**, this would be due to the maturation of mitigation planting.
- 9.3.13 The Enhancement Strategy (**Document 7.13**) includes further information on measures to improve tree cover beyond the Order Limits, however this assessment has not taken these into account.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance & Decommissioning

- 9.3.14 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in negligible effects to tree cover. It is anticipated there would be of **negligible** magnitude of change to tree cover during these activities which would have an overall a negligible effect (not significant).

Field Boundaries

- 9.3.15 As landscape elements in their own right, field boundaries are considered to be **highly** susceptible to 400 kV OHL, THH/CSEC and substation developments. Due to construction (and associated access tracks) and operational requirements (i.e. clearance zones under conductors) and the linear nature of 400 kV OHL developments it is often not possible to maintain the baseline situation in terms of retaining existing field boundaries. With regard to THH/ CSEC and substations, although these types of developments are typically more geographically contained, where field boundaries exist within development boundaries it is also generally not possible to maintain the baseline situation as their removal (or part removal) may be required.
- 9.3.16 Given the high value identified in the baseline section of this report and the high susceptibility, overall sensitivity of field boundaries to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.3.17 Whilst there would be some loss of small sections of boundaries within the Order Limits due to access requirements, this has been limited through the design process and almost all of the loss would be reinstated in situ (with

the exception of permanent access requirements and boundaries at the Braint and Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC sites). The loss of field boundaries as a result of construction would be most notable in the following places:

- **Section C:** Where temporary access tracks would cut through overgrown hedgerows to the east of Capel Coch;
- **Section F:** Where an entire field boundary clawdd would be removed to the east of the proposed Braint THH/CSEC to facilitate construction; and
- **Section F:** Where an entire field boundary comprising a clawdd & crawiau would be removed to the east of the proposed Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC to facilitate construction.

9.3.18 Almost all of these losses are considered short-term and reversible as they would be replaced in situ, as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (**Document 7.4.1.1**). There are a number of locations where this would not be possible, for example where permanent accesses are proposed at the Braint and Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC sites. Landscape mitigation proposals are shown on Figure 7.12 (**Document 5.7.1.12**), Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**), Figure 7.14 (**Document 5.7.1.14**), Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**) and Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**).

9.3.19 The Enhancement Strategy (**Document 7.13**) includes further information on measures to improve field boundaries and cloddiau beyond the Order Limits, however this assessment has not taken these into account.

9.3.20 The amount of field boundary lost would be limited and the majority would only be temporarily removed and contained within the Order Limits, albeit along an approximate 30 km long construction corridor. The magnitude of change during construction would be **low**.

9.3.21 Given the high sensitivity of boundaries to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change, construction effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

9.3.22 During Operation year 1, mitigation proposals would be in place but the vegetated aspects such as hedgerows and planting to the tops of cloddiau would be immature. The magnitude of change is considered to remain **low** during operation year 1, reducing to **negligible** by year 15.

- 9.3.23 Given the high sensitivity of boundaries to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change at year 1, operational effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.
- 9.3.24 Given the high sensitivity of boundaries to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change at year 15, operational effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance & Decommissioning

- 9.3.25 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in negligible effects to field boundaries. It is anticipated there would be a **negligible** magnitude of change to tree cover during these activities which would have an overall a **negligible** effect (**not significant**).

Landform

- 9.3.26 400 kV OHL developments typically require very little change to landform as the construction methods and design of OHLs are planned to work with landform. Taking this into consideration, the susceptibility of the overall landform to the OHL element of the Proposed Development is considered to be **low**. Given the typical **medium** value identified in the baseline section of this report (refer to section 7.4) and the localised **low** susceptibility to the OHL component of the Proposed Development, sensitivity of the landform to the 400 kV OHL is considered to be **low**. The exception to this is the more highly valued distinctive landform within the study area (including distinctive rocky outcrops and landform such as at Mynydd Mechell Mynydd y Garn, Parys Mountain, Mynydd Bodafon in Anglesey and Moel Rhiwen and Moel y Ci in Gwynedd). The sensitivity of these areas in terms of landform is considered to be **high**.
- 9.3.27 THH/CSEC and substation developments may require intrusive and large scale earthworks to achieve level sites. Susceptibility of the smooth and undulating landform of the proposed sites to these aspects of the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium** because it is considered that it could accommodate this type of proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation.
- 9.3.28 Given the medium value identified in the baseline section of this report (refer to section 7.4) and the localised medium susceptibility to the THH/CSEC and substation components of the Proposed Development, sensitivity of the local landform is considered to be **medium**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.3.29 With regard to the construction effects of the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development on landform, the Schedule of Environmental Commitments (**Document 7.4.2.1**) makes commitments to avoid distinctive and more sensitive rocky outcrops across the study area. Furthermore, the Penmynydd Road Construction Compound would be sited within a relatively flat, low lying field, and as such there would be very limited change to landform. The size scale of effect of effect on landform elsewhere is considered to be small and contained locally within the Order Limits. Magnitude of change is considered overall to be **negligible**. Given the **low** sensitivity of the overall landform the short-term predicted negligible magnitude of change during construction, the overall assessment of effects upon landform is considered to be **negligible (not significant)**.
- 9.3.30 The Braint and Tŷ Fodol Construction Compounds and Pentir Substation extension site would require the re-profiling of the localised landform in order to accommodate generally level construction sites. The sites in question are field scale and are gently undulating and/or have gradual slopes. The size/scale of the effect is considered to be small and contained locally within the Order Limits. Magnitude of change would be greatest at construction; this is considered to be **low**.
- 9.3.31 Given the overall medium sensitivity of landform at these sites and the medium-term predicted low magnitude of change during construction, the overall assessment of effects upon landform is considered to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.3.32 By operation year 1 the landform around the Braint and Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and Pentir Substation extension would be re-contoured to help screen the above ground infrastructure and would blend in with surrounding landform. At Ty Fodol the development platform would be cut into the landform in order to set the permanent infrastructure at a lower site level to reduce landscape effects. The proposals for this are presented in illustrative landscape plans in the Design Guide (**Document 7.19**) and more detailed landscape mitigation plans found on Figure 7.14 (**Document 5.7.1.14**), Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**) and Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**). In Operation Year 1, the magnitude of change would be **low** and would remain **low** at operation year 15.
- 9.3.33 Given the overall medium sensitivity of landform at these sites and the predicted low magnitude of change at year 1, the overall assessment of

operational effects upon landform is considered to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

- 9.3.34 As in year 1, operational effects at year 15 are considered to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance & Decommissioning

- 9.3.35 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in negligible effects to landform. It is anticipated these would be of **negligible** magnitude of change to landform during these activities which would have an overall a **negligible effect (not significant)**.

9.4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 9.4.1 Out of the 51 VSAA areas identified in section 7 baseline, 18 VSAA have been excluded from the assessment to ensure the focus is on areas where significant effects may be more likely. The individual justifications for excluding these 18 VSAA are included in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**).
- 9.4.2 A total of 33 VSAA have been assessed in whole or in part depending on the size of the VSAA and its relationship to the study area. It is important to note that only the parts of VSAA within the study area have been assessed in judgements relating to value, susceptibility and sensitivity. VSAA locations are illustrated on Figure 7.8 (**Document 5.7.1.8**) and Figure 7.9 (**Document 5.7.1.9**). Table 7.23 below summarises the anticipated effects on these 33 VSAA based on the detailed assessments that are included within Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**).
- 9.4.3 The Proposed Development would directly affect 12 VSAA¹⁹ i.e. the above ground works within the order limits extend into each of these VSAA. The remaining 21 VSAA would have indirect effects from the Proposed Development. These are highlighted in Table 7.23 below.

Table 7.23: Summary of VSAA Assessment			
VSAA Ref No. ²⁰	Name	Residual Effect	
		Construction	Operation

¹⁹ Note: for the purpose of this assessment YNSMNV008 has been split into two YNSMNV008 (North) and YNSMNV008 (South)

²⁰ Note: VSAA's that would be directly affected (above ground) by construction and/or operation within the Order Limits of the Proposed Development are highlighted in bold and cells shaded in grey.

			Year 1	Year 15
YNSMNVS004	Mynydd Bodafon	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS008 (North)²¹	North-west Drumlins (North)	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS008 (South)²²	North-west Drumlins (South)	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS009	Mynydd Mechell	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS010	Drumlins with Windfarms	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS011	North Coast Hinterland	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS012	Central Smooth Belt	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS014	Benllech Hinterland	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
YNSMNVS017	Eastern Smooth Belt	Minor adverse	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)
YNSMNVS018	South-west ridges	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)
YNSMNVS022	Pentraeth Valleys	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS026	Menai Straits Slopes - South	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS027	Malltraeth Marsh South Slopes	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

²¹ Note: for the purpose of this assessment YNSMNVS008 has been split into two YNSMNVS008 (North) and YNSMNVS008 (South)

Table 7.23: Summary of VSAA Assessment				
VSAA Ref No. ²⁰	Name	Residual Effect		
		Construction	Operation	
			Year 1	Year 15
YNSMNVS028	Malltraeth Marsh	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS035	North Coast	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS036	Cemlyn	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS043	Menai Straits - Mid Section	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
YNSMNVS056	Llyn Alaw	Negligible	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS059	Llangefni	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS062	Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS068	Cemaes	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS069	Llanfechell	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS070	Llanerchymedd	Minor adverse	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS078	Gaerwen	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS086	Wylfa Power Station	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
YNSMNVS087	Parys Mountain	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
YNSMNVS091	A55 Corridor	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
GWNDDVS002	Bangor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
GWNDDVS005	Vaynol Estate	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
GWNDDVS006	Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor)	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)

Table 7.23: Summary of VSAA Assessment

VSAA Ref No. ²⁰	Name	Residual Effect		
		Construction	Operation	
			Year 1	Year 15
GWNDDVS011	Waen-Pentir	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
GWNDDVS012	Cefn-du	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
GWNDDVS025	Y Felinheli	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 9.4.4 None of the indirect effects identified would be significant therefore they are not discussed further in the main body of this report. More detail regarding the assessment and level of effects anticipated is included within Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**).

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.4.5 During construction, the presence of construction activities within the Order Limits such as temporary access tracks and vegetation removal would directly affect 12 VSAA's. The short-term and generally reversible nature of the works, reinstatement of hedgerows and boundaries and localised nature of the construction activities would limit overall effects within some of the VSAA. Minor or negligible effects are anticipated within nine of these VSAA as highlighted in Table 7.23 and described in more detail in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**).
- 9.4.6 Three of these directly affected VSAA's have been assessed as having **moderate adverse (significant)** effects during construction as follows: Central Smooth Belt (YNSMNVS012); South-West Ridges (YNSMNVS018); and Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006).

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.4.7 During operation, the Proposed Development would directly affect 12 VSAA's. Out of these 12 VSAA's the Proposed Development would have **moderate adverse (significant)** residual effects on four VSAA's as follows: Central Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNVS012); Eastern Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNVS017); South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNVS018); and Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006). All other VSAA's would have **minor** or **negligible** effects.

- 9.4.8 The following gives details of those VSAs with significant effects during construction and/or operation.

Central Smooth Belt VSA (YNSMNV012)

- 9.4.9 Given the generally medium value of this VSA as identified in the baseline section (section 7.4) of this report and the medium susceptibility as explained in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) The sensitivity of this part of the *Central Smooth Belt* VSA to a new 400 kV OHL is considered to be **medium**. However, as explained in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) it is considered that there are **areas of higher sensitivity** in the east.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.4.10 The central part of Central Smooth Belt VSA (YNSMNV012) would be directly affected by the construction of either 36 new pylons (Option A) or 37 new pylons (Option B), the removal of three pylons and the modification of two pylons. Some vegetation removal would be required to facilitate construction including 40 trees, 11053 m² woodland/tree groups and 1665 m hedgerow (most notably the loss of sections of overgrown hedgerow and areas of trees to the east and south-east of Capel Coch and part of Gylched Covert to the south-west of Talwrn). Vegetation loss would be slightly less for Option B with 32 trees 9683 m² woodland/tree groups and 1507 m hedgerow. Vegetation would be reinstated as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (Document 7.4.1.1).
- 9.4.11 The magnitude of change as a result of the construction of the OHL would be **medium** due to the localised nature of construction activities and loss of vegetation (although Option B would result in additional direct effects due to the construction of one additional pylon and slightly lesser effects on vegetation, overall there would be little difference in the magnitude of change between Option A and B across the VSA as a whole).
- 9.4.12 Construction traffic would also be present along several roads within this VSA, including the B5109 (LGV Link 22), B5110 (HGV Link 5 & LGV Link 24), B5111 (HGV Link 4 & 4.1), B5112 (LGV Link 26) and B5420 (HGV Link 7 & 7.1). Other local roads would also be utilised including the road between Llanerchymedd and Maenaddwyn (LGV Link 29) and the road stretching from Capel Coch running south to the B5111 (LGV Link 31).
- 9.4.13 Given the **medium** sensitivity of this VSA to the Proposed Development and the short-term predicted **medium** magnitude of change, landscape effects during construction would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. With regard to the assessment of likely landscape effects during construction there would be negligible difference between Option A and B.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.4.14 The Proposed Development would result in approximately 12.5 km length of new OHL through the central part of Central Smooth Belt (YNSMNV012); a relatively large VSAA. Approximately 10 km of this would run along the existing 4AP route and approximately 2.5 km along the existing 4ZA route. When parallel it would intensify the effect of the existing OHL but not greatly affect the key characteristics of the landscape. The Proposed Development would form a coherent appearance with the existing OHL (as per the guidance note on Holford Rule 6).
- 9.4.15 There would be some localised conflicts with landform where the proposed 400 kV OHL would cross the low ridgeline past Capel Coch; however, as it would run parallel to the existing 400 kV OHL it would not greatly alter the perception of the landscape. It is considered that geographical extent of effects would be contained to site level, the Order Limits and immediate setting due to the fact that much of the Proposed Development would be perceived in combination with the existing 400 kV OHL which already influences and is visible across a relatively wide area. Effects on landscape character would therefore be limited; albeit there would be a long length of new OHL in this VSAA.
- 9.4.16 Where the OHL would deviate away from the existing 400 kV OHL, to the east of Capel Coch, this would spread the effects to a small degree, in a localised part of Central Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV012). The deviation would be gradual and approximately 2.5 km long. It would be at a maximum of approximately 550 m distance from the existing 400 kV OHL at its furthest point. This VSAA is already influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL and a number of smaller scale wind turbines. As such the Proposed Development would not be an uncharacteristic landscape element.
- 9.4.17 The effect of the Proposed Development at year 1 would be exacerbated by the fact that mitigation planting as shown on Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**) and replacement planting as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (**Document 7.4.1.1**) would be immature. As such the magnitude of change at operation year 1 would be moderate. The magnitude of change at operation year 15 would reduce to medium-low due to maturation of reinstatement and mitigation planting which would help to mitigate for the tree loss, particularly around Capel Coch and Gylched Covert as detailed on Figure 4.1 (**Document 7.4.1.1**) and Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**).
- 9.4.18 Given the **medium** sensitivity of Central Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV012) (and localised reduced sensitivity) to the Proposed Development and the predicted medium magnitude of change, operational effects at year 1 would

be **moderate adverse (significant)**. By operation year 15 the magnitude of change would reduce to medium-low and therefore effects at year 15 would reduce to **minor adverse (not significant)**.

- 9.4.19 Although Option B would result in the presence of one additional pylon, overall there would be negligible difference in the magnitude of change between Option A and B.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance & Decommissioning

- 9.4.20 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Eastern Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV017)

- 9.4.21 Given the medium-high value of this VSAA as identified in the baseline section (section 7.4) of this report and the medium-high susceptibility to a new 400 kV OHL and medium-low susceptibility to a THH /CSEC and / or Substation, as explained in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**), the sensitivity of this part of the *Eastern Smooth Belt VSAA* to the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.4.22 No significant effects on landscape character are identified in relation to this VSAA during construction; further details regarding the assessment of effects can be found in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**).

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.4.23 Eastern South Belt VSAA (YNSMNV017) would be directly affected by approximately 2 km length of new 400kV OHL through the western extent of this relatively large VSAA. Initially (for approximately 350 m) the new 400 kV OHL line would run in close parallel for the existing 400 kV OHL but would then deviate towards the A55.
- 9.4.24 Where the new 400 kV OHL moves away from the existing 400 kV OHL, this would begin to spread the effects of vertical infrastructure in the landscape. The landscape of this VSAA is however already influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL and as such the Proposed Development would not be an uncharacteristic landscape element. Vegetation would be reinstated as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (**Document 7.4.1.1**). Landscape

mitigation proposals relevant to this VSAA are shown on Figure 7.12 (**Document 5.7.1.12**) and Figure 7.14 (**Document 5.7.1.14**).

- 9.4.25 Magnitude of change at year 1 and year 15 is judged to be medium as the introduction of a new 400 kV OHL would spread the effects of the infrastructure resulting in a locally adverse effect on the landscape.
- 9.4.26 The magnitude of change as a result of the Braint THH/CSEC at operation year 1 would be **low**; although it wouldn't directly affect this VSAA, it would be perceptible from some parts of the VSAA due to the mitigation planting being immature. This would reduce to **negligible** at year 15 as mitigation planting matures.
- 9.4.27 In view of the **medium** sensitivity of Eastern Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV017) to the 400 kV OHL component of the project, and the assessed magnitude of change as a result of the operation of the 400 kV OHL, the anticipated significance of effect at year 1 and year 15 is considered to be **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 9.4.28 With regard to the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development, effects at year 1 would be **minor adverse**, but would reduce to **negligible** by year 15 as a result of mitigation planting.
- 9.4.29 Considering the effects of all components of the Proposed Development together on this VSAA, the anticipated effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on the character of this VSAA at year 1 and year 15 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.

South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018)

- 9.4.30 Given the medium-high value of this VSAA as identified in the baseline section (section 7.4) of this report and the medium-high susceptibility to a new 400 kV OHL and medium susceptibility to a THH /CSEC and / or Substation, as explained in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**), the sensitivity of this part of the *South-West Ridges VSAA* to the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium-high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.4.31 The north-east part of South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) would be directly affected by: construction activities associated with the tunnel and the Braint Construction Compound; the construction of five new pylons (three of which would be new lower height pylons); and all associated access tracks and permanent access. Vegetation removal would be required to facilitate construction, including 19 trees, 1086 m² woodland/tree groups and 821 m

hedgerow, and there would be a change in land use from pastoral field to Braint Construction Compound. Vegetation would be reinstated as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (**Document 7.4.1.1**). Construction traffic would utilise a short section of road between the A5 and Llanddaniel Fab (HGV Link 14) and a road between the A5 and Ffordd Brynsiencyn (HGV Link 15) in the north-east of the VSAA. The magnitude of change as a result of the construction of the OHL component of the Proposed Development would be **medium-low** due to the loss of vegetation and localised nature of construction activities.

- 9.4.32 Activities associated with the construction of the tunnel (including the Braint Construction Compound) would be spread across the north-east of South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018), due to requirements relating to access tracks and permanent access. The magnitude of change as a result of the construction activities related to the Braint Construction Compound and associated access tracks and works would be **medium-low** due to the short to medium term nature of construction activities and loss of vegetation.
- 9.4.33 In view of the **medium-high** sensitivity of South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) to the 400 kV OHL and the Braint THH/CSEC and respectively assessed **medium-low** magnitude of change as a result of the construction of both these components, construction landscape effects would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.4.34 South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) would be directly affected by approximately 1.7 km length of new OHL and the new Braint THH/CSEC and associated permanent access. The magnitude of change as a result of the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is judged to be medium. This VSAA is already influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL (to the far north-east) and a lower voltage steel lattice OHL; although the proposed 400 kV OHL isn't an uncharacteristic feature it would intensify and spread the effects of the infrastructure further into this VSAA. It would have a locally adverse effect on the sense of place and locally erode the quality of the landscape. With regard to the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change would also be medium at year 1. Whilst this development would not be entirely out of keeping with the character of the area (which is already influenced by the proximity of the A55, the railway, the existing OHL and scattered farmsteads, agricultural and other large buildings near to Llanfairpwll) the presence of the Braint THH/CSEC and permanent access would also have a locally adverse effect on the sense of place, tranquillity and locally erode the quality of the landscape.

- 9.4.35 In view of the **medium-high** sensitivity of South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) to the 400 kV OHL and Braint THH/CSEC and the assessed medium magnitude of change as a result of the operation of both these components, landscape effects at year 1 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 9.4.36 With regard to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development, effects at operation year 15 would remain **moderate adverse (significant)**. With regard to the Braint THH/CSEC aspect of the Proposed Development, as mitigation proposals that are illustrated on Figure 7.14 (**Document 5.7.1.14**) mature, the magnitude of change would reduce to low. Given the medium-high sensitivity of South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) to this type of development, landscape effects at year 15 would reduce to **minor adverse (not significant)**. Taking these assessments into consideration the overall anticipated landscape effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on the character of South-West Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) at year 15 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. This is largely attributed to the OHL component of the Proposed Development.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance & Decommissioning

- 9.4.37 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006)

- 9.4.38 Given the **medium-high** value of this VSAA as identified in the baseline section (section 7.4) of this report and the **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV OHL and **medium-low** susceptibility to a THH /CSEC and / or Substation, as explained in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**), the overall sensitivity of this part of the *Bethel (Between Clynnog and Bangor)* VSAA to the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.4.39 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006) would be directly affected by the construction of four new pylons including one new low height pylon; an extension to the existing Pentir Substation, Pentir Construction Compound, Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound and all associated access tracks and permanent access. Vegetation removal would be required to facilitate construction, including 19 trees, 35098 m² woodland/tree groups and 748 m hedgerows, and there would be a short-

term change in land use from pastoral field to Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound and Pentir Construction Compound. Vegetation would be reinstated as shown on the Reinstatement Plans (**Document 7.4.1.1**).

- 9.4.40 Construction traffic would utilise some main roads and short sections of roads in the north-east of the VSAA. These would include: the A487 (HGV Link 18), the B4547 (HGV Link 19), the A4087 (Contingency Link 18.1); the A4244 and slip roads associated with the A55 north-east of Glasinfryn (HGV Link 20) and short sections of roads around Pentir Substation (LGV Link 30). The VSAA is already influenced by the existing substation at Pentir, existing OHL and lower voltage OHL infrastructure (including the existing OHL from Wylfa) and the busy road network including the A55.
- 9.4.41 The magnitude of change as a result of the construction of the OHL component of the Proposed Development (including Pentir Construction Compound) would be **medium-low** due to the loss of vegetation and localised nature and short-term duration of construction activities.
- 9.4.42 The magnitude of change as a result of the Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound and extension to Pentir Substation would be medium due to the loss of vegetation, nature and spread of medium-term construction activities, including access tracks.
- 9.4.43 In view of the **medium-high** sensitivity of Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006) to the OHL aspect of this Proposed Development and the short-term predicted **medium-low** magnitude of change, effects during construction would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 9.4.44 Given the **medium** sensitivity of Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006) to the THH/CSEC and Substation components of the Proposed Development and assessed **medium** magnitude of change as a result of Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound, Pentir Substation extension works and associated works and access tracks, effects during construction would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 9.4.45 Taking the above assessments into consideration the overall anticipated construction effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on the character of Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006) would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.4.46 The Proposed Development would result in approximately 1.2 km length of new 400 kV OHL, a new Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and extension to the existing

Pentir Substation, all located towards the middle and north-west boundary of Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA (GWNDDVS006).

- 9.4.47 The magnitude of change as a result of the 400 kV OHL component at both year 1 and year 15 is judged to be **medium-low**. Although the introduction of a new 400 kV OHL would spread the effects of the infrastructure in a localised part of the VSAA, the proposed 400 kV OHL would be just under 1 km from the existing OHL at its furthest point, and the character of the landscape is already influenced by a number of existing 400 kV and lower voltage OHLs. As such the proposed 400 kV OHL would not be an uncharacteristic landscape element.
- 9.4.48 With regard to the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change at year 1 would be **medium**. This is due to the fact that this development would not be entirely out of keeping with the wider character of the area which is already influenced by similarly large buildings within the adjacent Bangor VSAA and the presence of the existing Pentir Substation and OHLs in the Bethel (Between Clynnog and Bangor) VSAA. As mitigation planting shown on Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**) matures, the magnitude of change would decrease, reducing to medium-low by year 15.
- 9.4.49 The magnitude of change as a result of the extension to Pentir Substation would be **medium** as the proposed additions/adaptions would be contiguous with the existing substation footprint, but would reduce to **low** by year 15 as mitigation planting shown on Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**) matures.
- 9.4.50 In view of the **medium-high** sensitivity of this VSAA to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development and assessed **medium-low** magnitude of change, operational effects at year 1 and at year 15 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. In terms of both the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and Pentir Substation Extension, due to the **medium** sensitivity of the VSAA to these components of the Proposed Development and the assessed **medium** magnitude of change, operational effects at year 1 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. As mitigation planting shown on Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**) and Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**) matures, it would help to assimilate the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and Pentir Substation Extension into the landscape, reducing the operational effects at year 15 to **minor adverse (not significant)**.
- 9.4.51 Considering the effects of all components of the Proposed Development together on this VSAA, the anticipated effects of the Proposed Development

(as a whole) on the character of this VSAA at year 1 and year 15 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance & Decommissioning

9.4.52 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

9.5 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

9.5.1 Table 7.24 below summarises the anticipated effects on 11 designated landscapes based on the detailed assessments that follow. Locations are illustrated on Figure 7.1 (**Document 5.7.1.1**); Figure 7.2 (Sheets 1-4) (**Document 5.7.1.2**); Figure 7.3 (**Document 5.7.1.3**); and Figure 7.4 (**Document 5.7.1.4**).

9.5.2 The Proposed Development would directly affect two landscape designations i.e. the above ground works within the order limits extend into each of these areas. The remaining nine areas would have indirect effects from the Proposed Development. These are highlighted in Table 7.24 below.

Table 7.24: Summary of Landscape Designations Assessment			
Name ²²	Significance of Effect		
	Construction	Year 1	Year 15
Snowdonia National Park	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Anglesey AONB	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
North Anglesey Coast Heritage Coast	Negligible	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

²² Note: Areas that would be directly affected (above ground) by construction and/ or operation within the Order Limits of the Proposed Development are highlighted in bold and cells shaded in grey.

Table 7.24: Summary of Landscape Designations Assessment

Name ²²	Significance of Effect		
	Construction	Year 1	Year 15
Parciau Estatelands SLA	Negligible	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)	Moderate adverse (Significant)
Menai SLA	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Bangor Mountain SLA	Negligible	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
North-western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible

- 9.5.3 It was considered that the difference between Option A and Option B would be insignificant in terms of influence on any of the designations considered in this assessment. This would be mainly due to the relatively insignificant nature of the difference, the fact that the difference would not directly affect any of the designations and would be barely perceptible due to distance. It is therefore not discussed any further in this section.

Snowdonia National Park

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.4 The susceptibility of the diverse and high quality landscapes of the National Park are typically **high**.
- 9.5.5 The areas considered to fall within the setting of the National Park are considered to generally be of **medium-high** susceptibility to the Proposed Development with a slightly lower judgement of susceptibility relating to underlying VSAs that fall within Bangor Coastal Plain LCA 1 and increased susceptibility relating to North-western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for judgements relating to susceptibility of underlying VSAs and section 3 for consideration of SLAs).

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.6 In view of its national importance and **high** susceptibility, sensitivity to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.
- 9.5.7 The areas considered to fall within the setting of the National Park are considered to generally be of **medium-high** sensitivity to the Proposed Development with increased sensitivity relating to underlying VSAs that fall within Eastern Menai Strait LCA 11 and North-western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for judgements relating to sensitivity of underlying VSAs and section 3 for consideration of SLAs).

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.8 The National Park would not be directly affected by the construction of the Proposed Development and none of the construction traffic routes pass through it. Whilst there may be some very limited perceptibility of distant construction activities, the size/scale of the effect is considered negligible as there would be no change to the perceptual aspects or key characteristics of the landscape. The geographical extent of the effects would also be negligible due to the limited perceptibility of the Proposed Development from areas inside the National Park.
- 9.5.9 Given the **high** sensitivity of the National Park to the Proposed Development and the short-term predicted **negligible** magnitude of change, construction effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.
- 9.5.10 With regard to effects on the setting of the National Park only one of the areas identified to fall within the setting would be directly affected by the Proposed Development (namely Gwynedd LCA 1 Bangor Coastal Plain). Taking in to consideration the assessment of landscape effects on underlying VSAs (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for underlying VSAs), the magnitude of change to the setting of the National Park during construction is at most considered to be **low** with overall effects being **minor adverse (not significant)** (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for assessment of effects on underlying VSAs).
- 9.5.11 Although **minor adverse (not significant)** effects have been identified within the setting of the National Park it is considered that these would not give rise to any effects on the National Park itself; which is concurrent with the assessment of effects on the National Park above. The effects on the setting would have no influence on the overall character and quality of the

landscape within the designated area, nor would they affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.12 The Proposed Development would not directly affect Snowdonia National Park. During operation, the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development would be just perceptible in the distance from areas of high ground in the far north of the National Park. The character of the northern and western edges of the National Park is already affected to some degree by existing 4ZB 400 kV OHL which runs through the National Park and the 4ZC 400 kV OHL which skirts the western fringes of the National Park north of Caernarfon. The Proposed Development would be perceived as a very small part of a wide panoramic view. The scale of the effect and its geographical extent would therefore be **negligible**.
- 9.5.13 Given the **high** sensitivity of the National Park to the Proposed Development and the **negligible** magnitude of change, effects at year 1 and year 15 would be **negligible (not significant)**.
- 9.5.14 With regard to effects on the setting of the National Park only one of the areas identified to fall within the setting would be directly affected by the Proposed Development (namely Bangor Coastal Plain LCA 1). Taking in to consideration the assessment of underlying VSAs, the magnitude of change to the setting of the National Park at operation year 1 is considered to be **low** at most, with overall effects being **minor adverse (not significant)** (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for assessment of effects on underlying VSAs).
- 9.5.15 The magnitude of change to the setting of the National Park at operation year 15 is considered to reduce to **negligible** with overall effects being **negligible (not significant)** (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for assessment of effects on underlying VSAs). This would be due to maturation of mitigation planting which would help assimilate the Proposed Development into the wider landscape, particularly around Pentir Substation and Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC as detailed in the landscape mitigation plans on Figure 7.15 (**Document 5.7.1.15**) and Figure 7.16 (**Document 5.7.1.16**).
- 9.5.16 As effects are considered negligible they would have no influence on the overall character and quality of the landscape within the designated area, nor would they affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.17 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.18 Much of the landscape of the AONB would be highly susceptible to all components of the Proposed Development, particularly along the immediate coastline along which the AONB is focussed. There is a slight reduction in susceptibility inland and around settlements and where landscapes are already affected by vertical infrastructure such as existing 400 kV OHLs, lower voltage OHLs and wind energy developments. The descriptions of susceptibility of the underlying VSAs as detailed in Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) reflect this. Overall the landscape susceptibility of the AONB is considered to be **high**.
- 9.5.19 The SLAs considered to fall within the setting of the Anglesey AONB are considered to be of **higher** susceptibility to the Proposed Development. Judgements relating to the susceptibility of the VSAs that fall within the LCAs that are considered to form part of the AONB setting are **slightly lower** (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for judgements relating to value of underlying VSAs). Judgements relating to areas that fall within 2 km are varied, being generally **medium-low** adjacent to the AONB North Coast, **medium** adjacent to AONB Eastern Inland and **medium-high** adjacent to AONB South Coast.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.20 Given the **high** value of the AONB and typically **high** susceptibility, the overall sensitivity of the AONB to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.
- 9.5.21 The SLAs considered to fall within the setting of the Anglesey AONB are considered to be **highly** sensitive to the Proposed Development. The sensitivity of the VSAs that fall within the LCAs that are considered to form part of the AONB setting are judged to be **slightly lower** (refer to Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**) and Appendix 7.3 (**Document 5.7.2.3**) for judgements relating to sensitivity of underlying VSAs). Areas that fall within 2 km are varied and are judged to be generally **medium** adjacent to

the AONB North Coast and AONB Eastern Inland and **medium-high** adjacent to AONB South Coast.

Summary of Viewpoint Assessment in Relation to the AONB and its Setting

9.5.22 Table 7.25 below summarises the magnitude of change in views within the AONB as assessed in Appendix 8.2, Viewpoint Assessment (**Document 5.8.2.2**). The results of the assessment demonstrate that changes to the perception of the landscape of the AONB would not be significant.

Table 7.25: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment within AONB				
VP Ref	Name	Magnitude		
		Construction	Year 1	Year 15
VP-1/14	View from road north-west of Llanfairynghornwy	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/15	View from Mynydd-y-Garn	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/18	View from Llanbadrig Point near Ty’N-Llan and St Patricks Church	Low	Medium-Low	Medium-Low
VP-1/20	View from road within the AONB near Ty-Du	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/21	View from road within the AONB near Llanlleiana	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP-1/22	View from Wales Coast Path at Llanlleiana Head/ Dinas Gynfor	Low	Negligible	Negligible
VP-1/23	View from Wales Coast Path near Ogof Gynfor	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/28	View from Wales Coast Path at Cerrig Brith	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/34	View from layby opposite Marine Terrace looking over Cemaes Bay	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/35	View from the beach car park at Cemaes	Low	Low	Low
VP-1/36	View from local road near Capel Siloam south of	Low	Low	Low

Table 7.25: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment within AONB				
VP Ref	Name	Magnitude		
		Construction	Year 1	Year 15
	Cemlyn Bay			
VP-1/37	View from Wales Coast Path at Cemlyn Bay	Low	Low	Low
VP-2/18	View from Mynydd Eilian	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP-2/31	View from Wales Coast Path at Dulas Bay	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP-3/03	View from Mynydd Bodafon towards Capel Coch and Snowdonia	Medium-low	Medium-low	Medium-low
VP-3/05	View from trig point on Mynydd Bodafon	Low	Medium-low	Medium-low
VP-4/18	View from Trig Point near Hermon and the Wales Coast Path	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP-5/15	View from Trig Point at Bwrdd Arthur	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP-6/02	View from Plas Newydd	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP-6/10	View from viewpoint on the A5 to the east of Llanfairpwll	No effect	No effect	No effect

9.5.23 In terms of the effect on peoples' sense of approach and arrival to the AONB, the assessments of viewpoints VP-6/11, VP-6/12 and VP-6/14 indicate there would be no significant change.

Landscape Effects during Construction

9.5.24 There would be no direct effect on Anglesey AONB itself as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. Much of the AONB lies at some distance from the Proposed Development and its focus is typically towards the coast. Parts of the AONB are already indirectly affected to some degree by the existing 400 kV OHL, and, in the north the AONB is also affected by the existing Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and nearby windfarms.

9.5.25 There would be a small degree of perceptibility of construction activities from localised parts of the AONB (namely AONB North Coast; AONB Eastern

Inland; and AONB South Coast); however effects would be short to medium term and much of the AONB would remain completely unaffected by the construction of the Proposed Development. Taking this into consideration with the small geographical extent of effects (in relation to the wider AONB), the overall magnitude of change to the AONB as a result of construction would be **low**.

- 9.5.26 Given the **high** sensitivity of this landscape to the Proposed Development and the predicted **low** magnitude of change, construction effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.
- 9.5.27 With regard to effects on the **setting of Anglesey AONB**; one of the SLAs identified to fall within the setting would be directly affected by the construction of the Proposed Development (namely Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA). The assessment of effects on Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA further along in section 9.5 identifies a medium-low magnitude of change during construction. Overall anticipated effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on the SLA during construction would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. This also accords with the judgements relating to areas adjacent to the AONB South Coast within South-west Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) as discussed in Appendix 7.2 VSAA Character Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.2**).
- 9.5.28 The magnitude of change to the setting of Anglesey AONB, during construction, in areas adjacent to **AONB Eastern Inland** (namely Central Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV012)) would also be locally **medium**; with resultant local landscape effects during construction being **moderate adverse (significant)** (refer Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**)).
- 9.5.29 Within the Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA and South-west Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) the effects would be attributed to the construction activities related with the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development that fall within the setting of the AONB (including the Braint Construction Compound and associated access tracks and permanent access). Within areas adjacent to AONB Eastern Inland, near Mynydd Bodafon (Central Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV012)) the effects would be attributed to the construction of 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development, particularly the loss of vegetation; however this would be mostly outside the 2 km buffer from the AONB.
- 9.5.30 No significant construction effects are identified in areas adjacent to the AONB North Coast as defined in section 7.6.

- 9.5.31 Although direct **moderate adverse (significant)** effects have been identified within the landscapes that form part of the setting of the AONB these would not give rise to significant indirect effects on the AONB itself. As discussed these effects would not greatly influence the overall character and quality of the landscape within the designated area, nor would they affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.32 There would be no direct effect on Anglesey AONB itself as a result of the operation of the Proposed Development. The 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development would be perceptible from localised parts of the AONB. Where this is the case, the proposed 400 kV OHL would be perceived together with the existing 400 kV OHL, and although it may intensify the effect that the existing 400 kV OHL already has on the perception of the landscape, it would not greatly affect the key characteristics or special qualities of the AONB. The design (including routing) of the Proposed Development would form a coherent appearance with the existing 400 kV OHL (as per the guidance note on Holford Rule 6). Owing to the fact that it would be perceived in combination with the existing 400 kV OHL, the overall scale of change experienced would be small. Taking this into consideration together with the very small geographical extent of effects (in relation to the wider AONB) the overall magnitude of change to the AONB at operation year 1 would be **low**, with resultant **minor adverse (not significant)** effects. These effects would remain the same at operation year 15.
- 9.5.33 The following paragraphs describe the magnitude of change at operation year 1 in more detail in relation to the three main areas of the AONB that fall within the study area:
- 9.5.34 With respect to the **AONB North Coast**, the OHL element of the Proposed Development would be perceptible; however, the landscape character of this part of the AONB is already indirectly affected to some degree by the existing Wylfa Nuclear Power Station, 400 kV OHL and lower voltage OHL and nearby windfarms / wind energy developments. It would intensify the effect of the existing 400 kV OHL but it would not greatly affect the key characteristics / special qualities of the AONB. As such the magnitude of change would be low at operation year 1. Given the high sensitivity of Anglesey AONB to the Proposed Development and the predicted **low** magnitude of change, landscape effects at operation year 1 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

- 9.5.35 With respect to the **AONB Eastern Inland**, it is acknowledged that the Proposed Development would intensify the effect of nearby vertical infrastructure on the skyline outside the AONB to the south-east of Mynydd Bodafon, (where it would traverse the ridgeline past Capel Coch) but not so much that it would greatly alter the perception of the landscape of the AONB when compared to the baseline. As such the magnitude of change would be low at operation year 1. Given the high sensitivity of Anglesey AONB to the Proposed Development and the predicted **low** magnitude of change, landscape effects at operation year 1 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.
- 9.5.36 With respect to the **AONB South Coast**, the high frequency of woodland cover would limit perceptibility of the Proposed Development at operation year 1. Magnitude of change at operation year 1 would therefore be **low**. Given the high sensitivity of Anglesey AONB to the Proposed Development and the predicted **low** magnitude of change, construction landscape effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.
- 9.5.37 The following paragraphs set out the assessment of effects on the **setting of Anglesey AONB**.
- 9.5.38 No significant effects are identified in any areas considered to form part of the setting of the AONB, adjacent to the **AONB North Coast**, at operation year 1 or operation year 15.
- 9.5.39 The magnitude of change to the setting of Anglesey AONB in areas considered to form part of the setting of the AONB, adjacent to **AONB Eastern Inland** (namely Central Smooth Belt VSAA (YNSMNV012), would be **medium** at operation year 1 and resultant landscape effects would be **moderate adverse (significant)** (refer Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**)). Effects would be attributed to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development; in particular where it would deviate away from the existing 400 kV OHL, although the majority of the deviation would not be within 2 km of the AONB. By operation year 15 magnitude of change would reduce to **medium-low**. Resultant landscape effects at year 15 would be **minor adverse (not significant)** (refer Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**)).
- 9.5.40 The following effects are anticipated in areas considered to form part of the setting of the AONB, adjacent to the **AONB South Coast**. At operation year 1 effects on Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA would be **moderate adverse (significant)** as explained further along in section 9.5. This accords with the judgements relating to areas adjacent to the AONB South Coast within South-west Ridges VSAA (YNSMNV018) as discussed in Appendix 7.2 VSAA Character Assessment (**Document 5.7.2.2**). Effects

would be attributed to the 400 kV OHL and Braint THH/CSEC components of the Proposed Development both of which fall within the setting of the AONB. By operation year 15 as mitigation planting matures it is anticipated that the effects arising from the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development would reduce to **minor adverse (not significant)**, however overall effects of the Proposed Development (attributed to the 400 kV OHL) would remain **moderate adverse (significant)** at year 15.

- 9.5.41 Although direct **moderate adverse (significant)** effects have been identified within the landscapes that form part of the setting of the AONB (adjacent to the **AONB South Coast**) it is considered these would not give rise to significant indirect effects on the AONB itself. These effects would not greatly influence the overall character and quality of the landscape within the designated area, nor would they affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.42 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

North Anglesey Heritage Coast

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.43 Although the existing Wylfa Nuclear Power station (including Wylfa indoor electricity substations) located on Wylfa Head is excluded from the North Heritage Coast designation, its presence has an effect on the undeveloped character of the nearby coastline defined as Heritage Coast. Therefore, whilst overall the susceptibility of the North Anglesey Heritage Coast to the Proposed Development (in this case a 400 kV OHL and Substation) is considered to be **high**, there are areas of locally reduced susceptibility around Wylfa Head.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.44 In view of the high value and high susceptibility of the North Anglesey Heritage Coast, overall sensitivity is considered to be **high**, albeit with areas of reduced sensitivity around Wylfa Head.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.45 The North Anglesey Heritage Coast is approximately 592 m from the LOD of the Proposed Development (441 m to the nearest point of the Order Limits). The construction of the Proposed Development would not directly affect the North Anglesey Heritage Coast; furthermore the perception of construction activities related to the 400 kV OHL or Wylfa Substation works components of the Proposed Development would be geographically limited due to the nature of the works, distance and short-term duration. The overall magnitude of change as a result of construction of the proposed works would therefore be **negligible**.
- 9.5.46 Given the high sensitivity of the Heritage Coast to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, construction effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.47 The Proposed Development would not directly affect the North Anglesey Heritage Coast. At its closest point the North Anglesey Heritage Coast is approximately 592 m from the LOD of the Proposed Development. The coastal landscape is already indirectly affected to some degree by the existing Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and electricity substation buildings, and to a much lesser extent by the existing 400 kV OHL. The 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development would marginally increase the effect of the existing 400 kV OHL but the scale of change would be very small and would be perceived within a limited geographical extent. The Proposed Development would not affect the key characteristics of the Heritage Coast, therefore the magnitude of change would be **negligible**. Given the high sensitivity of the Heritage Coast to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, effects at year 1 would be **negligible (not significant)**. Effects would remain the same at operation year 15.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.48 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.49 The qualities of this SLA as described within the JPPU review (Ref 7.18) increase susceptibility to the Proposed Development. However, the SLA is already affected by the existing 400 kV and other lower voltage OHLs (including steel lattice towers) and as such susceptibility to the Proposed Development is reduced. Susceptibility of Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA to the Proposed Development is assessed overall as **medium**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.50 The rocky upland character of this **high** value small scale landscape is distinctive and contrasts in form and colour with the surrounding larger scale lowland landscapes. The landscape is influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL and lower voltage OHLs which locally reduce susceptibility with the existing 400 kV OHL running along its eastern boundary and three existing pylons sited within the SLA.
- 9.5.51 Given the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 and the medium susceptibility, the overall sensitivity of Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA to the Proposed Development is assessed as being **medium-high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.52 This SLA would be directly affected by the construction of two new pylons and access tracks. Although some vegetation removal would be required between 4ZA021 and 4ZA024 and for access tracks there is a commitment not to affect rocky outcrops as detailed in the Schedule of Environmental Commitments in the CEMP (**Document 7.4.2.1**). The magnitude of change in landscape character as a result of construction would be **low**. This is due to the localised nature of construction activities; and to a lesser extent the presence of construction traffic using a road between Llanfechell and Rhosgoch (Link 25). Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the short-term predicted **low** magnitude of change, construction effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.53 At operation year 1, the Proposed Development would result in approximately 550 m length of new 400 kV OHL including two pylons (in the 4ZA alignment) located just inside the eastern edge of the VSAA, running

parallel to and on the far side of the existing 400 kV OHL. Although this would intensify the effect of the existing 400 kV OHL along the eastern edge of the SLA, it would not greatly affect the key characteristics of the landscape. The design (including routeing) of the Proposed Development would form a coherent appearance with the existing 400 kV OHL (as per the guidance note on Holford Rule 6). Although the Proposed Development may be perceived from eastern parts of the SLA it is considered that the geographical extent of effects would be contained to site level, the Order Limits and immediate setting due to the fact that the Proposed Development would be perceived in combination with the existing 400 kV OHL which already influences and is visible in the east of this SLA; therefore effects on the SLA would be limited.

- 9.5.54 This SLA is already influenced by the existing Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and indoor electricity substations, 400 kV OHL, lower voltage OHLs and nearby wind farms and as such the Proposed Development would not be an uncharacteristic landscape element. It is anticipated that the magnitude of change at operation year 1 would be **low**.
- 9.5.55 Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA (and acknowledged localised reduced sensitivity) to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change operational effects at year 1 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**. As in year 1 operational landscape effects at year 15 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.56 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Parys Mountain & Slopes SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.57 In view of the inclusion of the distinctive and prominent landform which is Parys Mountain, susceptibility of this SLA to the Proposed Development is considered to be high. Whilst this susceptibility reduces towards the lower lying transitional land to the north, it is this landscape which provides a setting to Parys Mountain and influences its visual prominence. Overall susceptibility to the Proposed Development (in this instance a 400 kV OHL) is therefore considered to be **high**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.58 The character of this SLA is unique as a result of the inclusion of Parys Mountain. This landscape contrasts greatly with the surrounding rural lowland and coastal landscapes which provides its setting, some of which is included within the boundary of the SLA. The existing 400 kV OHL lies approximately 1.8 km from the western boundary of the SLA at its closest point and has little influence on the character of the landscape.
- 9.5.59 Given the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 and the high susceptibility, the overall sensitivity of Parys Mountain SLA to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.60 The Proposed Development would not directly affect this SLA; the Order Limits would be located approximately 1.83 km to the west of the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA at its closest point. The LOD would be located approximately 1.86 km to the west of the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA at its closest point. Whilst there may be some limited perceptibility of construction activities, the size/scale of the effect is considered negligible. There would be no change to the perceptual aspects or key characteristics of the landscape due to distances involved and the short-term nature of the construction works associated with the 400 kV OHL, furthermore there are no Construction Traffic Routes within this SLA. The geographical extent of the effect would be very small due to the limited perceptibility of the Proposed Development from the SLA. Magnitude of change during construction would therefore be **negligible**.
- 9.5.61 Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, construction effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.62 The LOD of the Proposed Development would be approximately 1.86 km to the west of the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA at its closest point. Whilst the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development may be perceptible in the distance from limited parts of the SLA, it is already indirectly affected by adjacent and more distant wind farms and to a much smaller degree by the existing 400 kV OHL.
- 9.5.63 Where the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development would be perceived together in the distance with the existing 400 kV OHL, it may very slightly intensify the effect but it would not affect the special qualities of the

SLA. The routeing and design of the Proposed Development would form a coherent appearance with the existing 400 kV OHL (as per the guidance note on Holford Rule 6). As the Proposed Development would be perceived in combination with the existing 400 kV OHL, the scale of change would be almost negligible across a relatively small geographical extent. The magnitude of change would therefore be **negligible**.

- 9.5.64 Given the high sensitivity of this SLA (with acknowledged localised reduced sensitivity to lower lying areas) to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, operational effects at year 1 would be **negligible (not significant)**. As in year 1, operational landscape effects at year 15 would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.65 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Parciau Estatelands SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.66 The characteristics which give the SLA its parkland feel are more susceptible to the Proposed Development (in this instance a 400 kV OHL). Susceptibility is therefore considered to be **high**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.67 Given the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 and high susceptibility the overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.68 The Proposed Development would not directly affect this SLA which is located approximately 530 m to the nearest point of the Order Limits. Furthermore Construction Traffic Routes would not pass through the SLA; although a Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) Construction Traffic Route (Link 33) passes along a short section of road to the south of Cors Erddreiniog along the south boundary of the SLA. The Parciau Estatelands SLA is generally a well treed landscape therefore perception of construction of the 400 kV OHL would be limited. Whilst there may be some limited perceptibility of construction activities, the size/scale of the effect is considered negligible as

there would be no change to the perceptual aspects or key characteristics of the landscape and activities would be short-term. The geographical extent of the effects would also be negligible. Taking this into consideration the overall magnitude of change during construction would be **negligible**.

- 9.5.69 Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, operational effects at construction would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.70 The LOD of the Proposed Development (400 kV OHL) is located approximately 727 m to the west of the SLA at its closest point and would run, for the most part, parallel to the existing 400 kV OHL. The design (including routeing) of the Proposed Development would form a coherent appearance with the existing 400 kV OHL (as per the guidance note on Holford Rule 6).

- 9.5.71 The Proposed Development would intensify the effect of nearby vertical infrastructure on the skyline outside the SLA where it would traverse the ridgeline past Capel Coch but not so much so that it would greatly alter the perception of the landscape of the SLA when compared to the baseline. Where the 400 kV OHL element of the Proposed Development would deviate away from the existing line, to the east of Capel Coch, this might slightly increase the effects as a small number of additional pylons may be perceptible on the skyline outside the SLA. This is because the deviation follows slightly higher contours than the existing OHL located lower down in Cors Erddreiniog. Owing to the fact that much of the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development would be perceived in combination with the existing 400 kV OHL, the scale of change experienced would be small overall across a small geographical extent. Magnitude of change would therefore be **low** during operation year 1.

- 9.5.72 Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change, operational effects at year 1 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**. As in year 1 operational landscape effects at year 15 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.73 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.74 The strong rural character of the SLA with high intervisibility with its surrounding landscapes, to include the National Park, are all characteristics which increase susceptibility to the Proposed Development although it is the north-east extent of the SLA which is included within the study area and here has slightly reduced susceptibility as it is influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL, the A55 and its proximity to the settlements of Gaerwen and Llangefni. Overall susceptibility of the SLA to the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium-high**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.75 Given the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 and the medium-high susceptibility, the overall sensitivity of Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA to the Proposed Development is assessed overall as being **medium-high**.
- 9.5.76 The VSAs within which the SLA is located have predominantly been assessed as having medium-high sensitivity to a new 400 kV OHL although there are smaller areas within it which have been assessed as medium and low. The study area falls within the north-east fringe area of the SLA which is greater influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL, the A55 and the proximity to settlements. Therefore, whilst sensitivity overall to the Proposed Development is medium-high, landscape sensitivity within this north-east part of the SLA is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.77 The Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA would not be directly affected by the construction of the Proposed Development although the north-east extent of the SLA lies in fairly close proximity to the Order Limits (approximately 93 m to the east at its closest point) and near to the Penmynydd Road Construction Compound (approximately 262 m). At its closest point the Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds SLA would be approximately 407 m from the LOD of the Proposed Development. Whilst there would be some perceptibility of construction activities near to its north-east boundary, the size/scale of the effect overall is considered negligible as there would be no change to the perceptual aspects or key characteristics of the landscape of the SLA; furthermore any effects would be short-term. The magnitude of change would therefore be **negligible**.

- 9.5.78 Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, construction effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.79 No part of the Proposed Development would fall within the SLA boundary. Whilst the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development may be perceptible during operation, those effects would be perceived in the context of the existing 400 kV OHL. Where the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development would be perceived together in the distance with the existing 400 kV OHL, it may very slightly intensify the effect but it would not affect the special qualities of the SLA. The routeing and design of the Proposed Development would form a coherent appearance with the existing 400 kV OHL (as per the guidance note on Holford Rule 6). As the Proposed Development would be perceived in combination with the existing OHL, the scale of change would be almost negligible across a relatively small geographical extent. The magnitude of change would therefore be **negligible**. Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, operational effects at year 1 would be **negligible (not significant)**. As in year 1, operational effects at year 15 would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.80 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.81 The characteristics which give the SLA its parkland feel contribute to its high susceptibility to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development and medium-high susceptibility to the Braint THH/CSEC component. Susceptibility to the Proposed Development as a whole is considered to be **high**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.82 Taking into consideration the **high** value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 and the **high** susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL, overall sensitivity to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is

considered to be **high**. With regard to the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development overall sensitivity is considered to be **medium-high**. Sensitivity to the Proposed Development as a whole is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.83 The north-eastern extent of this SLA would be directly affected by the construction of one new lower height pylon, Braint THH/CSEC, Braint Construction Compound and associated access tracks and permanent access. Some vegetation removal would be required to facilitate construction and there would be a change in land use from pastoral field to Braint Construction Compound. Construction traffic would utilise a local road between the A5 and Ffordd Brynsiencyn (A4080) (HGV Link 15) and also be present along Ffordd Brynsiencyn (A4080) (Contingency Link 16) which forms the southern boundary of the SLA.
- 9.5.84 The magnitude of change as a result of the construction of the 400 kV OHL in this SLA would be **low** due to the fact it would be affected by the construction of one pylon and the effects would be short-term.
- 9.5.85 The magnitude of change as a result of the construction of the Braint THH/CSEC (including the Braint Construction Compound and associated access track and permanent access) would be **medium-low** due to the short to medium term nature of construction activities and loss of vegetation.
- 9.5.86 With regard to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development, given the high sensitivity of this SLA and the short-term predicted low magnitude of change, construction effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.
- 9.5.87 With regard to the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development, given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA and the short to medium term medium-low magnitude of change, construction effects would be **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 9.5.88 Taking the above assessments into consideration the overall anticipated magnitude of change would be **medium-low** and effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on the SLA during construction would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. This is attributed to the construction activities related with the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development (including the Braint Construction Compound and associated access tracks and permanent access).

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.89 The Proposed Development would result in approximately 615 m length of new OHL (in the 4AP alignment) and the presence of the Braint THH/CSEC and associated permanent access road within this SLA.
- 9.5.90 The magnitude of change as a result of the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is judged to be **medium-low** at operation year 1. This SLA is already influenced by the existing 400 kV OHL (to the far north-east) and a lower voltage steel lattice OHL; although the proposed 400 kV OHL would not be an uncharacteristic feature it would intensify and spread the effects of the infrastructure further into this SLA. It would have a locally adverse effect on the sense of place, tranquillity and locally erode the quality of the landscape. Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to a 400 kV OHL and the medium-low magnitude of change, effects at year 1 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. Effects would remain **moderate adverse (significant)** at year 15.
- 9.5.91 With regard to the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change would be **medium** at year 1. Whilst this development would not be entirely out of keeping with the character of the area (which is already influenced by the proximity of the A55, the railway, the existing 400 kV OHL and scattered farmsteads, agricultural and other large buildings near to Llanfairpwll) the presence of the Braint THH/CSEC and permanent access would have a locally adverse effect on the sense of place, tranquillity and locally erode the quality of the landscape. Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA and the predicted medium magnitude of change as a result of the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development, operational effects at year 1 would be at the upper end of **moderate adverse (significant)**. By operation year 15, as mitigation proposals mature, the magnitude of change as a result of the Braint THH/CSEC component of the Proposed Development would reduce to **medium-low**. Given the medium-high sensitivity and the medium-low magnitude of change at year 15, effects would remain **moderate adverse (significant)** at year 15, albeit they would be at the lower end of moderate adverse due to the maturation of landscape proposals.
- 9.5.92 Taking the above assessments into consideration the overall anticipated magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development at operation year 1 would be **medium** and anticipated landscape effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on this SLA at year 1 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. By year 15 the overall anticipated magnitude of change would reduce to **medium-low** however due to the medium-high sensitivity of the landscape the anticipated effects of the Proposed

Development (as a whole) on this SLA at year 15 would remain **moderate adverse (significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.93 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Menai SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.94 This highly scenic SLA with strong intervisibility with the Menai Strait, AONB and National Park are all characteristics which increase susceptibility to the Proposed Development. Susceptibility to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is considered to be **high** and susceptibility to a THH/CSEC and / or substation is considered to be **medium-high** albeit with areas of reduced susceptibility to areas which are more settled at Menai business Park and at Bangor. Overall susceptibility to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.95 Taking into consideration the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 and the high susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL, overall sensitivity to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**. With regard to the THH/CSEC and / or substation components of the Proposed Development overall sensitivity is also considered to be **high**. Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 9.5.96 This SLA lies approximately 529 m from the LOD of the Proposed Development, approximately 484 m from the Parameters for the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and approximately 190 m to the nearest point of the Order Limits. Aside from construction traffic which would be present on the Britannia Bridge and A55 (Link 21) and on the B4547 (HGV Link 19) and A487 (HGV Link 18) on the south-east boundary, the SLA would not be directly affected by the Proposed Development. Short to medium term construction activities may be perceptible from discrete parts of this SLA but the scale of this effect would be limited due to distance. Construction activities would not affect the perception of the character of this SLA. The

magnitude of change related to all components of the Proposed Development would therefore be **negligible**. Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the negligible magnitude of change, construction effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 9.5.97 Small sections of the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development may be just perceptible from discrete parts of this SLA but the scale of the effect would be limited due to distance and the fact that this is a well treed landscape focussed primarily on the Menai Strait. The Proposed Development would therefore not affect the perception of the character of this SLA. The magnitude of change related to all components of the Proposed Development would therefore be **negligible**. Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the negligible magnitude of change, effects at year 1 would be **negligible (not significant)**. As in year 1 operational effects at year 15 would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.98 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Bangor Mountain SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

- 9.5.99 Although the qualities of this SLA as described within the JPPU review (REF) would suggest an increased susceptibility to the Proposed Development, susceptibility is locally reduced due to the presence of existing 400 kV OHL and lower voltage OHL adjacent to and within the SLA. Overall this SLA is considered to have **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV OHL and **medium-high** susceptibility to a THH/CSEC and / or substation. Overall susceptibility to the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium-high**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 9.5.100 Given the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 of the SLA and medium susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL overall sensitivity to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium-high**. With regard to a THH/CSEC and / or substation overall

sensitivity is also considered to be **medium-high**. Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development is considered to be **medium-high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

9.5.101 This SLA lies approximately 1.78 km from the LOD of the Proposed Development, approximately 2.19 km from the Parameters for the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and approximately 1.38 km to the nearest point of the Order Limits. There would be no direct effects on this SLA which lies at some distance from the Proposed Development; aside from construction traffic which would be present on the south-east boundary. Short to medium term construction activities may be perceptible from discrete parts of this SLA but the scale of this effect would be limited due to distance. Construction activities would not affect the perception of the character of this SLA. The magnitude of change related to all components of the Proposed Development would therefore be **negligible**.

9.5.102 Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted negligible magnitude of change, construction effects would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

9.5.103 Due to the fact that the LOD of the Proposed Development is located approximately 1.78 km to the south-west of the SLA at its closest point, there would be some perception of it within views from within the SLA. During operation, although the Proposed Development (including the 400 kV OHL, Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and extension to Pentir Substation) would intensify the landscape effects of the existing 400 kV OHL and Pentir Substation in the landscape surrounding the SLA, it would not introduce entirely uncharacteristic elements into the landscape and as such would not greatly affect the key characteristics of the SLA itself. The magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development would therefore be **low**.

9.5.104 Given the medium-high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change, landscape effects at year 1 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**. As in year 1, operational effects at year 15 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

9.5.105 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much

shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA

Overall landscape susceptibility

9.5.106 Overall, in view of the special qualities of the SLA, it is considered to have a **high** susceptibility to all components of the Proposed Development.

Overall landscape sensitivity

9.5.107 Given the high value and local / regional importance identified in section 7.6 of the SLA and high susceptibility the overall landscape sensitivity to the Proposed Development is considered to be **high**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

9.5.108 This SLA lies approximately 1.70 km from the LOD of the Proposed Development, approximately 2.89 km from the Parameters for the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC, approximately 1.30 km from the edge of Pentir Substation extension and approximately 1.18 km to the nearest point of the Order Limits. There would be no direct effects on this SLA which lies at some distance from the Proposed Development; aside from construction traffic which would be present on intermittent short sections of the north-east boundary. Short to medium term construction activities may be perceptible from discrete parts of this SLA, in particular those associated with woodland clearance around Pentir Substation and the extension of the substation but the scale of this effect would be relatively small due to distance. Construction activities would not greatly affect the perceptual aspects or key characteristics or special qualities of this SLA. The magnitude of change related to the Proposed Development would therefore be **low**.

9.5.109 Given the high sensitivity of this SLA to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change, construction effects would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Operation

9.5.110 At operation year 1, whilst the Proposed Development would intensify the landscape effects of the existing 400 kV OHL and Pentir Substation, it would be perceptible at distance and would not introduce entirely uncharacteristic elements into the landscape and as such would not greatly affect the key characteristics of the SLA itself. The magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development would be **low**. Given the high sensitivity of this SLA

to the Proposed Development and the predicted low magnitude of change, effects at year 1 would be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

- 9.5.111 By year 15 the magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development would reduce to **negligible** due to the maturation of landscape proposals around the extension to Pentir Substation and also to a lesser degree as a result of the maturation of landscape proposals around Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC. Given the high sensitivity of the SLA to the Proposed Development and negligible magnitude of change at operation year 15 due to the maturation of landscape proposals, effects would reduce to **negligible (not significant)**.

Landscape Effects during Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 9.5.112 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

9.6 EFFECTS OF FLEXIBILITY ON ASSESSMENT RESULTS

- 9.6.1 There are no aspects of flexibility in the reasonable worst case basis of assessment that would increase the level of magnitude of any of the effects listed above. The value and susceptibility are constant and would not therefore change. As such, the significance of effects would be no different from those outlined above.
- 9.6.2 In practice, the factors set out in section 5.3 of Chapter 6, EIA Methodology and Basis of Assessment (**Document 5.6**) and the need to avoid environmental features as shown on the Schedule of Environmental Commitments (**Document 7.4.2.1**) limit the ability to deviate from the design as shown on the Works Plans (**Document 4.4**). These limitations mean that it is not likely that there would be substantial variation from the design of the connection on the Works Plans (**Document 4.4**) and therefore there would be no effects of greater significance from those reported above.

10 Cumulative Effects

10.1 INTRODUCTION

- 10.1.1 The landscape assessment considers the cumulative effects of the various elements of the Proposed Development and the accumulated effects of the proposals in with other development proposed in the vicinity.

10.2 INTRA-PROJECT CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 10.2.1 Intra-project effects are reported in Chapter 19, Intra-Project Effects (**Document 5.19**).

10.3 INTER-PROJECT CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 10.3.1 Inter-project cumulative effects occur when two or more planned developments have an effect on the same receptor leading to an overall effect of greater significance. Note that these 'other developments' are developments that have not yet been constructed and are not operational; where developments are constructed and operational they are considered to form part of the existing baseline.
- 10.3.2 Chapter 20 Inter-Project Cumulative Effects (**Document 5.20**) presents a methodology for determining whether inter-project cumulative effects could occur as a result of these 'other developments' being built and/or operated at the same time as the Proposed Development. This methodology is based upon the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17, which deals with cumulative effects assessment. A long list of other developments needs to be developed and agreed initially. Once this is agreed, the methodology consists of four main stages as follows:
- Stage 1: a long list of other developments is identified and outline information gathered. Consideration is given to whether the other development is within the zone of influence (ZOI) for each topic; if it is, then the assessment progresses to stage 2.
 - Stage 2: consideration is given to the potential temporal overlap i.e. whether the construction or operational effects of the other development could coincide with those of the Proposed Development. Consideration is also given to the scale and nature of the other development, the nature of the receiving environment and whether

there are shared receptors, and whether there is a 'pathway' for a cumulative effect to occur. At the end of stage 2 a shortlist of other developments is considered in stages 3 and 4.

- Stage 3: detailed information is gathered about each of the shortlisted other developments, typically in the form of ESs or Scoping Reports.
- Stage 4: cumulative effects are assessed and mitigation identified, and apportioned, where necessary. The securing mechanism for any necessary mitigation is identified.

10.3.3 The potential for cumulative effects to occur is considered for any effects that are minor, moderate or major. However, where the residual effects on a shared receptor are concluded to be negligible for either the Proposed Development or the other development, it is not considered possible for there to be a resulting inter-project cumulative effect. Where all effects related to a particular topic are negligible, for either the proposed Development or other development, the other development is screened out at stage 2.

10.3.4 Details about the 'other developments' on the long list considered at stage 1 are provided in Chapter 20 Inter-Project Cumulative Effects (**Document 5.20**) and its appendices.

Stage 1 and Stage 2

10.3.5 Table 7.26 provides a summary of stages 1 and 2 of the landscape inter-project cumulative effects assessment. Where the effects of other developments are either outside the ZOI or outside the temporal scope of the Proposed Development, they have not been included in this table.

10.3.6 For the purposes of the landscape assessment, the ZOI is taken to be the landscape study area and any VSAA which is affected by the Proposed Development and another development.

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Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA					
Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station	Yes	Yes	Potential overlap between both the construction and operational phases.	<p>Shared receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); North Anglesey Heritage Coast; Special Landscape Area (SLA) 12 Parciau Estatelands; SLA 13 Parys Mountain & Slopes; SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds; Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA) YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North) (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 1 North Drumlins LCA; LLCA 3 Cemaes Bay Hinterland; LLCA 5 Llanfechell Farmland; LLCA 6 Tregele; LLCA 7 A5025 Farmland; LLCA 8 Llanfairynghornwy; LLCA 10 Cefn Coch Lowland; LSCA 1 Cemlyn Bay; LSCA 2 Porth-y-pistyll; LSCA 4 Wylfa Head; LSCA 5 Outer Cemaes Bay; and LSCA 11 Hen Borth); VSAA YNSMVS010 Drumlins with windfarms (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 12 Drumlins with Windfarms North) VSAA YNSMNVS011 North Coast Hinterland (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 13 North Coast Hinterland; LSCA 6 Inner Cemaes Bay; and LSCA 7 Porth Padrig); VSAA YNSMNVS036 Cemlyn (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor LSCA 1 Cemlyn Bay); VSAA YNSMNVS068 Cemaes (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 4 Cemaes; and LSCA 6 Inner Cemaes Bay); VSAA YNSMNVS069 Llanfechell (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 11 Llanfechell); and VSAA YNSMNVS086 Wylfa Power Station (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 2 Wylfa Landscape Setting; and LSCA 3 Wylfa Power Station). <p>The on-site development of the Wylfa Newydd Power Station is large in scale and is considered likely to have significant cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.</p>	Yes (on site development only)

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
				<p>Taken forward to Stage 3/4.</p> <p>Construction and operational phase negligible effects have been concluded on the following landscape receptors within the Wylfa Newydd Power Station assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLA 12 Parciau Estatelands; and SLA 13 Parys Mountain & Slopes. <p>Potential significant cumulative effects are therefore considered unlikely; hence these landscape receptors are not considered further in this assessment.</p> <p>Operational phase negligible effects have been concluded on the following additional landscape receptors within the Wylfa Newydd Power Station assessment, which are therefore not considered further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 11 Llanfechell (corresponding VSAA YNSMNVS069 Llanfechell); and Wylfa Newydd receptor: LLCA 13 North Coast Hinterland (corresponding VSAA YNSMNVS011 North coast hinterland). <p>Negligible effects are predicted on the potential shared North Anglesey Heritage Coast and VSAA YNSMNVS036 Cemlyn (corresponding Wylfa Newydd receptor LSCA 1 Cemlyn Bay) during the operational phase of the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects on these receptors during operation are considered unlikely.</p> <p>Due to the distance of the Wylfa Newydd Off-site Power Station Facilities (AECC, ESL & MEEG) over 6.5 km, between the developments, the limited overlap in ZTV, and the scale of the Off-Site Power Station significant cumulative effects are unlikely, and so are not considered further.</p> <p>Due to distances and the scale of the proposals for the Park and Ride and Logistics Centre significant cumulative effects are also unlikely, and so are not considered further.</p> <p>Due to the scale of the proposals for the A5025 highway improvements significant cumulative effects are unlikely, and so are not considered further.</p>	
Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning	Yes	Yes	Overlap between all phases of the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning and the construction and	<p>Shared receptors: Anglesey AONB, North Anglesey Heritage Coast, VSAA YNSMNVS086 Wylfa power station, VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west drumlins, and VSAA YNSMNVS035 North coast.</p> <p>There is potential for cumulative landscape effects on local landscape character</p>	Yes – for Anglesey AONB, VSAA YNSMNVS086 Wylfa power station, VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
			operation of the Proposed Development.	(including the AONB) during Decommissioning, Care and Maintenance and final site clearance of the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning although following decommissioning it is likely there would be a positive effect from the removal of the built forms at Wylfa and therefore there would be no significant adverse cumulative effect. This aspect is therefore taken through to stage 3/4. Negligible effects are predicted on the potential shared North Anglesey Heritage Coast or VSAA YNSMNVS035 North coast by the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely and this aspect is not considered further.	west drumlins
Penrhos Leisure Village	No	No			
Anglesey Eco Park	No	No			
Parc Cybi	No	No			
Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power	Yes	Yes	Construction works have commenced and are expected to have been completed prior to the construction of the Proposed Development. There would be an overlap in the operational phases.	Shared receptors: Anglesey AONB, Mynydd Mechell SLA, Parys Mountain SLA, North Anglesey Heritage Coast, the following VSAs: YNSMNVS004 Mynydd Bodafon; YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North) and (South); YNSMNVS009 Mynydd Mechell; YNSMNVS010 Drumlins with Windfarms; YNSMNVS011 North Coast Hinterland; YNSMNVS012 Central Smooth Belt; YNSMNVS035 North Coast; YNSMNVS036 Cemlyn; YNSMNVS056 Llŷn Alaw; YNSMNVS068 Cemaes; YNSMNVS069 Llanfechell; YNSMNVS070 Llanerchymedd; YNSMNVS086 Wylfa Power Station and YNSMNVS087 Parys Mountain. The following potential shared receptors are predicted to experience negligible effects by the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely and these receptors are not considered further: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Anglesey Heritage Coast;• Parys Mountain SLA;• VSAA YNSMNVS011 North Coast Hinterland;• VSAA YNSMNVS035 North Coast;• VSAA YNSMNVS036 Cemlyn;• VSAA YNSMNVS068 Cemaes;	Yes – for some receptors

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VSAA YNSMNVS070 Llanerchymedd; and VSAA YNSMNVS087 Parys Mountain. <p>Effects on VSAA YNSMNVS056 Llyn Alaw are anticipated to be negligible as a result of Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power therefore cumulative effects on this shared receptors are also considered unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>There is potential for cumulative landscape effects on the other shared receptors as follows, and these are taken forward to stage 3/4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglesey AONB; Mynydd Mechell SLA; VSAA YNSMNVS004 Mynydd Bodafon; VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North); VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (South); VSAA YNSMNVS009 Mynydd Mechell; VSAA YNSMNVS010 Drumlins with Windfarms; VSAA YNSMNVS012 Central Smooth Belt; and <p>VSAA YNSMNVS086 Wylfa Power Station.</p>	
Holyhead Waterfront Redevelopment	No	No			
Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage	No	No			
Underground Grid Connection between Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Development and Pentir Substation	Yes	Yes	The connection is expected to take less than a year however as the start date is not currently known, it is assumed there could be overlap in the construction and	<p>Shared receptor: VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) and VSAA GWNDDVS011 Waen-Pentir.</p> <p>Negligible effects are predicted on the potential shared landscape receptor VSAA GWNDDVS011 Waen-Pentir by the Proposed Development therefore there significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely.</p> <p>There would be a potential for a cumulative effect on VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor).</p>	Yes - VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
			operational phases.		
West Anglesey Demonstration Project	No	No			
Holyhead Deep	No	No			
A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass	Yes	Yes	Overlap between construction phases in 2020 to 2021 and the operational phases.	Shared receptors: VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor). The A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass ES reported some localised minor and moderate adverse effects on landscape character. It is therefore considered that there may be potential for cumulative landscape effects.	Yes - VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)
Menai Science Park	Yes	Yes	The first phase of the development would be completed prior to the construction phase of the Proposed Development however the remainder of the development would take approximately 10 years to complete (more detailed timescale currently unknown) therefore is likely to overlap with both the construction and operation phases of the proposed development.	Shared receptors: Following VSAA's: YNSMNV017 Eastern smooth belt; YNSMNV018 South-west ridges; YNSMNV078 Gaerwen and YNSMNV091 A55 corridor. Negligible effects are predicted on the potential shared landscape receptor YNSMNV078 Gaerwen by the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely. A Planning Committee Report dated 13.05.15 states that an LVIA was submitted as part of the outline planning application and that this noted moderate landscape effects within and close to the site but that these do not extend to the wider area.	Yes - YNSMNV017 Eastern smooth belt; YNSMNV018 South-west ridges; and YNSMNV091 A55 corridor.
Third Menai Crossing	Yes	Yes	Potential for the construction phases to overlap (construction timescale currently unknown anticipated to be 2020/2021 to 2022/2023). The operations phases	Potential shared receptors: Anglesey AONB, Menai SLA, tree cover (as a landscape element) and the following VSAA's: YNSMNV026 Menai Straits slopes – south; YNSMNV062 Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll; and GWNDDVS005 Vaynol Estate. As negligible effects from the Proposed Development have been predicted on the southern part of the AONB (described as 'AONB South Coast'), Menai SLA, YNSMNV026 Menai Straits slopes – south, YNSMNV062 Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll and GWNDDVS005 Vaynol Estate significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely and	Yes – tree cover

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
			would also overlap.	are not considered further in the assessment. There is however potential for significant cumulative effects on tree cover during construction.	
A55 - Junction 15 & Junction 16 Improvement	No	No			
A55 Abergwyngregyn to Tai'r Meibion Improvement	No	No			
Nant y Garth Landfill Site	Yes	Yes	Overlap of operation of landfill (time-limited to the end of July 2021) and construction of the Proposed Development.	Shared receptor: GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor) and Tree Cover. Nant y Garth Landfill Site proposals comprise minor amendments to restoration conditions to allow ease of reinstatement and create a landform to reinstate woodland. This would not have an adverse effect on landscape character or elements and therefore would not give rise to any significant adverse cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.	No
Caernarfon Brickworks Quarry	No	No			
Amlwch Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)	No	No			
Green Wire	Yes	Yes	Timescales currently unknown. If connection in place as per the agreement (completed by end of 2020) there would be an overlap with the OHL and tunnel construction however not with works at Pentir. Likely to be an overlap in operation phases.	Shared receptors: VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor). The proposed convertor station for Greenwire is located adjacent to the proposed Pentir Substation Extension, as such there would be a potential for a cumulative effect on landscape character.	Yes - VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor)
Llanbadrig Solar Farm	Yes	Yes	It is likely that this development would be constructed before the	Shared receptors: The following VSAs that lie within Anglesey Landscape Character Area (LCA) 5 North West Anglesey: YNSMNV008 North-west Drumlins (North); YNSMNV010 Drumlins with Windfarms; YNSMNV011 North Coast Hinterland;	Yes - YNSMNV008 North-west Drumlins (North); and

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
			construction phase of the Proposed Development. There would be an overlap with the operational phases.	<p>YNSMNV068 Cemaes; and YNSMNV069 Llanfechell.</p> <p>The following potential shared receptors are predicted to experience negligible effects by the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely and these receptors are therefore not be considered further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YNSMNV011 North Coast Hinterland; YNSMNV068 Cemaes; and <p>YNSMNV069 Llanfechell.</p>	YNSMNV010 Drumlins with Windfarms;
Codling Wind Park	No	No			
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Llangefni Campus	Yes	Yes	Although some elements would be completed prior to the construction phase of the Proposed Development there is the potential for overlap between the full build out of the site (timescale currently unknown) and the construction of the Proposed Development. There is also overlap between the operational phases of the developments.	<p>Shared receptors: The following VSAs: YNSMNV012 Central smooth belt; and YNSMNV059 Llangefni, tree cover and field boundaries.</p> <p>The ES for Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Llangefni Campus does not note any adverse effect on existing tree cover or field boundaries therefore cumulative effects on these shared receptors are considered unlikely.</p> <p>There is potential for cumulative effects on landscape character during construction and operation with the exception of YNSMNV059 Llangefni. Negligible effects are predicted on the potential shared VSA YNSMNV059 Llangefni receptor during the operational phase of the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects during operation are considered unlikely.</p>	Yes – tree cover and field boundaries
Dinorwig Cables	Yes	Yes	Potential overlap between construction phases (cable installation is programmed for between 2019 and 2025) along with overlap in the	<p>Shared receptors: the following VSAs: GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor) and GWNDDVS011 Waen-Pentir.</p> <p>Potential shared receptors GWNDDVS011 Waen-Pentir is predicted to experience negligible effects by the Proposed Development therefore significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely.</p> <p>The renewal of the Dinorwig cables passes along the B4547 through the western edge of the community area of Rhiwlas and through Pentir to the substation. There are potential cumulative landscape effects during construction, if both developments are undertaken</p>	Yes – VSA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynog and Bangor)

Table 7.26 Summarising Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Inter-Project CEA

Development Name	Stage 1		Stage 2		
	Within ZOI?	Progress to Stage 2?	Overlap in Temporal Scope?	Is the Scale and Nature of Development likely to have a Significant Cumulative Effect? Relevant Shared Receptors and/or Pathways?	Progress to Stage 3/4?
			operational phases.	at the same time. During operation there would be no cumulative effects as the Dinorwig cables would be underground and the affected land reinstated.	
Holyhead Port Expansion	No	No			

Stage 3 and Stage 4

10.3.7 At the end of Stage 2 the original long list of other developments was reduced to a short list of other development where there would be potential for a significant cumulative effect to occur. The short list of other developments is as follows:

- Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station;
- Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning
- Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power;
- Underground Grid Connection between Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Development and Pentir Substation;
- A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass;
- Menai Science Park;
- Third Menai Crossing;
- Green Wire;
- Llanbadrig Solar Farm;
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Llangefni Campus; and
- Dinorwig Cables.

10.3.8 Stage 3 requires the gathering of detailed information; however, a substantial amount of information about the other developments had already been gathered to support stages 1 and 2.

10.3.9 The results of the Stage 4 assessment of cumulative effects and mitigation are presented in Table 7.27 below.

10.3.10 Professional judgement has been applied in determining whether the combination of effects from two developments could result in a significant effect overall. In the case of minor effects, it is considered highly unlikely that effects could prove to be additive; however, professional judgement has been applied to check that two or more minor effects do not have potential to accumulate, thereby resulting in a potentially significant effect.

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Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
Wylfa Newydd Power Station	<u>Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) -</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) –</u> Construction and operation effects: Major Adverse (significant) in the affected part of the AONB, Minor Adverse (not significant) over the AONB as a whole.	<p>A combination of the Wylfa Newydd Power Station and the Proposed Development would result in cumulative effects during construction on the following landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised part of the Anglesey AONB where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised major adverse effect of Wylfa Newydd Power Station; Localised parts of VSAA YNSMNV008 North-west Drumlins (North) where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised major, moderate and minor adverse effects of Wylfa Newydd Power Station; VSAA YNSMNV068 Cemaes where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised major and moderate adverse effects of Wylfa Newydd Power Station; and VSAA YNSMNV086 Wylfa Power Station where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised major and moderate adverse effects of Wylfa Newydd Power Station. <p>A combination of the Wylfa Newydd Power Station and the Proposed Development would result in cumulative effects during operation on the following landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised part of the Anglesey AONB where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised major adverse effect of Wylfa Newydd Power Station; Localised parts of VSAA YNSMNV008 North-west Drumlins (North) where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised major, moderate and minor adverse effects of Wylfa Newydd Power Station; and 	<p>No additional mitigation is proposed.</p> <p>The effects from Wylfa Newydd Power Station are greater than the Proposed Development which makes only a small contribution to the cumulative effect.</p>	Significant
	<u>SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV008 North-west Drumlins (North)</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	Corresponding Wylfa Newydd landscape character receptors: <u>LLCA 1 North Drumlins</u> Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant). Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant). <u>LLCA 3 Cemaes Bay Hinterland</u> Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant). Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant). <u>LLCA 5 Lanfechell Farmland</u> Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant). Operation effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not			

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
		<p>significant).</p> <p><u>LLCA 6 Tregele</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant).</p> <p><u>LLCA 7 A5025 Farmland</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant).</p> <p><u>LLCA 8 Llanfairynghornwy</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not significant).</p> <p><u>LLCA 10 Cefn Coch Lowland</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not significant).</p> <p><u>LSCA 1 Cemlyn Bay</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant).</p> <p><u>LSCA 2 Porth-y-pistyll</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Major</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VSAA YNSMNV086 Wylfa Power Station where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised moderate adverse effects of Wylfa Newydd Power Station. <p>The combination of minor effects attributed to the construction of Wylfa Newydd Power Station and the Proposed Development are not considered to result in significant cumulative effects during construction on the following landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds; and VSAA YNSMVS010 Drumlins with windfarms. <p>The combination of minor effects on SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds attributed to both the operation of Wylfa Newydd Power Station and the Proposed Development are not considered to result in significant cumulative effects on this receptor during operation.</p>		

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
		<p>Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Major Adverse (significant).</p> <p><u>LSCA 4 Wylfa Head</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not significant).</p> <p><u>LSCA 5 Outer Cemaes Bay</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant).</p> <p><u>LSCA 11 Hen Borth</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).</p> <p>Operation effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not significant).</p>			
	<p><u>VSAA YNSMVS010</u></p> <p><u>Drumlins with windfarms</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).</p>	<p>Corresponding Wylfa Newydd landscape character receptors:</p> <p><u>LLCA 12 Drumlins with Windfarms North</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).</p>			

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV068 Cemaes</u> Construction effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	Corresponding Wylfa Newydd landscape character receptors: <u>LLCA 4 Cemaes</u> Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>LSCA 6 Inner Cemaes Bay</u> Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV086 Wylfa Power Station</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	Corresponding Wylfa Newydd landscape character receptors: <u>LLCA 2 Wylfa Landscape Setting</u> Construction effects: Major Adverse (significant). Operation effects: Moderate Adverse by year 15 (significant). <u>LSCA 3 Wylfa Power Station</u> Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant) Operation effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).			
Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning	<u>Anglesey AONB</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	The 2008 Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary (2008 ES NTS) and Environmental Statement 2013 Update (ES 2013 Update) suggest that there may be some significant adverse impacts on the landscape of the AONB during Decommissioning, Care and Maintenance Preparations. During Decommissioning, Care	A combination of the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning Care and Maintenance Preparations and the construction and operation of Proposed Development would be likely to result in some localised cumulative effects on Anglesey AONB. The minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised significant adverse effects of Decommissioning, Care and Maintenance Preparations related to Wylfa Nuclear Power Station. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated during the Decommissioning, Care and Maintenance phase of Wylfa Nuclear Power Station which is likely to occur once the	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Although there is likely to be some cumulative effect, the overall significance is unlikely to be any greater than the effects considered separately.

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
		<p>and Maintenance the 2008 ES NTS and ES 2013 Update suggest that the adverse impacts would reduce and would no longer be significant.</p> <p>During Final Site Clearance the 2008 ES NTS and ES 2013 Update suggest that there may be some significant adverse impacts on the landscape of the AONB.</p> <p>The impacts of decommissioning following Final Site Clearance are reported to be beneficial in the 2008 ES NTS and ES 2013 Update.</p>	<p>Proposed Development is operational.</p> <p>A combination of the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Final Site Clearance and the operation of Proposed Development would be likely to result in some localised cumulative effects on Anglesey AONB. The minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised significant adverse effects of Station Final Site Clearance related to Wylfa Nuclear Power Station.</p> <p>Once the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station is fully decommissioned following Final Site Clearance there would be no cumulative effects.</p>		Significant
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV086</u> <u>Wylfa Power Station</u> Construction and Operation Effects: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No information available.			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV008</u> <u>North-west drumlins</u> Construction and Operation Effects: Minor Adverse (not significant)	No information available.			
Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power	<u>Anglesey AONB</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>Anglesey AONB</u> Limited significant effects in localised parts of the AONB – relating to views from the AONB.	<p>A combination of the Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power and the Proposed Development would be likely to result in some cumulative effects during construction and operation on the following landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised part of the Anglesey AONB where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would 	Due to the scale of the vertical elements proposed by both developments, opportunities for mitigation other than siting/routeing are limited. No additional mitigation is	Significant
	<u>SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell</u>	<u>SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell &</u>			

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
	<u>& Surrounds</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>Surrounds</u> Effects: Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant).	exacerbate the localised significant adverse effect of Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised parts of VSAA YNSMNVS010 Drumlins with Windfarms where the minor adverse effect of the Proposed Development would exacerbate the localised moderate adverse effects of Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power. The combination of effects attributed to the Rhyd-y-Groes Re-power combined with the Proposed Development are not considered to result in significant cumulative effects during construction and/or operation on the following landscape receptors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLA 14 Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds; VSAA YNSMVS010 Drumlins with windfarms; VSAA YNSMNVS004 Mynydd Bodafon; VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North) VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (South) VSAA YNSMNVS009 Mynydd Mechell VSAA YNSMNVS012 Central Smooth Belt VSAA YNSMNVS086 Wylfa Power Station 	proposed.	
	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS004 Mynydd Bodafon</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS004 Mynydd Bodafon</u> Effects: Moderate Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North)</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North)</u> Effects: Moderate/Minor Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (South)</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (South)</u> Effects: Moderate/ Minor Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS009 Mynydd Mechell</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS009 Mynydd Mechell</u> Effects: Moderate/ Minor Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS010 Drumlins with Windfarms</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS010 Drumlins with Windfarms</u> Effects: Moderate Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS012 Central Smooth Belt</u>	<u>VSAA YNSMNVS012 Central Smooth Belt</u>			

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
	Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant). Operation effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not significant).	Effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV069 Llanfechell</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	No information available.			
	<u>VSAA YNSMNV086 Wylfa Power Station</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>VSAA YNSMNV086 Wylfa Power Station</u> Effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).			
Underground Grid Connection between Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Development and Pentir Substation	<u>VSAA GWNDVVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)</u> Construction and operation effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).	No information available.	There is potential cumulative landscape effects during construction, if both developments are undertaken at the same time; however, it is considered that these cumulative effects would not be significant due to the anticipated short timescales of the construction of the Underground Grid Connection. There would be no cumulative effects during operation.	No additional mitigation is considered necessary.	Not significant
A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass	<u>GWNDVVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)</u> Construction and operation effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).	Corresponding A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass project level receptors: <u>6 Open fields around Llanwnda/ Afon Carrog</u> Construction effects: Moderate Adverse. Operation effects: Moderate Adverse. <u>8 Llanwnda</u> Construction effects: Slight	Although the separate effects of the A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass and the Proposed Development are reported to be localised it is considered that together they would result in moderate cumulative effects, during construction, on the wider landscape character of GWNDVVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor). During operation these cumulative effects would reduce although would remain within moderate .	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Although there is likely to be some cumulative effect during construction, the overall significance is unlikely to be any greater than the effects considered

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
		<p>Adverse.</p> <p><u>11 A487 – south of Caernarfon</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Substantial Adverse.</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse.</p> <p><u>12 Pen-y-Bryn</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Substantial Adverse.</p> <p>Operation effects: Major Adverse.</p> <p><u>13 Fields southwest of Caeathro</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Substantial Adverse.</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse.</p> <p><u>16 Holiday Park</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Substantial Adverse.</p> <p>Operation effects: Major Adverse.</p> <p><u>17 Afon Cadnant Plateau</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Substantial Adverse.</p> <p>Operation effects: Moderate Adverse.</p> <p><u>18 Bethel approaches</u></p> <p>Construction effects: Substantial Adverse.</p> <p>Operation effects: Not significant.</p>			<p>separately.</p> <p>Significant during construction</p> <p>Not significant during operation</p>

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
Menai Science Park	<u>YNSMNVS017 Eastern smooth belt</u> Construction effects: Minor Adverse (not significant). Operation effects: Moderate (significant).	No information found other than a Planning Committee Report dated 13.05.15 which states that an LVIA was submitted as part of the outline planning application and that this noted Moderate landscape effects within and close to the site but that these do not extend to the wider area.	There is potential for moderate cumulative landscape effects during construction; however, the overall significance during operation is unlikely to be significant, particularly as the effects of the Menai Science Park are reported to be within a localised area and not extending into the wider landscape.	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Construction Significant Operation Not Significant
	<u>YNSMNVS018 South-west ridges</u> Construction and operation effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).	No information found other than a Planning Committee Report dated 13.05.15 which states that an LVIA was submitted as part of the outline planning application and that this noted Moderate landscape effects within and close to the site but that these do not extend to the wider area.			
	<u>YNSMNVS091 A55 corridor</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	No information found other than a Planning Committee Report dated 13.05.15 which states that an LVIA was submitted as part of the outline planning application and that this noted Moderate landscape effects within and close to the site but that these do not extend to the wider area.			
Third Menai Crossing	<u>Tree cover</u> Construction effects: Moderate Adverse	No information available.	There is insufficient information as yet about the effects of the other development, and as such the potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development would need to be a	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Significant

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
	(significant).		consideration during the relevant assessment and consenting for that development. However, due to the level of tree cover either side of the Menai Strait it is likely that tree removal would be required for the Third Menai Crossing and that this removal could have a significant effect on tree cover. This combined with the moderate effects from the Proposed Development would result in a significant effect.		
Green Wire	<u>VSAA GWNDDVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)</u> Construction and operation effects: Moderate Adverse (significant).	No information available.	There is insufficient information as yet about the effects of the other development, and as such the potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development would need to be a consideration during the relevant assessment and consenting for that development. However, additional development in the vicinity of Pentir Substation may have a significant effect on this VSAA due to size of the structures required and this, combined with the moderate effects from the Proposed Development, would result in a significant cumulative effect.	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Significant
Llanbadrig Solar Farm	<u>YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North)</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>General Landscape Character</u> Overall construction landscape effect is predicted to be Low . <u>North West Anglesey LCA (part of which comprises YNSMNVS008 North-west Drumlins (North))</u> Overall Operational landscape effect is predicted to be Minor albeit the ES Landscape and Visual Amenity chapter recognises there would be localised Moderate effects on open agricultural fields, agricultural pasture and arable fields.	There is potential for minor cumulative landscape effects during construction and operation from the introduction of infrastructure within the VSAs; however, the overall significance is unlikely to be any greater than the effects considered separately.	No additional mitigation is proposed. The effects from the Solar Farm are greater than the Proposed Development which makes only a small contribution to the cumulative effect.	Not significant
	<u>YNSMNVS010 Drumlins</u>	<u>General Landscape Character</u>			

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
	<u>with Windfarms</u> Construction and operation effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	Overall construction landscape effect is predicted to be Low . <u>North West Anglesey LCA (part of which comprises part of YNSMNV010 Drumlins with Windfarms)</u> Overall operational landscape effect is predicted to be Minor albeit the ES Landscape and Visual Amenity chapter recognises there would be localised Moderate effects on open agricultural fields, agricultural pasture and arable fields.			
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Llangefni Campus	<u>YNSMNV012 Central smooth belt</u> Construction effects: Moderate Adverse (significant). Operation Effects: Minor Adverse by year 15 (not significant)	<u>Sites 4 and 5</u> Localised Moderate Adverse effect.	There is potential for cumulative landscape effects during construction and operation from construction activities and the introduction of structures into these VSAs; however, the overall significance is unlikely to be any greater than the effects considered separately.	No additional mitigation is considered necessary.	Although there may be some very minor cumulative effect, the overall significance is unlikely to be any greater than the effects considered separately Not significant
	<u>YNSMNV059 Llangefni</u> Construction effects: Minor Adverse (not significant).	<u>Sites 1, 2/3</u> Localised Slight Adverse effect.			
Dinorwig Cables	<u>GWNDVS006 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)</u> Construction and operation effects: Moderate Adverse	No information available.	There is insufficient information as yet about the effects of the other development, and as such the potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development would need to be a consideration during the relevant assessment and consenting for that development. However, there could be significant effects on this VSAA	No additional mitigation is proposed.	Construction Significant

Table 7.27 Landscape CEA					
Development Name	Effects on shared receptors from the Proposed Development	Effects on shared receptors from the 'other development'	Assessment of Cumulative effect with Proposed Development	Proposed Mitigation applicable to the Proposed Development including any apportionment	Residual Cumulative Effect?
	(significant).		through the presence of construction activities and this combined with the moderate effects from the Proposed Development would result in a significant effect. There would be no cumulative effects during operation.		

Conclusions

10.3.11 Taking into consideration all of the other developments for which a potential cumulative effect has been identified, the following cumulative effects are considered likely on shared receptors:

- Significant cumulative effects on local landscape character in the north of Anglesey. The greatest effects would be concentrated within North-west Drumlins (YNSMNVS008) (North) and Wylfa Power Station (YNSMNVS086) VSAs, these would arise as a result of the effects of three other developments (Wylfa Newydd Power Station, Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning and Rhyd-y-groes Re-power) in combination with the Proposed Development. Additional cumulative effects on landscape character in the north of Anglesey may also arise within North-west Drumlins (YNSMNVS008) (South) and Drumlins with Windfarms (YNSMNVS010) VSAs. This would be as a result of the effects of two other developments (Llanbadrig Solar Farm and Rhyd-y-groes Re-power) in combination with the Proposed Development. Furthermore, effects on Drumlins with Windfarms (YNSMNVS010) would be exacerbated by Wylfa Newydd Power Station.
- Cumulative effects on Anglesey AONB in a localised area of the north Coast although these would not be considered significant over the AONB as a whole. This would arise as a result of the effects of three other developments (Wylfa Newydd Power Station, Wylfa Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning and Rhyd-y-groes Re-power) in combination with the Proposed Development.
- Cumulative effects may occur in relation to landscape character in Gwynedd, specifically relating to Bethel (Between Clynog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006) VSA. Cumulative effects may arise as a result of the effects of two other developments (A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass and Green Wire) in combination with the Proposed Development. However, the cumulative effects with the A487 Caernarfon to Bontnewydd Bypass are most likely during construction. Furthermore as there is insufficient information as yet about the effects of Green Wire, the potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development would need to be a consideration during the relevant assessment and consenting for that development.

11 Summary

11.1 INTRODUCTION

11.1.1 The landscape assessment has considered effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning. Proposed mitigation has been taken into account where relevant before the reporting of residual effects. A summary of the assessment of effects on all landscape receptors is provided in Table 7.28.

11.1.2 The assessment has identified that the Proposed Development would have some significant effects on landscape receptors; these are summarised in the narrative below, arranged by receptor type.

11.2 LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Construction

11.2.1 There would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects on tree cover during construction due to the loss of trees (either 127 trees and 6.94 ha of tree groups as a result of Option A, or 128 trees and 6.95 ha of tree groups for Option B) along the approximate 33 km long construction corridor (the approximate length of the terrestrial Order Limits between Wylfa and Pentir).

11.2.2 There would be no significant effects on field boundaries or landform during construction.

Operation

11.2.3 By operation year 15 there would be no significant effects on tree cover due to the maturation of replacement/mitigation planting.

11.2.4 There would be no significant effects on field boundaries or landform during operation.

Maintenance and Decommissioning

11.2.5 It is anticipated that there would be no significant effects on tree cover, field boundaries or landform during maintenance or decommissioning.

11.3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Construction

11.3.1 Out of 33 VSAs assessed, it is anticipated that there would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects on the following three VSAs during construction, (as explained in more detail in section 9 and Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**)):

- Central Smooth Belt (YNSMNV012);
- South-West Ridges (YNSMNV018); and
- Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006)

11.3.2 The effects on Central Smooth Belt (YNSMNV012) would be attributed to direct effects of the construction of the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development including the loss of tree cover (comprising 40 trees, 11053 m² woodland/tree groups including part of Gylched Covert near Talwrn) and field boundaries (1665 m hedgerow) and the extent of construction along an approximate 12.5 km construction corridor (the approximate length of the Order Limits) within the VSA.

11.3.3 The effects of construction on South-West Ridges (YNSMNV018) would be attributed to the direct effects of the construction of the 400 kV OHL and also the Braint construction compound and all associated access.

11.3.4 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006) would be directly affected by the construction of the 400 kV OHL (including Pentir Construction Compound), the extension to the existing Pentir Substation and Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound.

Operation

11.3.5 During the operational phase of the Proposed Development it is anticipated that there would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects on the following four VSAs, (as explained in more detail in section 9 and Appendix 7.2 (**Document 5.7.2.2**)):

- Central Smooth Belt (YNSMNV012);
- Eastern Smooth Belt (YNSMNV017);
- South-West Ridges (YNSMNV018); and

- Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006)
- 11.3.6 The effects on Central Smooth Belt (YNSMNVS012) would be significant (moderate adverse) at operation year 1 but reduce to not significant by year 15. These would be direct and attributed to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development. There would be localised conflicts with landform at Capel Coch (albeit this is already affected by the existing 400 kV OHL) and a deviation of the proposed 400 kV OHL away from the existing 400 kV OHL to the east of Capel Coch both of which would be exacerbated by the fact that mitigation planting would be immature. By year 15 effects would reduce and no longer be significant due to the maturation of replacement and mitigation planting which would help to mitigate for tree loss; particularly around Capel Coch and Gylched Covert (as detailed on Figure 4.1 (**Document 7.4.1.1**) and Figure 7.13 (**Document 5.7.1.13**)).
- 11.3.7 The effects of the operation of the Proposed Development would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects) on Eastern Smooth Belt (YNSMNVS017) at year 1 and would remain so at year 15. This would be attributed to the introduction of a new 400 kV OHL which would deviate away from the existing 400 kV OHL thus spreading the effects of the infrastructure and resulting in a locally adverse effect on the landscape.
- 11.3.8 The effects on South-West Ridges (YNSMNVS018) at operation year 1 would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects and attributed to the direct effects of the 400 kV OHL together with the Braint THH/CSEC and associated permanent access. By year 15 the effects of the Braint THH/CSEC would reduce to not significant due to maturation of mitigation planting, however the effects of the 400 kV OHL would remain as year 1.
- 11.3.9 Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006) would be directly affected by the 400 kV OHL (including Pentir Construction Compound), the extension to the existing Pentir Substation and Tŷ Fodol Construction Compound. The overall anticipated effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on the character of this VSAA at year 1 would be **moderate adverse (significant)**. Effects would remain so at year 15 but would be attributed to the 400 kV OHL component of the Proposed Development more so than the Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC and/or Pentir Substation Extension because the maturation of mitigation planting would help to assimilate these components into the landscape by year 15.

Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 11.3.10 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. It is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

11.4 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Construction

- 11.4.1 There would be no significant construction effects on Snowdonia National Park, Anglesey AONB or the North Anglesey Heritage Coast.
- 11.4.2 Out of eight SLAs assessed, it is anticipated that there would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects on one SLA (Southern Anglesey Estatelands) during construction; as summarised below and explained in more detail in section 9.
- 11.4.3 The north-eastern extent of Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA would be directly affected by the construction of one new lower height pylon, Braint THH/CSEC, Braint Construction Compound and associated access tracks and permanent access.
- 11.4.4 The magnitude of change as a result of the construction of the 400 kV OHL in this SLA would be **low** due to the fact it would be affected by the construction of one pylon and the effects would be short-term. The **moderate adverse (significant)** effects of the construction of the Proposed Development would be attributed to the Braint Construction Compound and associated access track and permanent access more so than the construction of the 400 kV OHL.
- 11.4.5 Although this SLA is considered to form part of the setting of the Anglesey AONB these construction landscape effects would not greatly influence the overall character and quality of the landscape within the designated area itself, nor would they affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities.

Operation

- 11.4.6 There would be no significant effects on Snowdonia National Park, Anglesey AONB or the North Anglesey Heritage Coast during operation.

- 11.4.7 Out of eight SLAs assessed, it is anticipated that there would be **moderate adverse (significant)** effects) on one SLA (Southern Anglesey Estatelands) during operation; as summarised below and explained in more detail in section 9.
- 11.4.8 The north-eastern extent of Southern Anglesey Estatelands SLA would be directly affected by the 400 kV OHL and Braint THH/CSEC and associated permanent access which would have a locally adverse effect on the sense of place, tranquillity and locally erode the quality of the landscape, particularly at operation year 1. By year 15 the overall anticipated magnitude of change would reduce however the anticipated landscape effects of the Proposed Development (as a whole) on Southern Anglesey Estatelands at year 15 would remain **moderate adverse (significant)**.
- 11.4.9 Although this SLA is considered to form part of the setting of the Anglesey AONB these operational landscape effects would not greatly influence the overall character and quality of the landscape within the designated area itself, nor would they affect the natural beauty and/or special qualities.

Maintenance and Decommissioning

- 11.4.10 It is anticipated that maintenance and decommissioning activities would result in effects no greater than those anticipated during construction. Indeed it is considered that these activities would take place over a much shorter timescale and would be less intrusive than those required for construction.

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
Landscape Elements	Tree Cover	High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1) and mitigation planting as illustrated on the following figures: Figure 7.12 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.13 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.14 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.15 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.16 (Document 5.7.1.13)	Medium	Moderate adverse (Significant)
			Effects of operation	As above	Year 1: Medium Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Moderate adverse (Significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Field Boundaries	High	Effects of construction Removal during construction for construction access tracks and bellmouths	Landscape mitigation planting as illustrated on the following figures: Figure 7.14 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.15 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.16 (Document 5.7.1.13)	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation	As above	Year 1: Low Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Landform	Low (with localised areas of high sensitivity) – in relation to	Effects of construction	Re-contouring as illustrated on the following figures: Figure 7.14 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.15 (Document 5.7.1.13) Figure 7.16 (Document 5.7.1.13)	Low (attributed to THH/CSEC and substation)	Minor adverse (Not significant)

²³ Enhancement measures are not included in this table, but could have mitigating effects. Refer to the Enhancement Strategy (**Document 7.13**) for further information.

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development						
Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
		400 kV OHL Medium – in relation to THH/CSEC and substation	Effects of operation	As above	Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
VSAAs	Mynydd Bodafon (YNSMNV004)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	North-west Drumlins (YNSMNV008) (North)	Medium (lower to the north-east)	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and located directly under the overhead line. Reinstatement of road boundary treatment affected by bellmouths A3, A4, A5, A5a and A6. Replacement for loss of trees, with trees reinstated and located along boundaries within the Order Limits as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1).	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium-Low Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	North-west Drumlins (YNSMNV008) (South)	Medium (lower to the north-east)	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and located directly under the overhead line and by bellmouths B8, B9 and B10. Reinstatement of road boundary treatment affected by bellmouth B7. Replacement for loss of trees, with trees reinstated and located along boundaries within the Order Limits as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1).	Medium-Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium-Low Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Mynydd Mechell (YNSMNV009)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows directly affected by access tracks and bellmouth A10 as shown	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
			Effects of operation	on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1).	Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Drumlins with Windfarms (YNSMNVS010)	Medium	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by bellmouths B1, B2 and B4 as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1). To mitigate loss of trees adjacent to the Sewage Works at Carrog Isa, in Section A (as shown on Figure 7.13 (Document 5.7.1.13)), a corridor would be planted up where an existing low voltage OHL is being removed.	Medium-Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium-Low Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	North Coast Hinterland (YNSMNVS011)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Central Smooth Belt	Medium (higher to the east)	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by	Medium	Moderate adverse (Significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
	(YNSMNVS012)		Effects of operation	bellmouths B11-B13, C1, C2, C4-C8, C9, C10, D1 and D2. Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1). Planting of a copse adjacent to the B5110 in Section C (as shown on Figure 7.13 (Document 5.7.1.13)) to mitigate the loss of trees on the opposite side of the road. Replanting of a clearing within Gylched Covert in Section D to mitigate loss of vegetation, (as shown on Figure 7.13 (Document 5.7.1.13)). The Proposed Development would not remove ground flora from under the OHL alignment, only vegetation which is required to be removed for clearances to the proposed conductors.	Year 1: Medium Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Moderate adverse (Significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Benllech Hinterland (YNSMNVS014)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1).	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Eastern Smooth Belt (YNSMNVS017)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by bellmouths E3 and E4. Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1).	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium Year 15: Medium	Year 1: Moderate adverse (Significant) Year 15: Moderate adverse (Significant)
	South-West Ridges	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by	Medium-Low	Moderate adverse (Significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development						
Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
	(YNSMNV018)		Effects of operation	bellmouths E6, E7, F1 and F1C. Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1). Planting around Braint THH/CSEC, in Section F as illustrated on detailed landscape mitigation plan Figure 7.14 (Document 5.7.1.14).	Year 1: Medium Year 15: Medium	Year 1: Moderate adverse (Significant) Year 15: Moderate adverse (Significant)
	Pentraeth Valleys (YNSMNV022)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by bellmouths D3, D4, E1 and E2. Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1). An area of planting at Ceint in Section D (as shown on Figure 7.13 (Document 5.7.1.13)) to mitigate for losses of larger trees on the end of a woodland block	Medium-Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium-Low Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Menai Straits Slopes - (YNSMNV026) (South)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Malltraeth Marsh South Slopes (YNSMNV027)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Malltraeth Marsh (YNSMNV028)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
	North Coast (YNSMNVS035)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Cemlyn (YNSMNVS036)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Menai Straits – Mid Section (YNSMNVS043)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	No change	No effect
			Effects of operation		Year 1: No change Year 15: No change	Year 1: No effect Year 15: No effect
	Llyn Alaw (YNSMNVS056)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Llangefni (YNSMNVS059)	Medium	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll (YNSMNVS062)	Medium-Low	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development						
Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
	Cemaes (YNSMNVS068)	Medium	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Llanfechell (YNSMNVS069)	Medium	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Llanerchymedd (YNSMNVS070)	Medium	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Gaerwen (YNSMNVS078)	Medium-Low	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Wylfa Power Station (YNSMNVS086)	Low	Effects of construction		Medium-Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Parys Mountain (YNSMNVS087)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development						
Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	A55 Corridor (YNSMNV091)	Low	Effects of construction	Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1).	Medium-Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Bangor (GWNDDVS002)	Medium	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Vaynol Estate (GWNDDVS005)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Bethel (Between Clynog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by bellmouths F3, F5-F11 and F14. Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1). Planting around Tŷ Fodol THH/CSEC, in Section F as per detailed landscape mitigation plan on Figure 7.15 (Document 5.7.1.15); and planting around Pentir Substation extension in Section F to mitigate the loss of existing screening as per detailed landscape mitigation plan found on Figure 7.16 (Document 5.7.1.16).	Medium	Moderate adverse (Significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Moderate adverse (Significant) Year 15: Moderate adverse (Significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
	Waen-Pentir (GWNDDVS011)	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Cefn-du (GWNDDVS012)	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Y Felinheli (GWNDDVS025)	Medium	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
National Park	Snowdonia	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
AONB	Anglesey	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
SLA	Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds	Medium-High	Effects of construction	None	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development						
Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
			Effects of operation	None	Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Parys Mountain & Slopes	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Parciau Estatelands	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds	Medium-high (higher to the north-east)	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Southern Anglesey Estatelands	High	Effects of construction	Reinstatement of hedgerows and tree blocks directly affected by access tracks and by bellmouths F1, F1C and F2. Replacement for loss of trees, as shown on Figure 7.4.1.1 (Document 7.4.1.1). Planting around Braint THH/CSEC, in Section F as illustrated on detailed landscape mitigation plan Figure 7.14 (Document 5.7.1.14).	Medium-Low	Moderate adverse (Significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Medium Year 15: Medium-Low	Year 1: Moderate adverse (Significant) Year 15: Moderate adverse (Significant)
	Menai	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)

Table 7.28 Potential Landscape Effects of the Proposed Development

Resource/Receptor		Sensitivity	Potential effects	Reinstatement and Mitigation Measures ²³ (in addition to the CEMP measures set out in Table 7.22 which apply throughout)	Magnitude	Residual Effect
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
	Bangor Mountain	Medium-High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Low	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Minor adverse (Not significant)
	North-western Fringes of Snowdonia	High	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Low	Minor adverse (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Low Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Minor adverse (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)
Heritage Coast	North Anglesey Coast	High (reduced around Wylfa Head)	Effects of construction	Not directly affected by the Proposed Development so no reinstatement required.	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
			Effects of operation		Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Year 1: Negligible (Not significant) Year 15: Negligible (Not significant)

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