



Snowdonia National Park
Supplementary Planning Guidance
Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment
October 2016

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PURPOSE OF THE GUIDANCE

This note is one of a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes (SPGs) which provides further detailed information in support of the policies contained in the Eryri Local Development Plan. The Supplementary Planning Guidance is intended to give greater detail on specific issues than is possible or appropriate in the Eryri Local Development Plan.

The purpose of the Supplementary Planning Guidance is:

- *To provide detailed Guidance about the manner in which the Planning Authority will deal with certain types of development which, due to their size, design and locational requirements, may have a harmful effect on landscape character of the National Park.*
- *To provide Guidance to assist officers and members in determining planning applications.*

Status

This Supplementary Planning Guidance will be a material planning consideration when decisions are made on planning applications.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

Background

- 1.1 This Assessment was commissioned by the Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA) Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council. It aimed to provide a robust evidence base for determining planning applications, informing the development of Supplementary Planning Guidance, helping to protect sensitive and distinctive landscapes from inappropriate development and encouraging a positive approach to development in the right location and at an appropriate scale. In 2015 Gillespies, the Consultants who undertook the study, won the Landscape Institute's Strategic Landscape Award for this work. The study, as it relates to Snowdonia, specifically considers the following three development types.

Renewable Energy Developments

- Wind Energy (focussing on smaller scale developments)

Other Developments (Transmission Infrastructure and Tourism)

- Mobile Masts (Telecommunications Transmission Infrastructure)
- Static Caravan/Chalet Parks and Extensions (Tourism)

- 1.2 The acceptability of large scale development in the rural landscape is an emotive subject and one where compromise is often needed. Whilst it is generally acknowledged that the most valued landscapes should be protected, there are some areas where development can be accommodated, albeit in a controlled way to minimise adverse effects. This study aims to understand where and how best to accommodate the different types of development identified in the brief.
- 1.3 The assessment approach outlined in Section 2 was developed in conjunction with a Project Steering Group, which comprised representatives from the National Park Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU).
- 1.4 It is important to note that this is a strategic study and is not prescriptive at an individual site level. It does not replace the need for a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) as part of a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or a LVIA where landscape effects need to be considered, but assessed in a more scaled down application of the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact assessment (Edition 3)*. The assessment does not take account of other natural and cultural heritage considerations (except where they relate to landscape character and visual considerations), technical factors or the perceived need for the development.
- 1.5 Key requirements of the brief for the study were that it should be user friendly, concise and consistent with approaches in neighbouring authorities.
- 1.6 A brief overview of renewable energy and other developments is included below.

Renewable Energy Developments

- 1.7 The National Park is faced with a wide range of challenges arising from a changing climate. Balancing the need to increase renewable energy production with the need to minimise harm to the distinctive and special qualities of the area's landscape is one of these challenges. The landscapes of north Wales have good conditions to produce wind, hydro and solar electricity as is demonstrated in the '*Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia Renewable Energy Capacity Assessment*' (2012).

Wind Energy Development

- 1.9 North-west Wales, including the Snowdonia National Park, has large areas of rural uplands and coastal zones with an abundant wind resource. Although the Welsh Government's approach is to limit the development of

large scale wind farms to TAN8 Strategic Search Areas¹, Welsh Government planning policy does not set out spatial limitations for wind energy development under 25 MW. In light of the increasing number of planning applications, EIA screening opinion requests and pre-application enquiries being submitted for individual and clusters of wind turbine developments of varying scales to the Anglesey and Gwynedd councils and to a somewhat lesser extent the SNPA, this study has been commissioned in order to guide development to the most suitable locations and ensure that the key characteristics and quality of the area's landscapes are safeguarded.

- 1.10 Wind turbines are tall structures, which are typically sited in open or elevated areas. This raises the potential for extensive landscape and visual effects, which is exacerbated by the often complex visual interplay between different lighting conditions and the scale and form of groups of turbines.
- 1.11 The movement of the rotor blades attracts the eye and in certain lighting conditions moving turbines can be visible from a long distance.
- 1.12 The acceptability of wind turbines in the landscape is an emotive subject and one where a planning balance needs to be considered. Whilst it is generally acknowledged that the most valued aspects of the natural heritage should be protected, those landscapes of lesser value can potentially accommodate some wind energy development, albeit subject to a development's and the nature of significant adverse effects.

Mobile Masts (Telecommunications Transmission Infrastructure)

- 1.13 Pressures relating to telecommunications infrastructure are experienced most within Snowdonia National Park, particularly in relation to proposals for new and replacement mobile telephone masts. This is due to a combination of a lack of mobile telephone coverage and the varied topography of the National Park which means that more masts are required to provide coverage.

*'In more remote areas, telecommunications infrastructure is one of the few developments which by necessity has to be prominently sited. Such developments inevitably affect the perceived wildness of the landscape, by introducing an overt man-made structure into an area perceived as relatively natural and remote from human influence. There can also be an impact on landscapes when there is an increase of structures along established infrastructure corridors. This results in increased visual clutter and development often in highly visible locations. In addition, the visual effects of masts can increase through cumulative visual impact, as prominent sites often contain several, disparately designed developments.'*²

Static Caravan/Chalet Parks and Extensions (Tourism)

- 1.14 The landscapes of the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park are vitally important to the local economy and are a major contributor to the area's tourism industry. The growth of tourism and leisure has resulted in the development of mobile home and chalet parks. There are a significant number of static caravan/chalet park developments located along the coastlines of the Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd and also within Snowdonia National Park. Many of these sites (particularly along the coast) are conspicuous and unsightly in appearance with some sites extending over large areas and often dominating and degrading the landscape. A handful of prominently sited units can create a disproportionately visual impact. Sites can often be viewed from elevated locations where the regularity, denseness and colour can create a strong contrast with the landscape and coastal edges
- 1.15 There is currently a blanket ban on any new static caravan/chalet park developments across all three LPAs areas. However, it is broadly accepted that within Anglesey and Gwynedd existing parks could be extended by a 10% increase in units per park (based on the original size of the development) if accompanied by substantial environmental improvements. Likewise, in Snowdonia National Park a 10% increase in the overall area of a park may be permitted (but not an increase in the number of units) if it delivers landscape/environmental improvements. Coastal squeeze³ threatens some of these parks, and the desire to have caravans right on the coastal edge defended by rock armour, for example, has resulted in unsightly

¹ TAN8 Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) - have been independently and empirically assessed to be the most suitable areas for wind energy development in Wales.

² <http://www.snh.org.uk/futures/Data/pdfdocs/LANDSCAPES.pdf>

³ In this context the term coastal squeeze is used to describe the direct loss of land through managed coastal retreat as sea levels rise in the future.

development whose visual effects are significant both for wide vistas along the adjacent beach and for the development as whole from elevated positions inland. As sea levels rise in the future some coastal static caravan/chalet parks may be required to re-locate or expand their plots further inland to make up for the lost land; thus adding further to development pressure along the coastline, if this occurs then opportunities for visual and landscape improvements will be sought.

Planning and Policy Framework

National Policy Context

- 1.16 Planning policy in Wales, comprises both national (Welsh) and local policy documents. At a national level, the *Wales Spatial Plan* (2008) provides a Wales-wide spatial strategy which outlines a broad 20-year agenda to guide future development and policy interventions. *Planning Policy Wales* (Edition 8, January 2016) (PPW) provides the overarching national policy considerations, principles and objectives which underpin the Welsh planning system. PPW is supported by a number of *Technical Advice Notes* (TANs) which, together with circulars and policy clarification letters, comprise national planning policy in Wales.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 8 (January 2016)

- 1.17 Land use planning policies for the Welsh Government set out in *Planning Policy Wales* (PPW) establish the Government's objectives for conservation and improvement of natural heritage, in particular the protection of native habitats, trees and woodlands and landscapes with statutory designations.
- 1.18 The LANDMAP information system is formally recognised in *Planning Policy Wales* as the starting point for landscape assessment in Wales. LANDMAP provides information for all of Wales' landscapes.
- 1.19 Extracts from PPW regarding renewable energy and telecommunications developments are included below as follows:

Renewable Energy Developments

- 1.20 All forms of renewable energy are promoted where they are environmentally and socially acceptable.
- 1.21 *'The UK is subject to the requirements of the EU Renewable Energy Directive. These include a UK target of 15% of energy from renewables by 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap sets the path for the delivery of these targets, promoting renewable energy to reduce global warming and to secure future energy supplies. The Welsh Government is committed to playing its part by delivering an energy programme which contributes to reducing carbon emissions as part of our approach to tackling climate change (see 4.5) whilst enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people and communities of Wales in order to achieve a better quality of life for our own and future generations. This is outlined in the Welsh Government's Energy Policy Statement Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition (2012). (PPW Edition 8, Paragraph 12.8.1)'*
- 1.22 *'Planning policy at all levels should facilitate delivery of both the ambition set out in Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition and UK and European targets on renewable energy. The Renewable Energy Directive contains specific obligations to provide Guidance to facilitate effective consideration of renewable energy source, high-efficiency technologies and district heating and cooling in the context of development of industrial or residential areas, and (from 1 January 2012) to ensure that new public buildings, and existing public buildings that are subject to major renovation fulfil an exemplary role in the context of the Directive. The issues at the heart of these duties are an established focus of planning policy in Wales, and in this context both local planning authorities and developers should have regard in particular to the Guidance contained in Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy, TAN22 and Planning for Renewable Energy – A Toolkit for Planners. The Welsh Government will however consider the preparation of further targeted Guidance where appropriate. (PPW Edition 7, Paragraph 12.8.2)'*⁴

Telecommunications Developments

- 1.23 *'The Welsh Government recognises that widespread access to affordable, secure telecommunications infrastructure is important to citizens and businesses across Wales. It is important that the telecommunications infrastructure in Wales is able to meet this challenge, helping to build a thriving and prosperous Welsh economy. To this end, the Welsh Government is working with the telecommunications industry and the*

⁴ Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014), Chapter 12 – Infrastructure and Services, Section 12.8

communications regulator Ofcom to share information on communications infrastructure issues, to understand regulatory, planning and economic barriers to investment and to inform future policy making in this area. The Welsh Government has well-established policies for the protection of the countryside and urban areas - in particular the National Parks, AONBs, SSSIs, the Heritage Coast and areas and buildings of architectural or historic importance.⁵

Technical Advice Notes

- 1.24 PPW is supported by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs) including the following:
- 1.25 **TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy** – allocates seven Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) across Wales. These are areas within which most large wind farms (> 25MW) can potentially be located. TAN 8 identifies areas where proposals are likely to be supported, areas to be afforded significant protection from wind farm development, and the approach to be followed elsewhere. TAN 8 states that most areas outside SSAs should remain free of large wind energy schemes although there may be some potential for wind farms up to 25 MW capacity on urban brownfield sites and for smaller community based and domestic wind energy schemes less than 5 MW elsewhere. *LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 3: Using LANDMAP for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Onshore Wind Turbines (2013)* refers to TAN 8 and provides more detailed information about SSAs and wind energy development with a view to avoiding, minimising and compensating for adverse effects.
- 1.26 In terms of wind energy development it is generally recognised that there is a presumption for major landscape change within and immediately adjacent to SSAs but that there should be no significant change outside SSAs.
- 1.27 TAN 8 makes reference to solar PV energy developments; however this is in connection with domestic scale developments which are outside the scope of this study.
- 1.28 **TAN 12: Design** – requires Local Planning Authorities to appraise the character of the landscape, including its visual and sensory qualities and emphasises that landscape character needs to be considered when developing a robust and coherent planning framework. This is intended to ensure that development is sited in areas which are best able to accommodate them thereby helping to limit adverse effects and maintain landscape diversity. TAN 12 advocates the use of LANDMAP to help inform and identify where development is preferable in landscape terms.
- 1.29 **TAN 13: Tourism** – provides advice on tourism related issues to planning, including occupancy conditions, caravans and chalets development, and other related advice.
- 1.30 **TAN 14: Coastal Planning** – provides advice on key issues relating to planning for the coastal zone, including recreation and heritage and shoreline management plans.
- 1.31 **TAN 19: Telecommunications** – provides advice on telecommunications issues relating to planning including mobile masts and environmental considerations.

Guidance for Sustainable Design in the National Parks of Wales (Spring 2009)

- 1.32 The aim of this Guidance is to promote high quality, sustainable design that enhances the natural beauty⁶ wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks of Wales.
- 1.33 The document considers renewable energy developments, landscape, biodiversity, place and local distinctiveness amongst other principles of sustainable design. It provides generic Guidance which can be used by development control staff to assess planning applications, developers, landowners and designers.

Local Policy Context

- 1.34 Following the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), each Unitary Authority in Wales is required to prepare a local development plan (LDP) for its area. The Snowdonia National Park Authority published its LDP in 2011.

Snowdonia National Park Authority, Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) 2007-2022 (2011)

⁵ Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014), Chapter 12– Infrastructure and Services, Section 12.11

⁶ Section 7 of this document sets out Natural Resources Wales’ Statement on “Natural Beauty

1.35 In carrying out its statutory planning responsibilities, Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA) must also have regard to the statutory responsibilities and management role of National Park Authorities as set out in the Environment Act 1995.

These purposes are to:

Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park.

Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

1.36 The LDP notes that:

'Whilst large-scale energy power generation projects are incompatible with National Park status an assessment of renewable energy in Snowdonia considered that scope might exist to contribute to reducing demand for electricity derived from fossil fuels through efficiency savings and through small-scale renewable energy developments to meet domestic or community needs. These included small-scale hydro, domestic wind turbines, photovoltaics, biomass and landfill gas'. (Paragraph 3.19).

1.37 The LDP includes a specific policy relating to landscape protection in relation to development: Development Policy 2: Development and the Landscape (2), which reads as follows:

'The scale and design of new development, including its setting and landscaping should respect and conserve the character of the landscape. Unacceptable impacts on the landscape will be resisted and particular regard will be had to the protection of:

- *Section 3 areas of natural beauty*⁷.
- *Undeveloped coast.*
- *Panoramas visible from significant viewpoints.*
- *Landscape character areas based on LANDMAP and as defined in the Landscapes of Eryri Supplementary Planning Guidance.*⁸

1.38 **The LDP also states that:**

*'Snowdonia's landscapes include rugged mountains, high moorland, wooded valleys, lakes, waterfalls, estuaries and coast which all contribute to 'Special Qualities' of the area. The impact of these landscapes is enhanced in many locations by a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The Authority (SNPA) will encourage development that does not have an adverse effect on any of these special features in order to maintain the quality of life for the people living in the National Park and the experience of visitors to the National Park. Developments outside the National Park may also have an adverse impact on landscape character and affect views from and into the area. The Authority also recognises the need to discuss with neighbouring Authorities the effects of developments on the landscape. The Authority will consider the landscape and visual impact of proposals close to the National Park boundary and how these may impact on the National Park purposes.'*⁹ Paragraph 3.18

1.39 A number of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents have been produced to provide further detailed information in support of the Eryri LDP. These documents are used by the Authority in decision making and are material considerations. The following SPGs are relevant to this study:

- Visitor Accommodation (October 2012).
- Landscapes of Eryri (Working Draft) - Snowdonia National Park has used LANDMAP to inform the identification of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and accompanying management guidelines.
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Draft).

Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, World Heritage Site Management Plan (Cadw) (2004)

⁷ Section 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985 placed a responsibility on each of the National Parks of England and Wales to prepare a map showing those areas of mountain, moor, heath, woodland, down, cliff or foreshore, the natural beauty of which the Authority considers it is particularly important to conserve.

⁸ Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) 2007-2022 (2011)

⁹ Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) 2007-2022 (2011)

1.40 This World Heritage Site covers the Castles and Town Walls of Caernarfon and Conwy and the Castles of Harlech and Beaumaris. The three castles highlighted in bold fall within the study area and the Castle and Town Walls of Conwy are located within the study area buffer.

1.41 A Management Plan¹⁰ has been prepared for the World Heritage Site to protect and enhance the Castles' settings and to encourage their presentation to the public for life long education and research. The setting of the monuments is protected through the local planning system; planning policies have been set out by the Councils and Park Authority to protect the World Heritage Site and its landscape setting (including important and historic views into and out of each monument in the World Heritage Site which generally extend beyond the area of essential setting).

Snowdonia National Park Management Plan (2010-2015)

1.42 The Snowdonia National Park Management Plan provides the strategic policy framework for the National Park. It is reviewed every five years and is informed by The State of the Park Report (Draft 2009) which is also reviewed on a five yearly basis. The State of the Park Report also contains a tranquillity map.

The Seascape Assessment of Wales (Welsh Seascapes and their sensitivity to offshore developments) 2009

1.43 CCW (now Natural Resources Wales (NRW)) has assessed the character and special qualities of Welsh seascapes, including their comparative sensitivity to offshore development.

1.44 The Seascape Assessment of Wales subdivides the Welsh coast into 50 regional seascape units detailing the character and qualities of each unit. It also assesses the sensitivity and capacity of each seascape unit to offshore renewable energy developments. Whilst the report focuses on offshore wind energy development it nevertheless provides a valuable information resource in determining the potential effects of onshore wind energy developments on seascape character and qualities.

The Anglesey and Snowdonia National Park Seascape Assessment (2013)

1.45 The Anglesey and Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessment, completed in August 2013¹¹, assessed the broad Seascape Character Types (SCTs) and more detailed Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) that make up the two regions.

1.46 One of the main purposes of the Seascape Study was to capture the perceptual and experiential qualities of the coast, and relate them to different physical environments and geographic areas. The outputs of this study have informed this Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Study with SCTs and SCAs referenced throughout.

Countryside Council for Wales, Wales Tranquil Areas Map (March 2009)

1.47 The Wales Tranquil Areas Map, 2009 and the statistical analysis that accompanies it, provide an objective and robust evidence base to inform planning decisions. Together they provide an indicator of change in tranquillity that can be used in Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and EIA. They identify how planning decisions over the last 12 years have affected the extent of tranquillity in Wales and provide the baseline against which the potential impact of plans and programmes on tranquillity and dark night skies can be assessed in the future.

1.48 GIS data layers and maps which make up the 2009 Map are available and are a useful source of data. A copy of the 2009 map overlain with postcode data is provided on Figure A-3.

Approach to the Study

1.49 The main objectives of the assessment are to:

- Provide a strategic assessment of the *relative sensitivity*¹² of the landscapes of the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park to a range of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development using defined sets of landscape and visual criteria which include both physical and perceptual aspects as well as a consideration of landscape value.

¹⁰ <http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsedward1/?lang=en>

¹¹ Anglesey and Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessment, Fiona Fyfe Associates (August 2013)

¹² Relative Sensitivity – the sensitivity of each discrete geographical Landscape Character Area (LCA) is assessed in relation to the type of development and the baseline of the overall study area.

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- Develop a series of landscape strategies which provide an indication as to where development might best be located and an indication of the appropriate scale of development, based on thresholds of *maximum capacity*¹³.
 - Provide siting and design Guidance relevant to each of the different types of development and consider a methodology for the cumulative landscape and visual appraisal of the different types of development.

1.50 There is currently no formally agreed approach for assessing the sensitivity or capacity of landscapes to the different development types which are considered in this study. The methodology set out in the Technical Appendix is developed from current published guidance and the approach taken in other similar studies. It is based on the premise that development should be more readily accepted in the least sensitive areas and should avoid areas that are highly valued for their scenic, recreational and undeveloped qualities such as tranquillity and remoteness; particularly those areas safeguarded by international or national designations and those where the cumulative effects of existing and consented schemes limit further development.

Structure of the Report

1.51 The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

Section 2: Baseline landscapes of the Snowdonia National Park

Section 3: Evaluation of Landscape Sensitivity and Presentation of Strategies

Section 4: Generic Guidance on Siting & Design

Section 5: Guidance for Assessing Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

Section 6: NRW Statement on Natural Beauty

Technical Appendix 1 Methodology

1.52 The report is also supported by figures and appendices as listed in the contents.

¹³ Maximum capacity refers to the extent to which a landscape can accommodate different types of development without significant adverse effects on landscape character, quality, fabric, value or amenity, including significant adverse visual effects.

SECTION 2: BASELINE LANDSCAPE OF THE SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

Landscape Character Baseline of the Study Area

Key Landscape Characteristics of the Snowdonia National Park

- 2.1 Snowdonia is comprised of a diverse mix of landscapes many of which are highly valued for their great natural beauty and tranquillity. The Snowdonia National Park is renowned for its rugged mountainous landscapes but also offers beautiful and unspoilt valley and coastal landscapes.
- 2.2 Landscape character assessment undertaken for the National Park has resulted in 25 LCAs being identified. The LCAs are illustrated in Figure 3 and are set out in the following report:
- Supplementary Planning Guidance 7 Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri– Snowdonia National Park Authority,
 - Eryri Local Development Plan 2007-2022 (para 3.10, p.44). This document subdivides the local planning authority area into 25 LCAs.

Protected Landscapes (*Statutory and Non-Statutory*) Within the Study Area

- 2.3 The landscapes of the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park are protected by a significant proportion of both statutory and non-statutory landscape related designations.

World Heritage Sites

Caernarfon Castle and Town Walls, Beaumaris and Harlech Castles (Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd) World Heritage Site.

- 2.4 The extensive and detailed contemporary technical, social, and economic documentation of the castles, and the survival of adjacent fortified town at Caernarfon, makes them one of the major references of medieval history¹⁴.
- 2.5 There is no detailed Guidance regarding the siting of proposed wind energy, telecommunications and tourism developments in relation to this World Heritage Site or it's essential setting, however Part 2 of The Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd, World Heritage Site Management Plan¹⁵ discusses the importance of significant/historic views into and out of each monument in the World Heritage Site, stating that inappropriate development would obstruct or interfere with these views, which generally extend beyond the areas of essential setting. This is particularly relevant to the wind energy, telecommunications and tourism developments.

Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2)

- 2.6 *'Areas of Natural Beauty, as defined under Section 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside Amendment Act 1985, have been identified on the [LDP] Proposals Map. These areas often coincide with area of open country (as defined and mapped under CRow Act 2000) and within areas of nature conservation importance. They include extensive tracts of unenclosed uplands, heather moorland and semi natural mountain grassland. The [National Park] Authority expects prospective developers to recognise their sensitivity and value and to prove that any development will not adversely affect their character or amenity.'* (Paragraph 3.9)

ELDP Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2)

- 2.7 *'...small areas of Snowdonia's coastline can be described as having a largely unspoilt character. These are identified on the Proposals map as the Undeveloped Coast. They are broadly coterminous with the coastal features identified by Section 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985 in that they are 'areas of, cliff or foreshore (including any bank, barrier, beach, flat or other land adjacent to the foreshore), the natural beauty of which the Authority considers is particularly important to conserve. In addition areas of coastal heath on cliffs and former*

¹⁴ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1540>

¹⁵ <http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/historicenvironment/protection/worldheritage/cstlsEdward1/?lang=en>

cliffs have been included south of Llwyngwriol along with the small enclosed fields which are characteristic of this area.’ (Paragraph 3.7)

Open Access Land

- 2.8 In May 2005 the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) came into force, clearly identifying open access land (open country and/or common land) in Wales. One fifth of Wales is mapped as ‘access land’ where the public have a right of access on foot.¹⁶ A large proportion of land within the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park is mapped as Open Access Land.

National Trails

- 2.9 National Trails in England and Wales (formerly Long Distance Routes) are designated long distance footpaths and bridleways administered by Natural England and NRW. They are important for both local enjoyment of the countryside and for tourism. Development which can be seen from these paths therefore has the potential to affect this enjoyment.

Registered Historic Landscapes (Wales)

- 2.10 The Historic Landscapes Register maintained by Cadw aims to help planners and developers introduce changes and new developments in ways that will cause the least harm to the historic character of the land. Inclusion in the Register does not confer statutory protection – but it does help highlight the cultural heritage importance of some parts of the landscape.
- 2.11 The Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park partially or fully contains a number of Registered Historic Landscapes which are described within the Register as follows:
- **Aberglaslyn** – ‘A man-made landscape occupying a reclaimed river estuary situated in south Snowdonia, the whole conceived as one man’s grand scheme, probably the most ambitious of its kind in 19th century Britain.’
 - **Ardudwy** – ‘A large, exceptionally archaeologically rich and well-studied landscape situated on the western flanks of the Rhinog Mountains, containing extensive relict evidence of recurrent land use and settlement from prehistoric to recent times.’
 - **Blaenau Ffestiniog** – ‘The foremost slate mining and quarrying landscape in Wales, sited in an elevated natural basin and its tributary valleys in south Snowdonia, containing an undisputed wealth of industrial archaeological remains comprising visually imposing and extensive slate quarry and mine workings, waste tips, associated buildings, transport systems and settlements dating from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries.’
 - **Bro Dolgellau (Vale of Dolgellau)** – ‘A natural basin at the confluence of two valleys situated between Cader Idris, the Arenig and Rhinog Mountains, containing diverse evidence of land use and exploitation from the prehistoric, medieval and recent periods.’
 - **Bro Trawsfynydd a Cwm Prysor (Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor)** – ‘A natural upland basin and tributary valley, adjoining the east side of the Rhinog Mountains to the south of Snowdonia, containing well-preserved evidence of communications and recurrent military use from Roman to recent times.’
 - *by recent extensive and outstanding remains of the 19th and 20th centuries slate industry.’*
 - **Dyffryn Dysynni (Dysynni Valley)** – ‘The picturesque Dysynni Valley to the south west of the Cader Idris range in south Gwynedd contains diverse evidence of human occupation and activity from the prehistoric period to the recent past.’
 - **Dyffryn Nantlle (Nantlle Valley)** – ‘A glaciated valley situated on the west side of the Snowdonian massif, having contrasting evidence of relict prehistoric and later land use, superimposed by the 19th and 20th centuries remains of the large-scale industrial exploitation of slate.’
 - **Dyffryn Ogwen (Ogwen Valley)** – ‘The classic glaciated valley in north Snowdonia, containing contrasting evidence of prehistoric and later land use, superimposed by the extensive and visually dramatic remains of the recent and continuing industrial exploitation of slate.’

¹⁶ <http://www.ccg.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/open-access-land.aspx>

- **Gogledd Arllechwedd (North Arllechwedd)** - *'A dissected, mainly upland, area situated on the northern flanks of the Carneddau ridge in north Snowdonia, containing well-preserved relict evidence of recurrent land use and settlement from the prehistoric to medieval and later periods.'*
- **Mawddach** – *'A river estuary and surrounding coastal slopes situated to the west of Cader Idris in south Gwynedd, containing extensive relict evidence of diverse land use and activity from prehistoric and later periods.'*
- **Pen Isaf Dyffryn Conwy (Lower Conwy Valley)** - *'A topographically diverse landscape, straddling the lower Conwy valley and adjacent uplands on the north eastern flanks of the Carneddau ridge in north Snowdonia, containing extensive and well-preserved relict evidence of land use, communications and defence from the prehistoric period onwards.'*
- **Y Bala a Glannau Tegid (Bala and Bala Lakesides)** – *'The upper Dee valley provides a natural and historically strategic and important route corridor across North Wales, the area identified here being centred on Bala Lake and its immediate catchment, where there is a succession and concentration of defensive sites and settlements from the Roman and medieval periods.'*

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

- 2.12 A large number of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales can be found within the study area and these were placed on a Register because they are nationally valued as they form an important and integral part of the historic and cultural fabric of Wales. The provisions of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 means that this is now a statutory register.

Protected Landscapes (*Statutory and Non-Statutory*) Outside the Study Area

Areas of Outstanding Beauty

- 2.13 The Cynwyd and Llandrillo AOB (formerly Berwyn Mountains AOB revised March 2013) lies just outside the study area to the south east. The aim of this non-statutory designation is to protect the Berwyn Mountains, in recognition of its nationally important landscape value.

An Overview of Operational and Consented Developments

- 2.14 The following figures and accompanying tables A9.01 – A9.05 identify and illustrate the development baseline for this study as it relates to the National Park at the end of March 2014.
- Figure 2.1 - Operational and consented wind energy developments shown within the study area and 35 km buffer; including existing and proposed offshore wind energy developments.
 - Figure 2.2 - Operational and consented mobile mast developments shown within the study area and 10 km buffer.
 - Figure 2.3 - Operational and consented static caravan/chalet park developments shown within the study area and 5 km buffer.
- 2.15 The data used to compile Tables A9.01 – A9.05 and Figures 2.1 to 2.3, was provided and confirmed by the Steering Group.
- 2.16 All of the operational developments were considered as part of the baseline for the sensitivity assessments of the LCAs.
- 2.17 For the purposes of developing landscape strategies and considering capacity within each of the LCAs, all of the consented developments were assumed to have been built and as such were considered as part of the baseline, together with operational developments.

Operational and Consented Wind Energy Developments

- 2.18 The highest concentrations of wind energy developments within the study area for wind energy developments are found to the north of the Isle of Anglesey where there are currently three wind farms in operation together with a number of single and double wind turbine developments of various heights (some up to 92.5 m to blade tip). There are a number of mainly domestic, micro and small scale developments scattered throughout Gwynedd; however there is one large development (Braich Ddu) located on the eastern edge of LCA G12. There are very few domestic and micro developments within the National Park.

- 2.19 There are several notable areas of wind energy development outside the study area; these are as follows:
- The first is to the north east of LCA S07 in and around Moel Maelogen wind farm to the east of Llanrwst in Conwy; these turbines are visible from parts of Snowdonia National Park.
 - The second is a cluster of micro to medium scale wind energy developments just north of LCA G12, to the south of Cerrigydrudion in Conwy.
 - The third comprises the wind farms associated with SSA A (Clogaenog Forest), which lies within 15 km of the study area to the east. This location, together with that identified to the north of Anglesey represents the densest cluster of wind energy developments within the study area and buffer. Some of the turbines are visible from parts of Snowdonia National Park.
 - The fourth comprises the wind farms associated with SSA B (Carno North), which roughly lies within 20 km of the study area. Some of the turbines are visible from parts of Snowdonia National Park.
- 2.20 In some areas (in particular to the north of Anglesey), the presence of existing wind energy developments as an existing feature in the landscape, somewhat reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to that particular type of development. However, the capacity for new development has to be carefully considered to avoid the occurrence of cumulative landscape and visual effects.

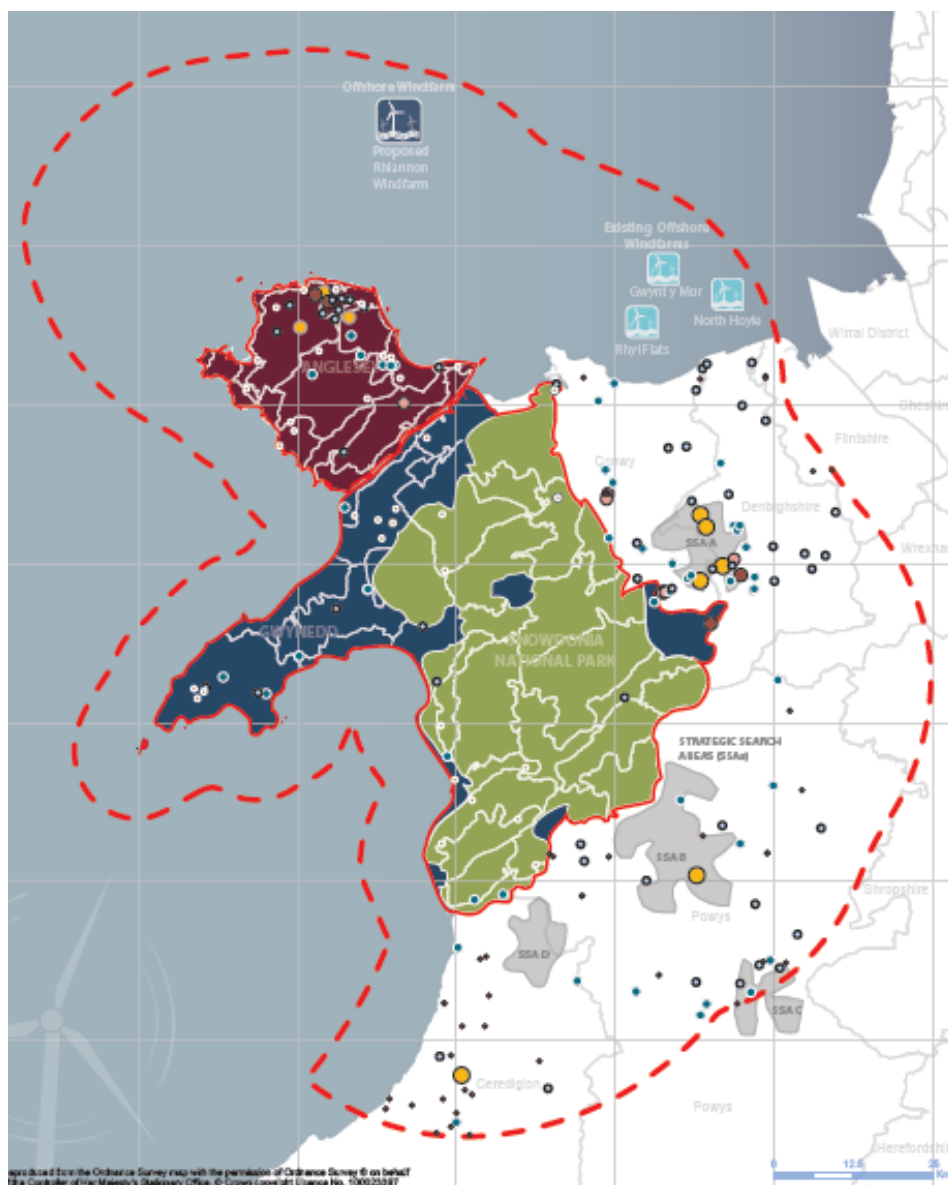


Figure 2.1 - Operational and consented wind energy developments shown within the study area and 35 km buffer; including existing and proposed offshore wind energy developments

Operational and Consented Mobile Mast Developments

- 2.21 Operational and consented mobile mast, telecommunication infrastructure developments are dispersed throughout the study area for mobile mast developments (the study area encompasses the National Park) but these are typically focussed along major road networks and settlements. There are more notable concentrations around Betws-y-Coed to the north east and Dolgellau to the south.
- 2.23 As well as the traditional lattice and monopole style mobile masts there are also a number of camouflaged masts concentrated along the coastline and to the south of the National Park.

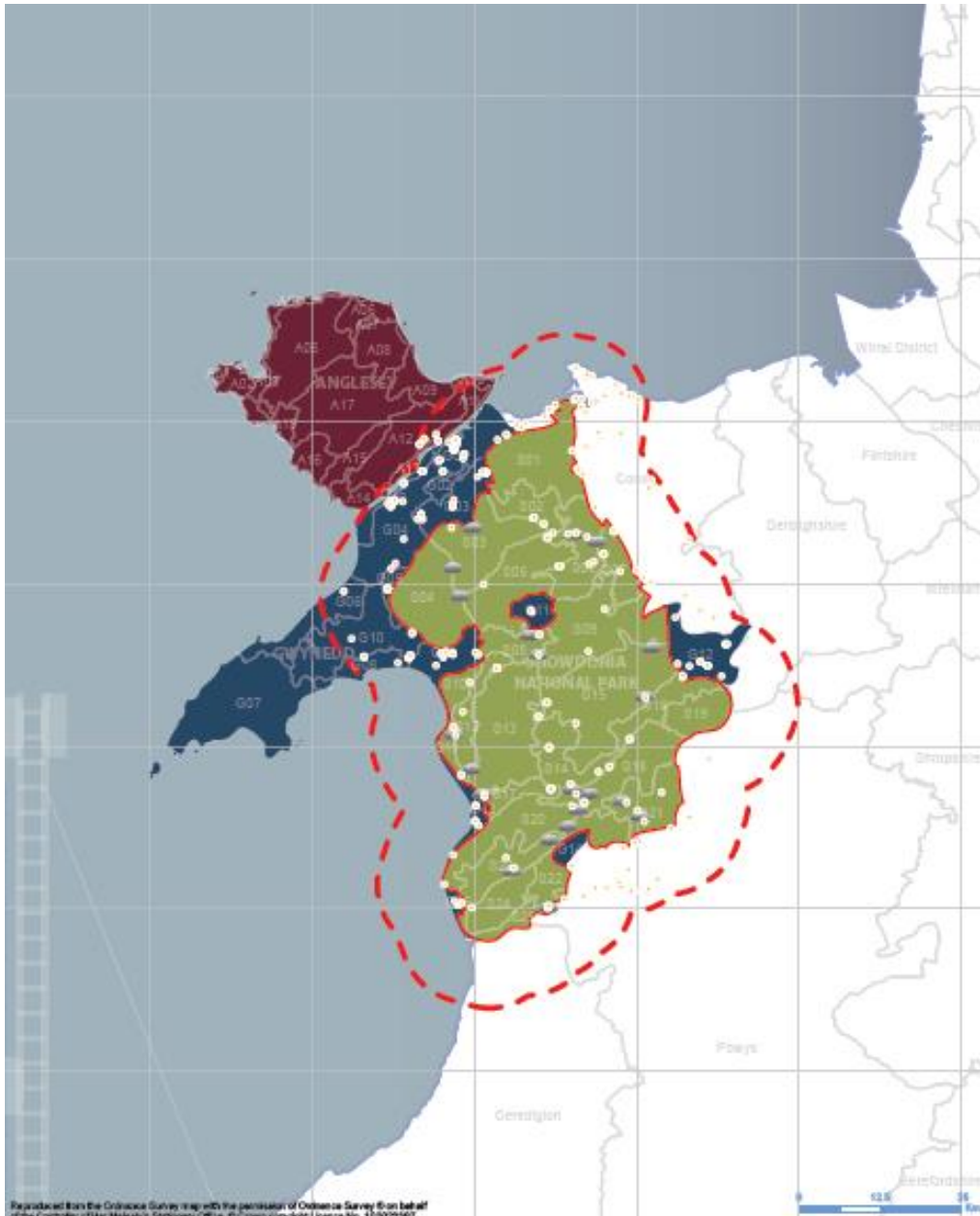


Figure 2.2 - Operational and consented mobile mast developments shown within the study area and 10 km buffer.

Operational and Consented Static Caravan/Chalet Park Developments

- 2.24 Operational and consented caravan/chalet park developments are typically located along the coastlines of the study area (encompassing all of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia).
- Within Snowdonia, smaller clusters, but frequently of a large to very large size, are found along the coast, particularly close to Harlech and Coed Ystumgwern. Inland, groups of smaller developments

can be found along the banks of the Afon Dysynni at Brynchrug and along the Afon Wnion at Dolgellau. Further clusters can be found at Llŷn Tegid and again at the popular tourist destination of Betws-y-coed.

- 2.25 Outside of the study area, operational and consented caravan/chalet park developments tend to be concentrated to the south along the Afon Dyfi and to the north east of the study area on the banks of the Afon Conwy, with larger clusters to be found close to the popular tourist towns of Conwy and Llanrwst.

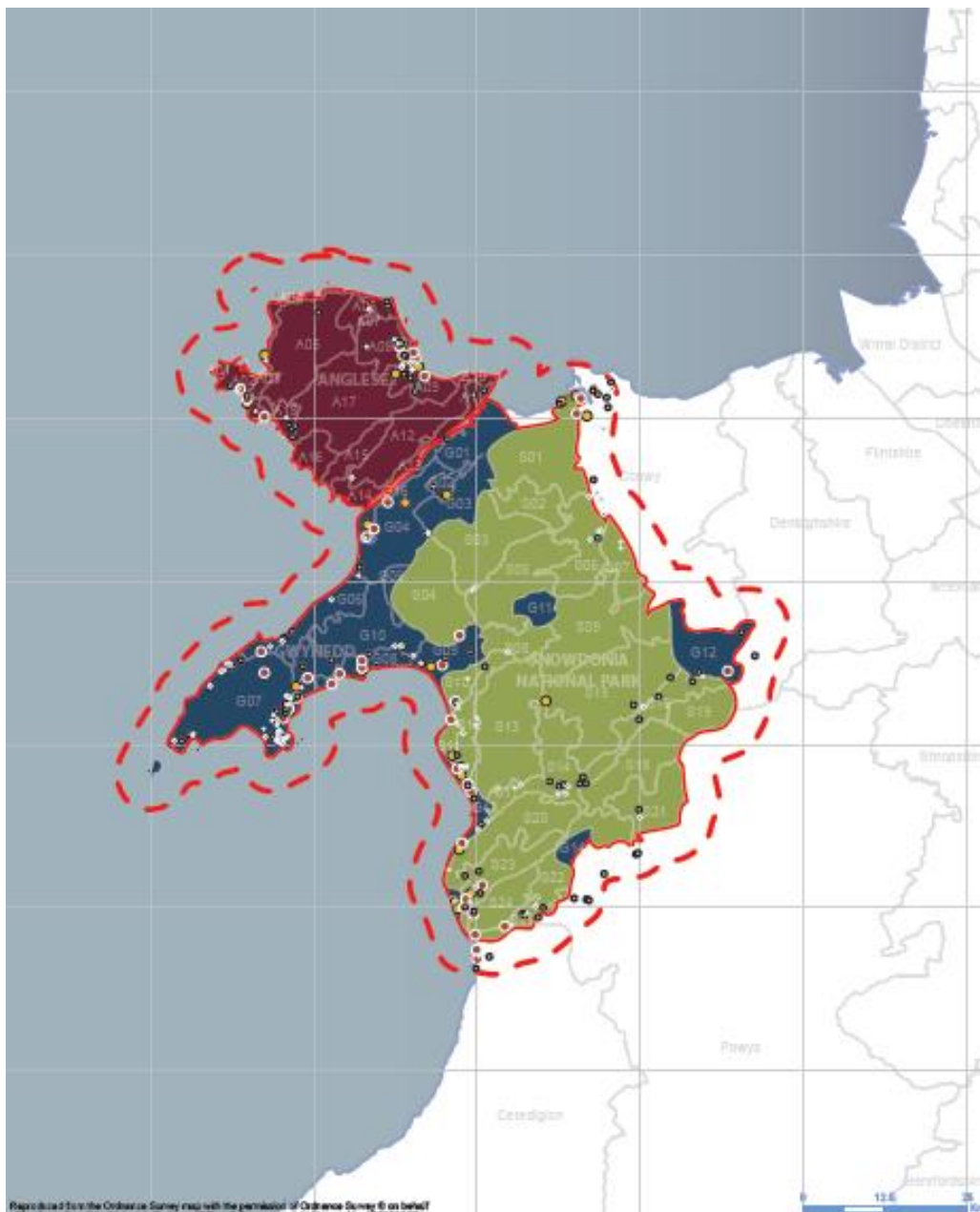


Figure 2.3 - Operational and consented static caravan/chalet park developments shown within the study area and 5 km buffer.

SECTION 3: EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES

3.1 A total of 25 landscape character areas (LCAs) were identified across the Snowdonia National Park. These LCAs are listed below in Table 3.01 together with an overall evaluation of their landscape and visual sensitivity in relation to wind energy, field-scale solar PV energy, 400 kV overhead line, mobile masts and static caravan/chalet park developments. The overall sensitivity evaluations are illustrated in Figures 3.1 – 3.3 below

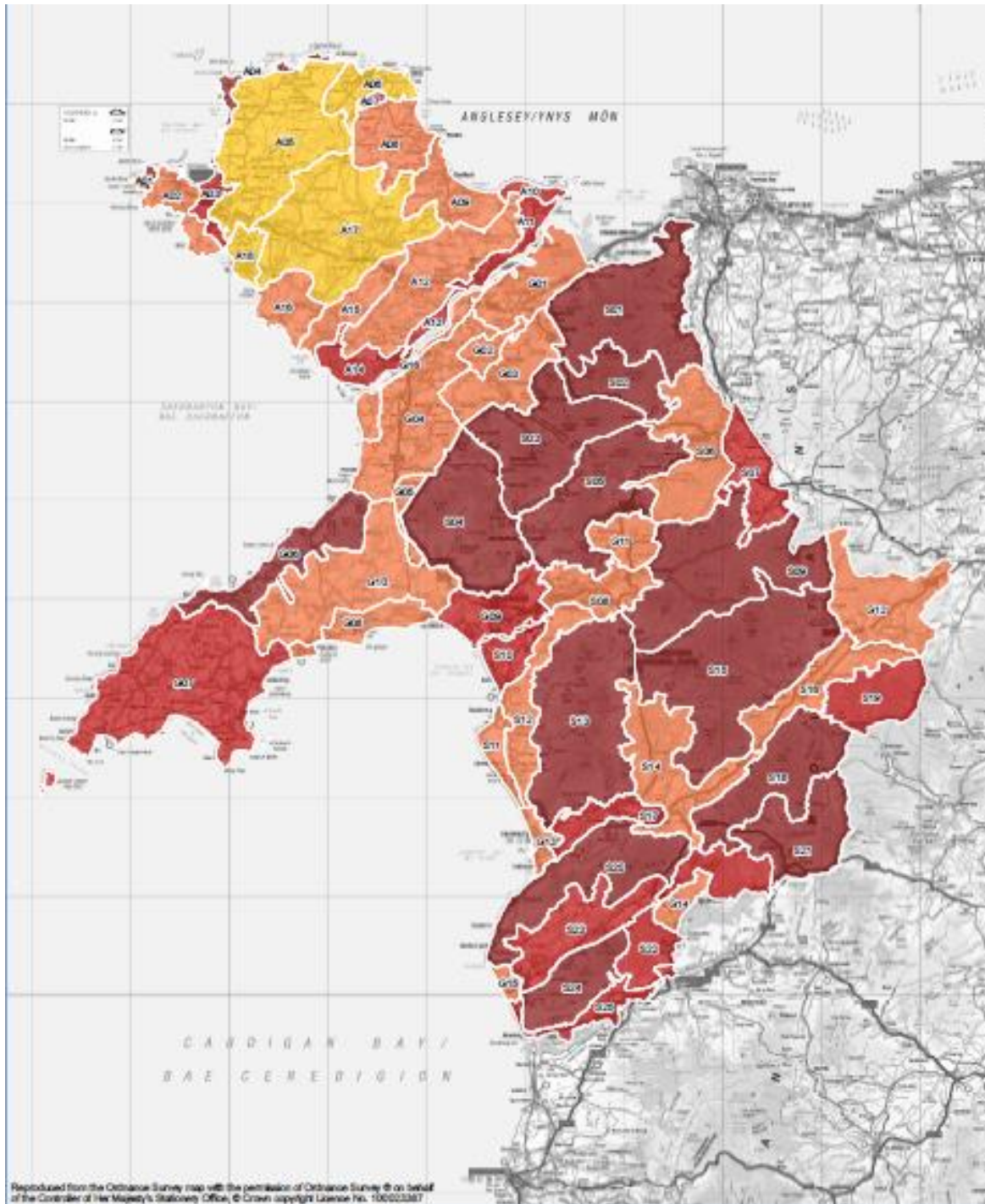


Figure 3.1 Overall Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Developments

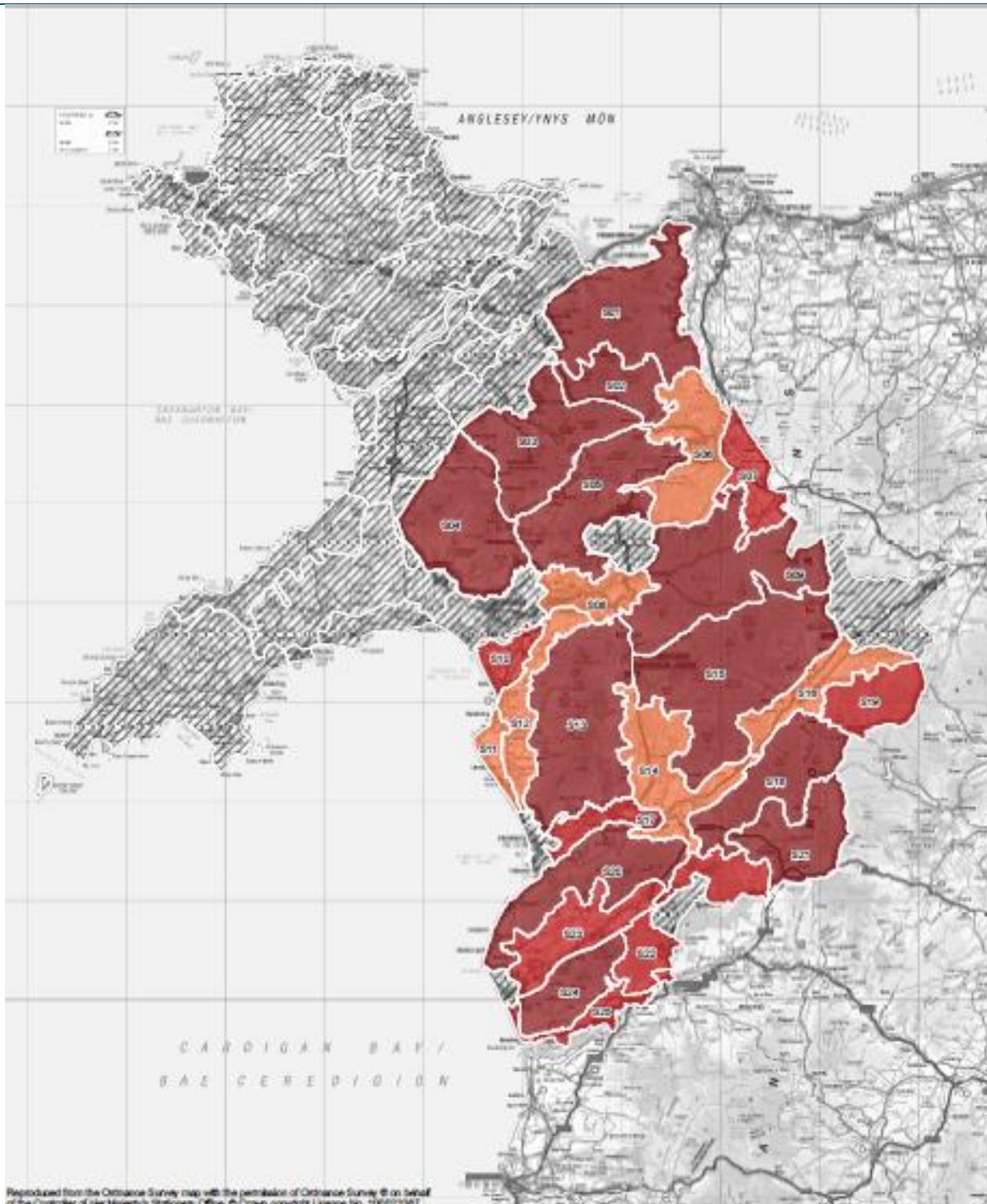


Figure 3.2 Overall Sensitivity to Mobile Phone Masts

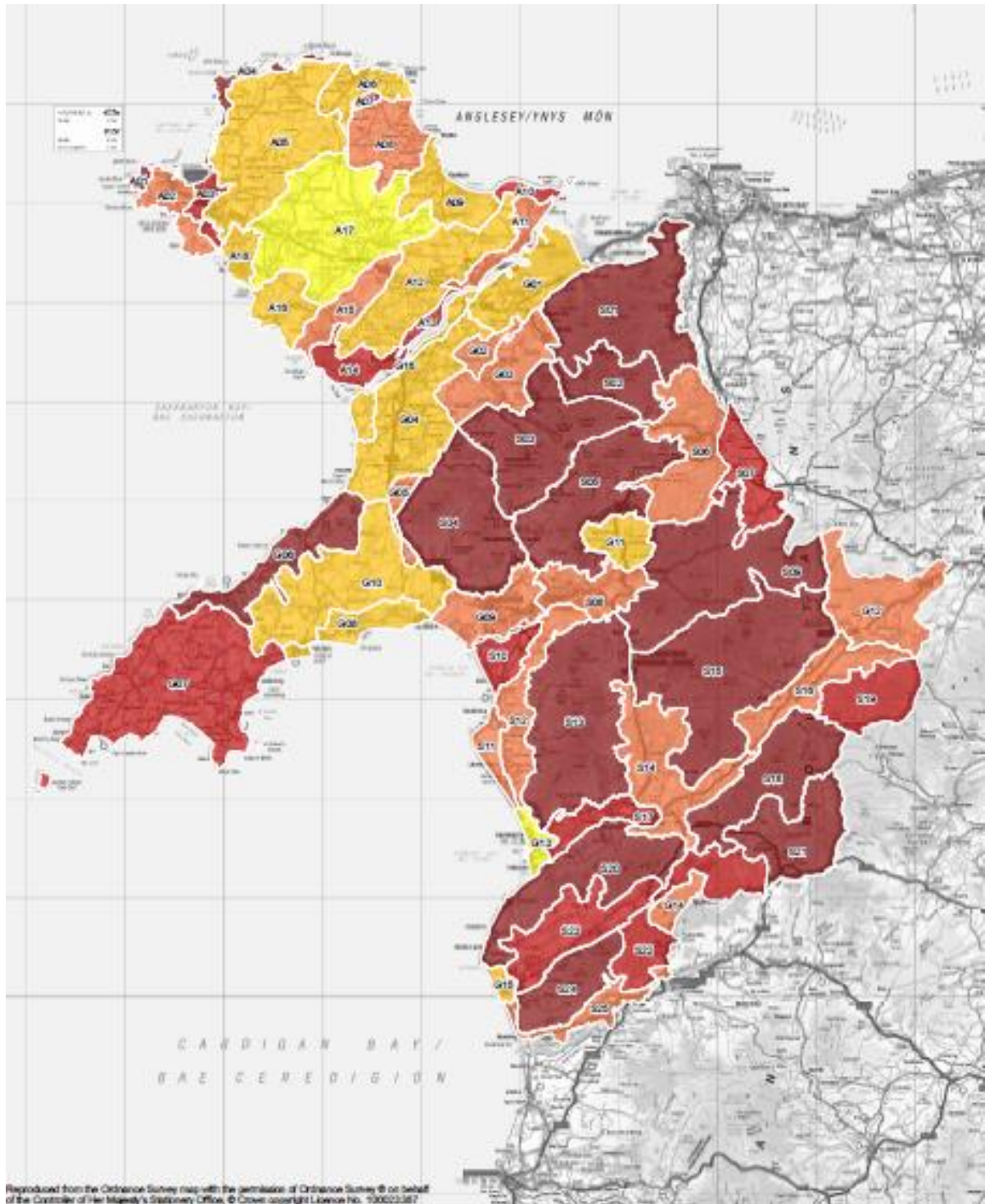


Figure 3.3 Overall Sensitivity to Static Caravan/Chalet Sites

Key to Sensitivity

Very High	High	Medium-High	Medium	Low-Medium	Low	Development Type Not Applicable
VH		M-H	M	L-M	L	

Table 3.01: Summary of Sensitivity

Landscape Character Area		Assessed Sensitivity					Page no.
Ref	Name	Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks	
S01	Ucheldir y Gogledd	VH			VH	VH	
S02	Y Carneddau	VH			VH	VH	
S03	Yr Wyddfa a'r Glyderau	VH			VH	VH	
S04	Moel Hebog	VH			VH	VH	
S05	Y Moelwynion	VH			VH	VH	
S06	Coedwig Gwydyr	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S07	Dyffryn Conwy	H			H	H	
S08	Dyffryn Y Ddwryd	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S09	Y Mignient	VH			VH	VH	
S10	Morfa Harlech	H			H	H	
S11	Morfa Dyffryn	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S12	Cefnwlad Arfordir Ardudwy	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S13	Y Rhinogau	VH			VH	VH	
S14	Dyffrynnoedd Mawddach a'r Wnion	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S15	Yr Arenig	VH			VH	VH	
S16	Llyn Tegid A Dyffryn Dyfrdwy	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S17	Aber Y Fawddach	H			H	H	
S18	Mynyddoedd Yr Aran	VH			VH	VH	
S19	Coedwig Penllyn	H			H	H	
S20	Cadair Idris	VH			VH	VH	
S21	Pen Dyffryn Dyfi	VH			VH	VH	
S22	Coedwig Dyfi	H			H	H	
S23	Dyffryn Dysynni	H			H	H	
S24	Y Tarrenau	VH			VH	VH	
S25	Aber y Ddyfi	H			H	M-H	

Approach to Evaluating Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas

3.2 The following text (in addition to the methodology) describes the how the sensitivity evaluations have been approached and presented for each Landscape Character Area (LCA):

- A key plan and text describing location, extent and key characteristics are provided, as a brief introduction to each LCA.
- The evaluation of the sensitivity of each LCA in relation to each of the different developments is broken down into four overarching sensitivity criteria categories within a table, as follows:
 - Landscape
 - Visual
 - Aesthetical, Perceptual and Experiential
 - Value
- Detailed criteria are included within each of these overarching categories and evaluations of sensitivity (lower, medium and higher) are made against each of these respectively.

- LANDMAP¹⁷ has been used as a tool for assisting the evaluations of sensitivity as outlined in Tables 2.03 – 2.07 of the methodology (Section 2). The text shown in *grey italics* within the ‘Characteristics of the LCA’ column represents LANDMAP evaluations specific to each LCA. For example *VS4: Levels / Hills/Valleys (52%)* denotes visual and sensory LANDMAP evaluations of topographic form. The percentage number in brackets represents the approximate coverage of the LANDMAP evaluation in relation to the LCA and the underlined text signifies the evaluation(s) which geographically cover the majority of the LCA.
- In addition to the LANDMAP evaluations a wide range of data sources have been drawn upon to reinforce / bVHld upon the initial LANDMAP evaluations. These data sources are identified in the methodology Tables 2.03 – 2.07 (Section 2).
- Site visits have also been made to verify the evaluations.
- The text shown in black represents the key findings of LANDMAP backed up by additional data source research and site visits; text highlighted in bold indicates the main findings that have informed the assessed sensitivity of each criterion.
- A summary of overall sensitivity to each of the different developments is included at the end of each table.

3.3 It is important to note that the overall sensitivity evaluation of each LCA is not based on any mathematical formula (for example - adding up the individual lower, moderate and higher scores and dividing by the total) but on the professional judgements of two chartered landscape architects through a balanced assessment of all the characteristics which takes into consideration the key criteria and the weight of evidence in relation to sensitivity. As explained in the methodology the overall assessment of sensitivity has been made using a more detailed six point sensitivity scale, low, low-medium, medium, medium-high, high and very-high.

Approach to the Formulation of Strategies for Development within Each Landscape Character Area

3.4 The following text describes the how the landscape strategy and Guidance notes are presented for each LCA:

The landscape strategy and Guidance notes are presented in table format.

Only the development types relevant to the particular LCA are included in the table (refer Figures 2.1 – 2.3 for study areas).

The overall sensitivity assessment for each development considered is included at the start of the table.

This is followed by a summary of operational and consented development as at the end of March 2014 (described in accordance with the development typologies outlined in Tables 2.08 – 2.11 in Section 2).

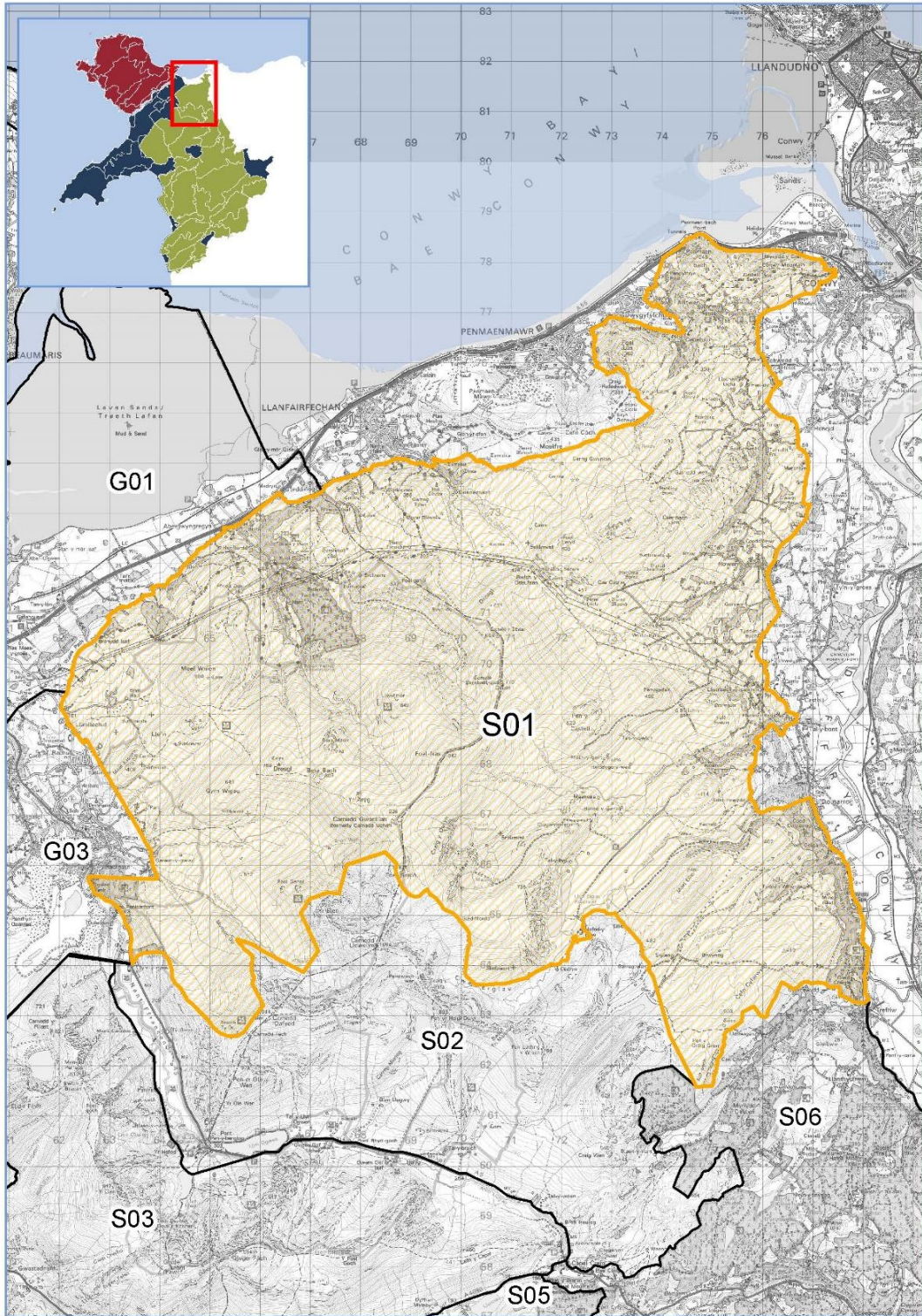
The landscape strategy for the area is then set out and includes a description of the landscape objective(s) for the LCA in relation to each form of development, followed by an indication of the relative amounts and scales of development which might be accommodated (indicative overall capacity).

The strategy and Guidance table is then followed by a further table which sets out specific Guidance notes regarding the design and siting of the different forms of development in relation to each LCA.

3.4 It is important to note that the strategy and Guidance tables should be read together with the relevant sensitivity evaluation tables (including those for adjacent LCA’s) to ensure a better understanding of the context of the landscape and identify key issues. This is particularly important when a proposed development is near to the boundary of and LCA and also for the taller vertical developments (wind turbines, 400 kV overhead lines and mobile masts) as their visual influence may extend over some distance.

¹⁷ The LANDMAP data sources relevant to this study area are illustrated on plans of the study area which are contained on a CD within Appendix 6 for reference.

S01 Ucheldir y Gogledd



1:100,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises a series of peaks extending from Bethesda in the west to Conwy valley in the east. The boundary extends to the outskirts of Conwy in the north where this LCA forms an immediate and dramatic backdrop to the coast.

Key Characteristics

- Vast scale, exposed landscape
- Upland landscape with a series of peaks
- Cultural heritage interest

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast scale landscape. VS8: Medium (23%)/ <u>Vast</u> (75%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Exposed upland landscape with a series of high peaks . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland</u> (77%)/ Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes (22%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (77%)/ Hills/Valleys (16%) /Rolling/Undulating (7%) VS8: Medium (23%)/ <u>Vast</u> (75%)	↑			↑	↑

	Landcover	Unenclosed mountains provide rough grazing land which contrasts with more complex historic field systems on the foothills. The intermediate area is defined by large regular enclosures of ffridd ¹⁸ . VS Classification Level 3: Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (16%)/ <u>Upland Grazing</u> (75%) VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (77%)/ <u>Mixture</u> (22%)	↓			-	↑
	Man-made Influences	Modern day man-made influence is limited to the north and eastern edges of this LCA and includes static caravan parks and a single small turbine. Clustered settlements which lie along a network of minor roads on the higher slopes of the Conwy valley. Both 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines parallel each other in the northern section of the LCA. Elsewhere and throughout much of this LCA there is very little human influence aside from the remains of historical slate quarrying. VS6: Clustered (22%)/ <u>No Settlements</u> (77%) VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)	↑			↑	↑
	Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
	Skylines and Settings	Skylines are formed by a series of prominent and distinctive peaks including Moel Wnion, Drosogl, Foel Ganol, Pen y Castell, Drum, Carnedd Gwenllian, Tal y Fan and Conwy Mountain.	↑			↑	
Visual	Movement	Limited road traffic brings occasional movement to the landscape, which otherwise has a still character. VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (75%)/ <u>Frequent</u> (16%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (8%)/	↑				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	Views to the north are typically long distance with outward views over Anglesey, the Menai Strait and Conwy coastline. The A55 main road corridor, and offshore and onshore wind farms outside this LCA are also visible from some places to the north and east of the LCA. Views south are restricted by the Carneddau Range. VS9: <u>Open</u> (24%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (75%)	↑			↑	↑

¹⁸ Ffridd describes a diverse mixture of grassland and heathland vegetation with bracken and scrub often found on the valley sides between upland and lowland parts of Wales. There is no direct Welsh to English translation for this term.

		<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ Nearby attractions including Conwy Castle, Beaumaris Castle and the Great Orme ▪ Long distance routes including the Wales Coast Path and Sustrans national cycle route from Reading to Holyhead (NCN route 5) and Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) ▪ The A5 tourist route ▪ The local road network ▪ Water sports and boats 					
	<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park (including Snowdon) ▪ The Great Orme Heritage Coast ▪ Anglesey AONB ▪ Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB ▪ Lower Conwy Valley Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Creuddyn and Conwy Registered Historic Landscape ▪ North Arllechwedd Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscape ▪ North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA ▪ Hillforts ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 					
	Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Much of the landscape is defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically high LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (6%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (94%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (86%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (11%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (88%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (11%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (88%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (12%)</p>					
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity	Highly tranquil and exposed with few modern intrusions.					

		VS24: <u>Exposed</u> (77%)/ Settled; Attractive; Exposed; Wild; <u>Spiritual</u> (5%)/ Settled; Attractive; Sheltered (11%) / Other (6%)				
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route from Reading to Holyhead (NCN route 5).</p> <p>This area also includes hillforts.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (88%)/ Moderate (11%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (77%)/ Moderate (22%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (9%)/ Moderate (23%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (65%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: High (20%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (80%)</p> <p>GL33: High (20%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (80%)</p>	↑		↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Much of this LCA lies within the following Registered Historic Landscapes: Lower Conwy Valley; Creuddyn and Conwy; North Arllechwedd; and Ogwen Valley.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (64%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (30%)</p> <p>HL35: High (34%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (65%)</p> <p>HL40: High (37%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (62%)</p>	↑		↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types¹⁹ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the vast scale and relatively simple landcover of this LCA may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development, this is far outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by instantly recognisable skylines, created by dramatic and varied topography, together with a relative lack of human influence which imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. However, although some distance away, the visibility of both offshore and onshore wind turbines from northern and eastern areas does have a localised impact on tranquillity and remoteness in parts of this landscape, as do the 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines in the north.</p> <p>Extensive views are afforded to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey AONB, the Great Orme Heritage Coast and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. Due to its location in the northern corner of the National Park this LCA may be viewed as an important gateway to the National Park, particularly for many visitors travelling along the busy A55. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. domestic development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by instantly recognisable skylines, created by dramatic and varied topography, together with a relative lack of human influence which impart a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. However, although there are currently no masts within the LCA itself there are a number of visible masts bordering this</p>

¹⁹ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Very High	<p>LCA. These together with the presence of 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines in the north have a localised impact on tranquillity and remoteness and detract from the scenic quality, thus lessening sensitivity to mobile mast development in some areas.</p> <p>Extensive views are afforded to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey AONB, the Great Orme Heritage Coast and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. Due to its location in the northern corner of the National Park this LCA may be viewed as an important gateway to the National Park, in particular for many visitors travelling along the busy A55. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.</p>
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LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Very High	<p>Landscape Objective</p> <p>Landscape Protection</p>
Very High	<p>Baseline Development</p> <p>No existing or consented mobile mast developments within the LCA. A number of mobile masts are located outside the west, north and eastern boundaries.</p>
Very High	<p>Indicative Overall Capacity</p> <p>Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)</p>

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by vast areas of unenclosed upland grazing and the dramatic and varied topography which typifies this LCA. A relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA, increasing sensitivity further. However, there are existing static caravan/chalet parks within and around the northern and eastern fringes of this LCA which are visible from higher vantage points, especially footpaths and thus have a localised impact on tranquillity and remoteness and detract from the scenic quality, thus lessening sensitivity in some areas.</p> <p>The cultural heritage value of this landscape is recognised by the number of Registered Historic Landscapes which covers much of this LCA. Due to its location in the northern corner of the National Park this LCA may be viewed as an important gateway to the National Park, in particular for many visitors travelling along the busy A55. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.</p>
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LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. very large development - 1 no. medium development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty and exposed areas to the north. However, there may be limited capacity for very small scale and sensitively sited static caravan/chalet park developments to the east and on the edge of the National Park.

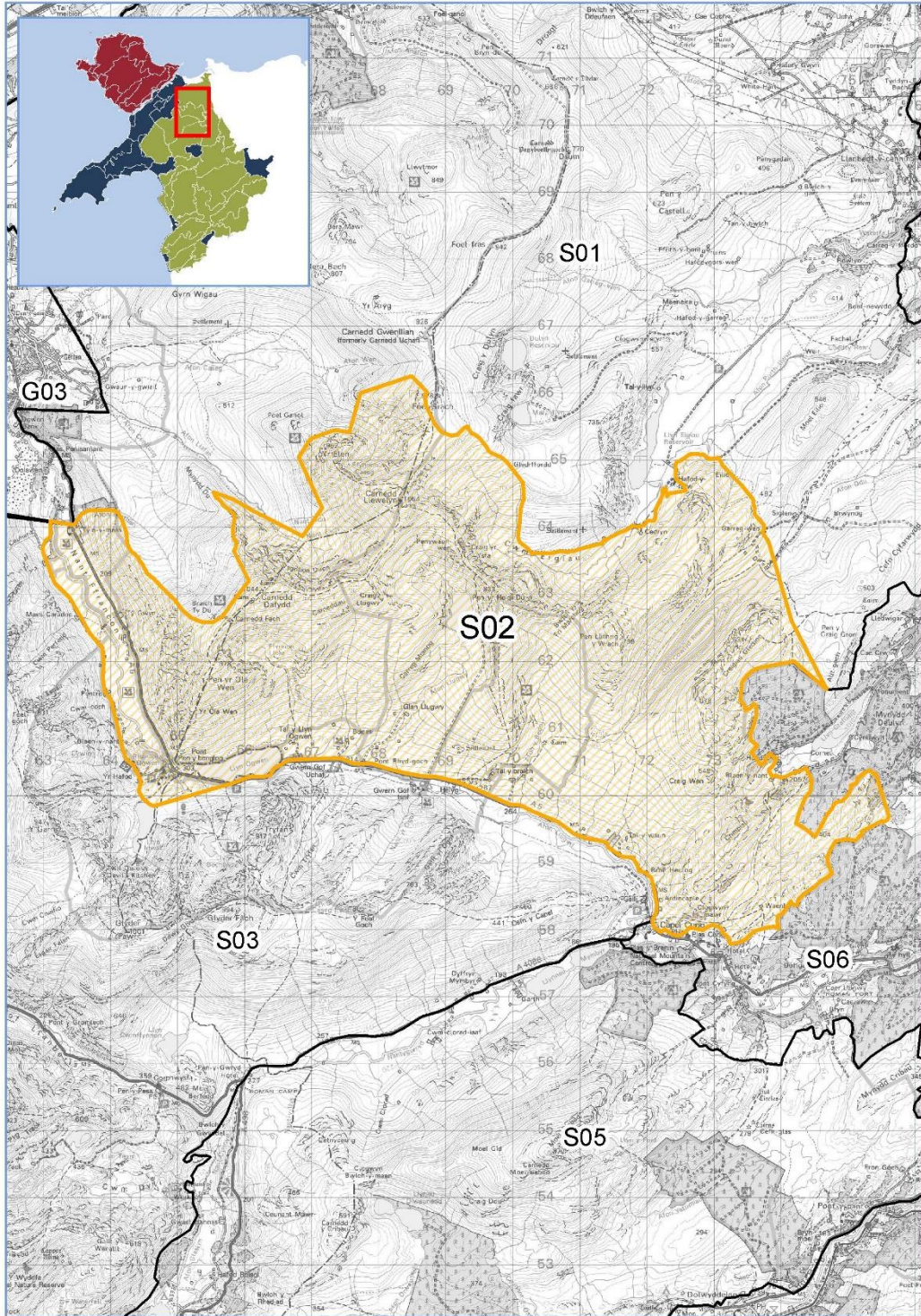
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Anglesey AONB and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of the North Western Fringes of Snowdonia Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the distinctive and valued landform of Bangor Mountain Special Landscape Area, its special qualities and its wider setting. Siting and design of any development should not significantly compromise the undeveloped character for which a large part of this area is valued.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly those seaward and towards the uplands of the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Lower Conwy Valley, North Arllechwedd, Creuddyn and Conwy and Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments, such as 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including the Wales Coast Path and Sustrans national cycle route from Reading to Holyhead (NCN route 5), Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82)], and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A55 tourist route and North Wales Coast Railway.	✓	✓	✓

Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development along the coastline and its immediate setting.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

S02 Y Carneddau



1:75,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises the Carneddau mountain range bounded to the west by the U-shaped valley of Nant Ffrancon and to the south by the Afon Lligwy and the A5.

Key Characteristics

- Vast scale, exposed landscape
- High hills and mountains bounded by roads and valleys
- Includes the second highest peak in Snowdonia (Carnedd Llywelyn)

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast scale landscape. VS8: Medium (23%)/ <u>Vast</u> (75%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	High hills and mountains including the high ridgeline of the Carneddau mountain range, bounded to the west by the U-shaped valley of Nant Ffrancon and by the A5 and Afon Llugwy valley to the south. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (77%)/ Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes (22%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (77%)/ Rolling/Undulating (7%)/ Hills/ Valleys (16%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Open craggy mountain summits , rough upland grazing, scarp slopes and large rectangular enclosures of ffridd interspersed with large lakes.	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
	<p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Upland Grazing</u> (75%)/ Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (16%)/ Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing (6%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (77%)/ Mixture (22%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Primarily unsettled with few vernacular properties clustered along the A5.</p> <p>Few overt man-made influences other than minor roads and mobile masts to the west and south.</p> <p>VS6: Clustered (22%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (77%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	The high and prominent ridgeline of the Carneddau mountain range and the high peak of Carnedd Llywelyn (the second highest in Snowdonia) form highly distinctive skylines within this LCA.	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Limited road traffic brings occasional movement to the landscape, which otherwise has a still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (75%)/ Frequent (16%) / Infrequent (8%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Panoramic views from the mountains overlooking the seascapes of Conwy and Anglesey to the north.</p> <p>To the south the open and exposed landscape allows expansive views over the Carneddau mountain range.</p> <p>VS9: Open (24%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (75%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clustered properties Snowdonia National Park (including Snowdon) 	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long distance routes including Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) Open Access Areas Local attractions and public rights of way The A5 tourist route The local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park (including Snowdon) Anglesey AONB Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Scenic Quality and Character</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation</p> <p>VS25: <u>Moderate</u> (94%)/ <u>Strong</u> (6%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (86%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (11%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (88%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (11%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (88%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (12%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	<p>Remoteness/Tranquillity</p> <p>Exposed, remote and wild mountain range with no road access into the higher mountains.</p> <p>The A5 to the south and west introduces a degree of visual intrusion and noise disturbance, slightly reducing the perceived tranquillity.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Exposed</u> (77%)/ <u>Settled</u>; <u>Attractive</u>; <u>Sheltered</u> (11%)/ <u>Other</u> (6%)/ <u>Settled</u>; <u>Attractive</u>; <u>Exposed</u>; <u>Wild</u>; <u>Spiritual</u> (5%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and a Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82).</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (88%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (11%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (77%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (22%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (9%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (23%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (65%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (20%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (80%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (20%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (80%)</p>						
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>The western fringes of this LCA lie within the Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (65%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (30%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (35%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (65%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (37%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (62%)</p>						

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁰ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the vast scale of this landscape may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development, this is far outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic craggy upland mountain landscape which imparts a high degree of sensitivity and has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by instantly recognisable skylines, created by dramatic and varied topography of the Carneddau mountain range which together with a relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. However, the perception of tranquillity is locally affected along the A5 road corridor to the south and western edges of the LCA.</p> <p>Extensive views are afforded to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey AONB, the Great Orme Heritage Coast and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic craggy upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by instantly recognisable skylines, created by dramatic and varied topography of the Carneddau mountain range, which together with a relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. However, the perception of tranquillity is locally affected along the A5 road corridor to the south and western edges of the LCA. The presence of existing mobile mast along this corridor further reduce sensitivity to this type of development in the south east.</p> <p>Extensive views are afforded to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey</p>

²⁰ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

	AONB, the Great Orme Heritage Coast and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	6 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic craggy upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the highly exposed nature of the dramatic and varied topography of the Carneddau mountain range (including the second highest peak in the National Park), which together with a relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. Although the perception of tranquillity is locally affected along the A5 road corridor to the south and western edges of the LCA, this area remains largely unsettled and is highly visible from surrounding mountains therefore greatly increasing sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented static caravan/chalet park developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments

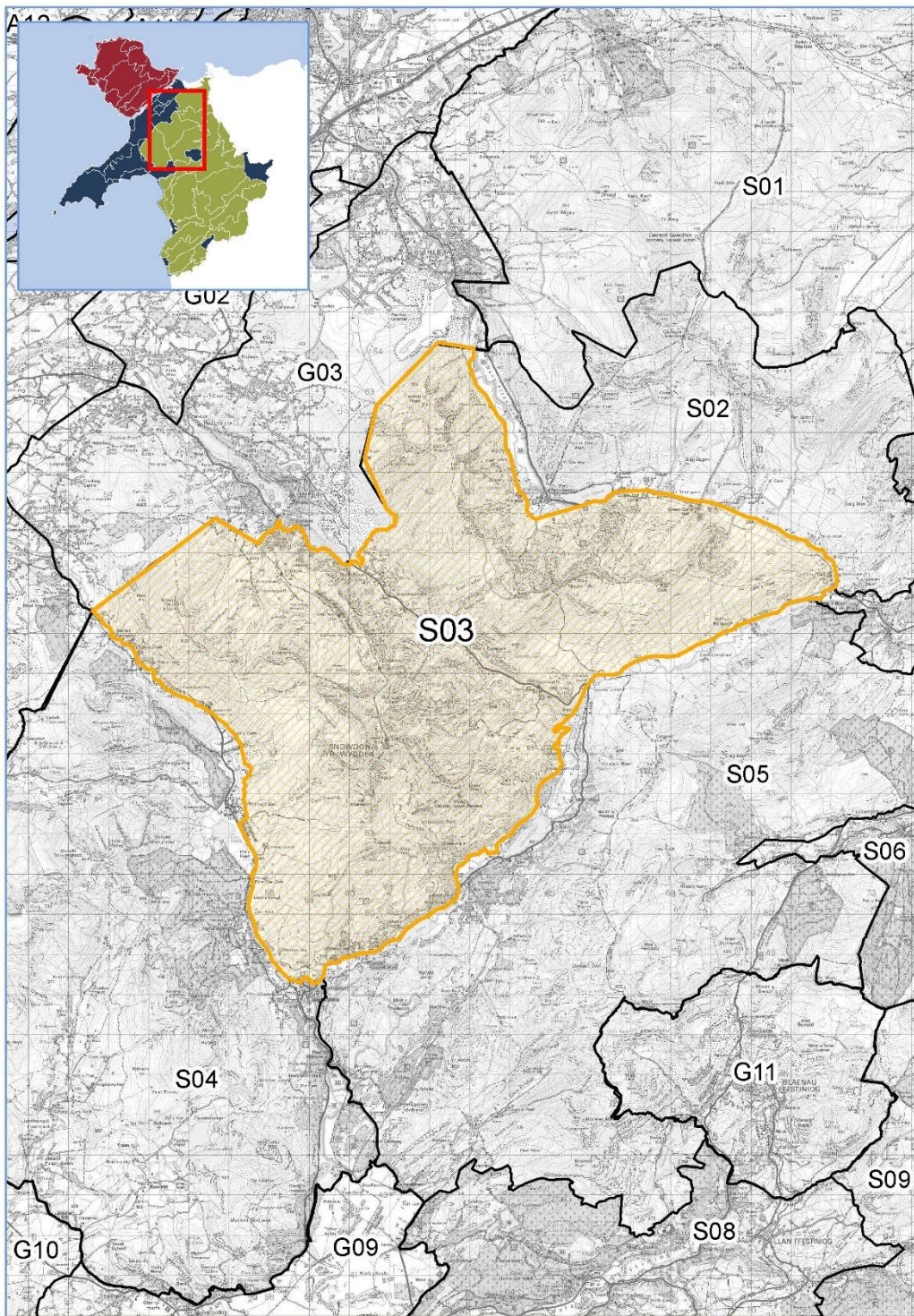
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓

Consider the effects of development on views to and from Anglesey AONB and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines, or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards Snowdon and other focal points within the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed developments to avoid incremental cumulative effects.	✓	✓	✓

S03 Yr Wyddfa a'r Glyderau



1:125,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises Snowdon together with a number of other rugged mountain peaks including the Glyderau mountain range. It is roughly encircled by a network of main tourist roads.

Key Characteristics

- Vast scale, exposed landscape
- High hills and mountains including the highly distinctive peak of Snowdon
- Visual and historic heart of the National Park

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast scale landscape. VS8: Medium ^(6%) / <u>Vast</u> ^(92%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Rugged mountain terrain, with rocky ridges and summits including Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales (rising to 1,086 metres). VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> ⁽⁹²⁾ VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> ^(92%) / Hills/ Valleys ^(7%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Unenclosed mountains provide rough grazing land which contrasts with more complex field systems on the lower valley slopes and floors. The intermediate area is defined by large regular enclosures of ffridd enclosed by stone walls.	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Barren/Rocky Upland</u> (49%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> (44%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (96%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Predominately unsettled with relatively little human influence.</p> <p>The road network that encircles and passes through the LCA locally increases human influence towards the centre and outer fringes of this LCA. Other man-made influences include Snowdon Mountain Railway, Hafod Eryri (the Visitor Centre at the Summit of Snowdon), and a small number of mobile masts, wind turbines and a static caravan park all of which locally influence the landscape.</p> <p>VS6: <u>No Settlements</u> (92%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Good</u> (18%) / <u>Fair</u> (82%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Snowdon and a series of iconic peaks form a distinctive, rugged skyline with prominent rocky ridges and summits.	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>The minor road network and Snowdon Mountain Railway bring occasional and infrequent movement around the perimeter and through the centre of the LCA but elsewhere much of this landscape is still.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (44%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (49%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Exposed panoramic views from Snowdon and other peaks extend to the coast to the north and across neighbouring mountain ranges in all other directions.</p> <p>The valley bottoms offers views enclosed by the surrounding peaks.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (6%) / <u>Exposed</u> (92%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scattered properties and small villages Snowdonia National Park (including Snowdon) Open Access Areas Long distance route, Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) Local attractions such as Snowdon Mountain Railway and the Welsh Highland Railway Local public rights of way The A5, A4085 and A498 tourist routes The local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park (including Snowdon) Anglesey AONB Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia SLA Dinorwig and Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscapes Hillfort Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Typically outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (96%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>Outstanding</u> (95%) / <u>High</u> (5%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (97%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>Outstanding</u> (95%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	<p>There is an overriding sense of tranquillity and wildness throughout most of this LCA.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Exposed; Wild</u> (49%) / <u>Exposed</u> (44%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and a Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82).</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>Outstanding</u> (95%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>Outstanding</u> (50%)/ <u>High</u> (47%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (16%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (23%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (60%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (99%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p>		↑			↑	↑
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>Large parts of this LCA lie within Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape and Ogwen Valley Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>A Registered Park and Garden is located to the south within this LCA.</p> <p>This area also includes a hillfort.</p> <p>Typically High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (72%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (24%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (28%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (72%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (36%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (64%)</p>		↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²¹ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the vast scale of this landscape may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development, this is far outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic craggy upland mountain landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the instantly recognisable skylines, created by dramatic and varied topography of Snowdon and the Glyderau mountain range. This is further enhanced by a relative lack of human influence which imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. However, the perception of tranquillity is locally affected along the road corridors around the fringes and also running through the centre of the LCA.</p> <p>Extensive views are afforded to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey AONB, the Great Orme Heritage Coast and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	2 no. domestic developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic craggy upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by instantly recognisable skylines, created by dramatic and varied topography of Snowdon and the Glyderau mountain range. This is further enhanced by a relative lack of human influence which imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. However, the perception of tranquillity is locally eroded along the road corridors around the fringes and also running through the centre of the LCA.</p>

²¹ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Very High	Extensive views are afforded to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey AONB, the Great Orme Heritage Coast and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity.
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 2 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic craggy upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the highly exposed nature of the dramatic and varied topography of Snowdon (the highest mountain in Wales) and the Glyderau mountain range, which together with a relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. Although the perception of tranquillity is locally eroded along road corridors around the fringes and also running through the centre of the LCA these corridors remain largely unsettled and are highly visible from the surrounding mountains therefore greatly increasing sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments

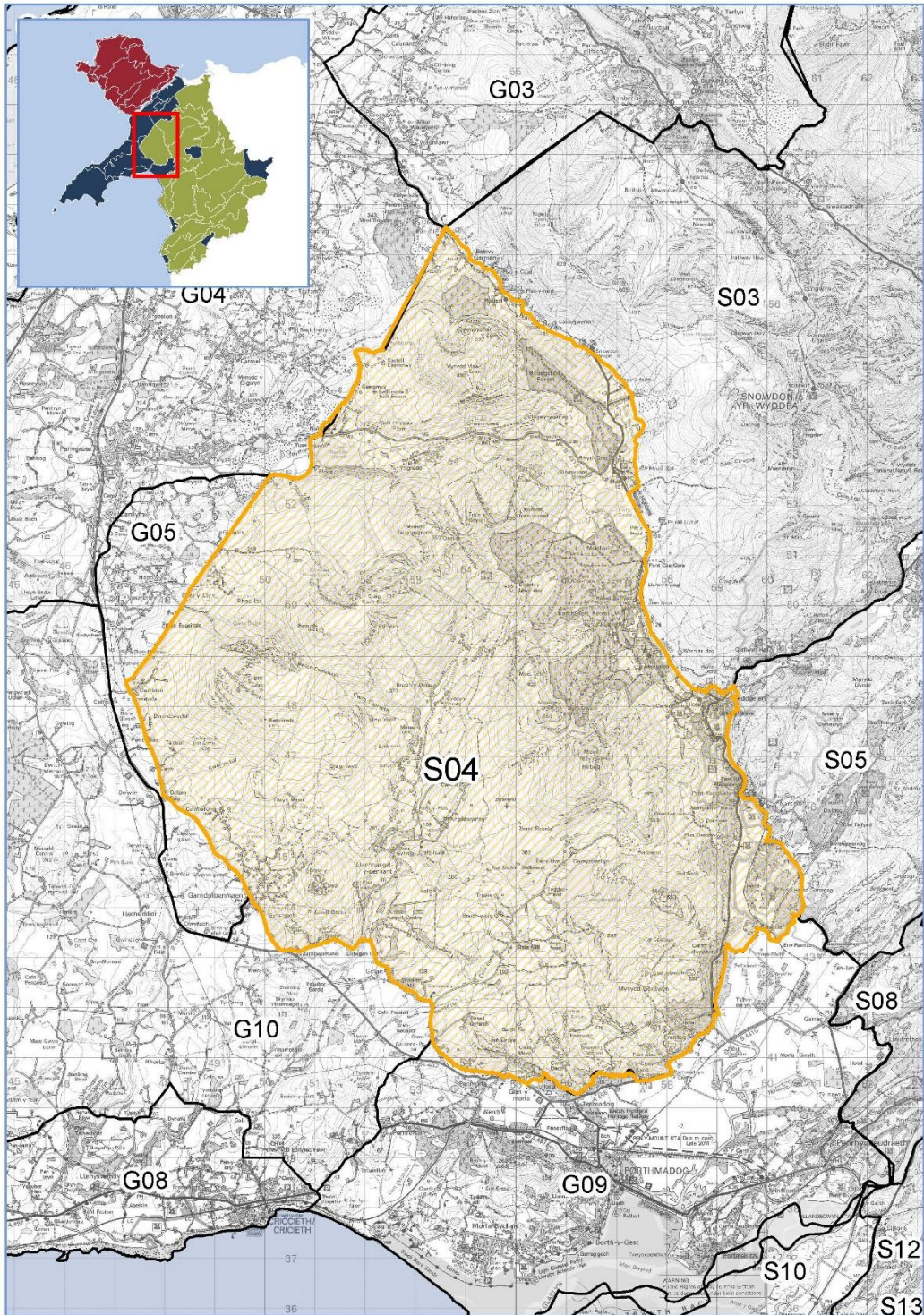
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓

Development should take account and conserve the special qualities of the North Western Fringes of Snowdonia Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views.	✓	✓	✓
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Ogwen Valley; and Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscapes	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Consider views from recreational receptors, particularly the more sensitive receptors such as visitors to Snowdon using Snowdon Mountain Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A4086 tourist route and Welsh Highland Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

S04 Moel Hebog



1:100,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises a series of distinctive peaks and glacial lakes forming the western boundary of the National Park and is bounded to the east by the A4085.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale, exposed landscape
- Series of valleys between craggy mountain peaks
- Cultural heritage interest

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: Medium (31%)/ <u>Large</u> (69%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Typified by high hills and valleys ; a series of distinctive peaks and glaciated valleys with glacial lakes found at the valley heads. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (64%)/ Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes (21%) / Lowland Valleys (15%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (69%)/ Hills/ Valleys (15%) / Rolling/Undulating (16%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Open, craggy mountain summits, rough upland grazing and scarp slopes and large rectangular enclosures of ffridd interspersed with large lakes . Semi-improved pastures and rough grassland fields	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>on lower slopes and valleys defined by a small-scale historic field pattern.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Upland Moorland</u> (56%) / <u>Open Lowland Valleys</u> (11%) / <u>Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic</u> (15%) / <u>Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic</u> (15%) / <u>Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes</u> (5%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (64%) / <u>Field Pattern/ Mosaic</u> (23%) / <u>Woodland</u> (5%) / <u>Mixture</u> (6%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Centrally, the LCA is unsettled with little human influence.</p> <p>Human influence increases slightly around the periphery of the LCA with a few clustered dwellings along minor roads and the A4085 to the east. There is also one caravan park to the south.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (9%) / <u>Clustered</u> (20%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (70%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Good</u> (9%) / <u>Fair</u> (90%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	A series of prominent peaks and views to the summit of Snowdon to the north and north east form distinctive skylines for this LCA.	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Movement is infrequent, especially in the central area. Occasional movement comes from the more peripheral road network.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (14%) / <u>Frequent</u> (13%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (72%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically open and exposed, especially from the higher vantage points.</p> <p>Views from the valley bottom are typically enclosed, and confined by the surrounding landform.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (15%) / <u>Open</u> (16%) / <u>Exposed</u> (64%) / <u>Confined</u> (5%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
		<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clustered properties and scattered farms ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru between Cardiff and Holyhead (NCN route 8) and a further link to NCN route 8 ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions such as the Welsh Highland Railway ▪ Local public rights of way ▪ The A4085 and A498 tourist routes ▪ The local road network 					
	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park (including Snowdon) ▪ Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary Landscapes, North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia and Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay SLAs ▪ Aberglaslyn and Nantlle Valley Registered Historic Landscapes ▪ Hillforts ▪ Registered Park and Garden ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (63%)/ Moderate (20%)/ Weak (17%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (67%)/ Moderate (18%)/ Outstanding (10%)/ Low (5%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (73%)/ Moderate (27%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (73%)/ Moderate (19%)/ Outstanding (9%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity	Typically a highly tranquil landscape . Parts of the LCA are exposed and wild in places.	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>The A4085 bounds the eastern edge of the LCA introducing some minor disturbance and noise intrusion.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Exposed</u>; Wild_(56%)/ Sheltered_(15%)/ Other_(12%) / Exposed_(8%)/ Other; Attractive; Settled; Spiritual_(5%)</p>					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru between Cardiff and Holyhead (NCN route 8) and a further link to NCN route 8.</p> <p>Much of the area is classified as ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically High to Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (69%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (22%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (9%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (64%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (30%)/ <u>Low</u> (5%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (43%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (20%)/ <u>Low</u> (11%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (27%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (98%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (99%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (99%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Northern parts of this LCA lie within the Nantlle Valley Registered Historic Landscape and southern parts lie within Aberglaslyn Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>This area also includes hillforts.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (43%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (35%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (22%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (57%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (9%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (34%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (62%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (6%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (32%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²² (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the large scale may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development this is far outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by prominent peaks and views to and from the summit of Snowdon and other important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Llŷn AONB, Anglesey AONB and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. A relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity. The perception of tranquillity is locally eroded along the road corridor to the east.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity to mobile mast development is further enhanced by prominent open upland areas, craggy peaks and views to and from the summit of Snowdon and other important landscape and cultural heritage features including the Llŷn AONB, Anglesey AONB and a number of Registered Historic Landscapes. A relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity. Sensitivity to mobile mast development is locally reduced where the perception of tranquillity is locally eroded along the road corridor to the east, where there are large blocks of coniferous plantation and also in Beddgelert where there are already a few mobile masts.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

²² NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. mobile mast development - 1 no. camouflaged mast development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park development and extensions is further enhanced by the highly exposed and prominent open upland areas and craggy peaks, which together with a relative lack of human influence impart a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA.</p> <p>Although the perception of tranquillity is locally eroded along the road corridors around the edges of the LCA these corridors remain relatively unsettled and are highly visible from surrounding mountains therefore greatly increasing sensitivity.</p> <p>Sensitivity is locally reduced where static caravan/chalet parks are located to the far north and south of this LCA and where large blocks of coniferous plantation are found to the north west of Beddgelert.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. large development - 2 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty for static caravan/chalet park developments. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

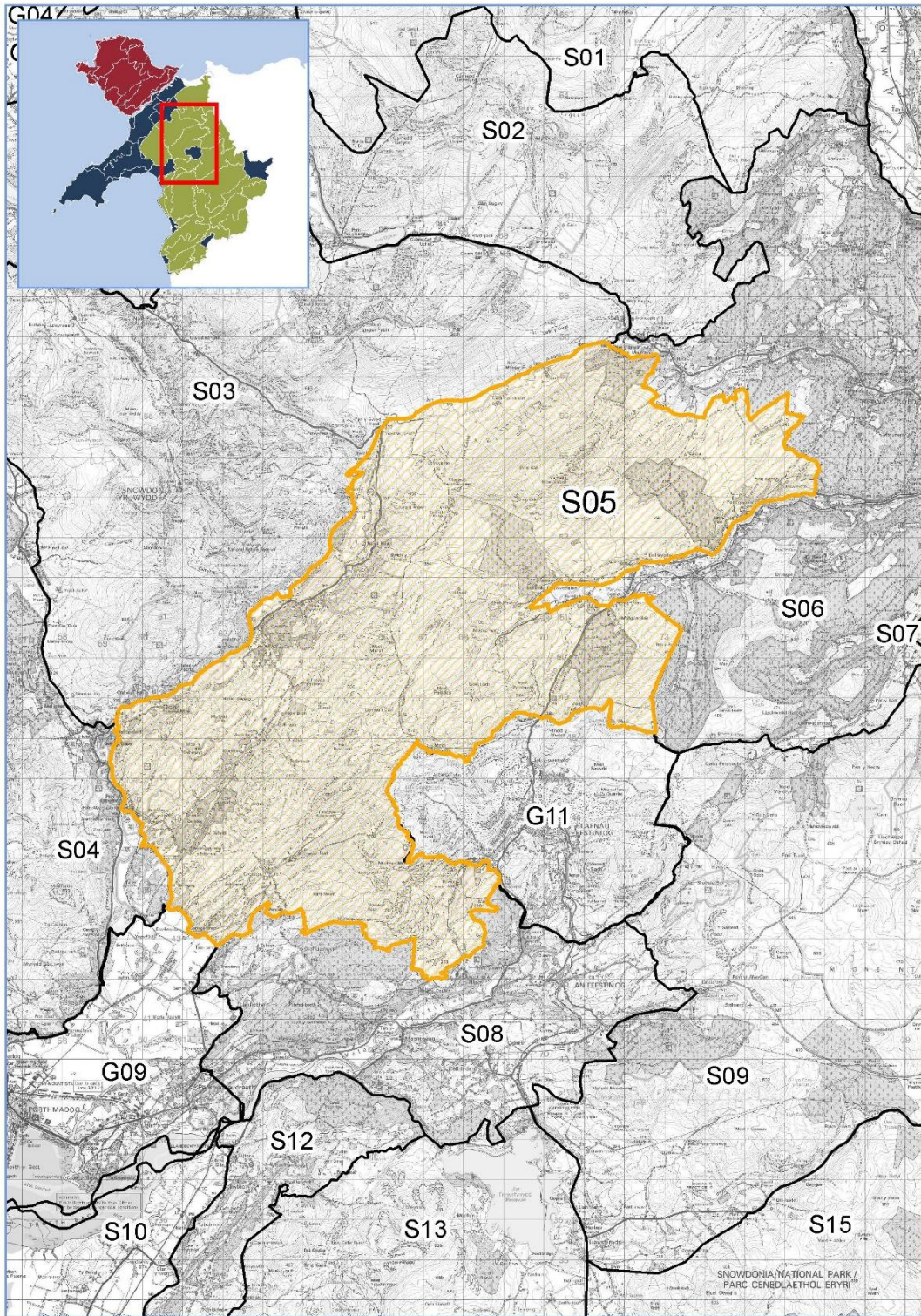
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓

Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development in relation to the strong intervisibility between the Anglesey and Llŷn AONBs and Snowdonia National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Llŷn AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of the Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary Landscapes, North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia and Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay Special Landscape Areas.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Aberglaslyn and Nantlle Valley Registered Historic Landscape.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features including Registered Park and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments, such as 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru between Cardiff and Holyhead (NCN route 8), a further Link to NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A487 tourist route and the Welsh Highland Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.			

S05 Y Moelwynion



1:125,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA wraps is located to the north of Blaenau Ffestiniog and comprises steep valley slopes covered with coniferous plantations alongside a valley floor dominated by large waterbodies.

Key Characteristics

- Vast scale, exposed landscape
- High hills and valleys
- Cultural heritage interest

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast scale landscape. VS8: Medium ^(7%) / <u>Vast</u> ^(90%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Landform comprises high hills and mountains with associated valleys . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> ^(90%) / <u>Lowland Valleys</u> ^(8%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> ^(81%) / <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> ^(14%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Open, craggy mountain tops surrounded by large regular enclosures of ffridd and upland moorland . Valley slopes and bottoms defined by small-scale irregular field pattern. Medium-scale conifer plantations on prominent slopes. VS Classification Level 3: <u>Barren/Rocky Upland</u> ^(9%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> ^(80%) / <u>Mosaic Lowland Valleys</u> ^(5%) VS5: <u>Open Land</u> ^(92%) / <u>Mixture</u> ^(6%)	-			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Man-made Influences	<p>Predominantly unsettled and undeveloped character throughout much of the LCA.</p> <p>Localised human influence comes from industrial relics (associated with mining/quarrying) and the Tanygrisiau pump storage hydro-electric power station and associated 400 kV overhead line. Main roads include the A498 and A470 which run along the north east and south east edges of the LCA. Scattered rural farms, mobile masts, hydro energy schemes and views east towards Blaenau Ffestiniog also locally increase the perception of human influence.</p> <p>VS6: Scattered Rural/Farm (5%)/ <u>No Settlements</u> (90%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (99%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Successive peaks and ridgelines with distinctive skylines and settings.	↑			↑	
Visual	Movement	A relative lack of movement gives this landscape a still character .	↑			
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>Views are typically open within this LCA with expansive views particularly from the higher vantage points of the mountain range.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (8%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (90%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scattered properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Long distance Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) ▪ Local attractions include as the Ffestiniog Railway and the Welsh Highland Railway ▪ Local public rights of way 	↑			↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The A470 and A498 tourist routes The local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary Landscapes SLA Aberglaslyn and Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Typically Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (93%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>Outstanding</u> (92%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (97%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>Outstanding</u> (92%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	<p>Away from small settlements and the localised disturbance of roads this LCA has a highly remote and tranquil quality.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Exposed</u> (80%)/ <u>Wild</u> (9%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (13%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (83%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (95%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (5%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (17%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (13%)/ <u>Low</u> (8%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (61%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (30%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (69%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p>		↑			↑	↑
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>Southern parts of this LCA lie within Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic landscape and the LCA borders on the Aberglaslyn Registered Historic landscape to the far east.</p> <p>This LCA also includes a number of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (20%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (70%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (5%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (75%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (5%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (20%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (77%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (5%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (18%)</p>		↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²³ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the large scale may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development this is far outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly distinctive and scenic upland mountain landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by distinctive skylines formed by a series of successive peaks and ridgelines and views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including a number of Registered Historic Landscapes and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. A relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity and at times wilderness throughout much of this LCA. This combined with a high number of sensitive visual receptors, further enhances sensitivity. Although, the perception of tranquillity is locally eroded along the road corridors to the outer edges of this LCA.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics, outstanding scenic quality and sense of remoteness of this LCA impart a high degree of sensitivity. This is reflected by the entire LCA being designated within the National Park and much of the area being recognised as an Area of Natural Beauty in the Eryri Local Development Plan. The distinctive skylines formed by a series of successive peaks and ridgelines further increase the sensitivity to mobile masts.</p> <p>The LCA does contain a number of mobile masts, most of which are clustered within the coniferous plantations alongside the road network towards the north east; thus locally reducing sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

²³ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	13 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics, outstanding scenic quality and sense of remoteness of this LCA impart a high degree of sensitivity. This is reflected by the entire LCA being designated within the National Park and much of the area being recognised as an Area of Natural Beauty in the Eryri Local Development Plan.</p> <p>The vast and exposed nature of this landscape further increases sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park development; although there are areas of relatively large coniferous plantation alongside the road network which locally lessen sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty for static caravan/chalet park developments. However, outside of these areas there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

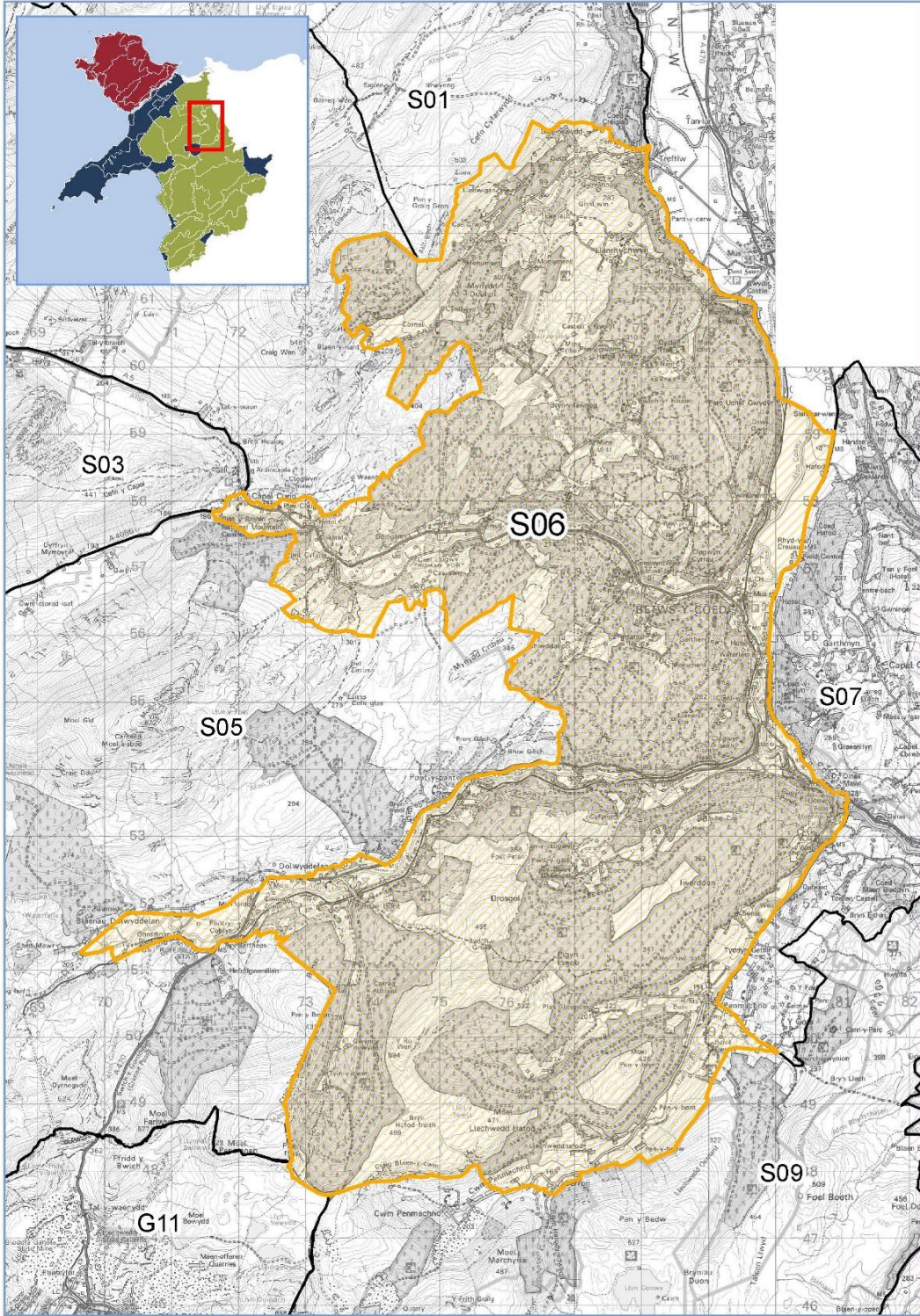
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of the Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary Landscapes Special Landscape Areas.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on	✓	✓	✓

the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.			
Maintain the integrity of Aberglaslyn and Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic Landscape.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments, such as 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including Sustrans Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A498 and A470 tourist routes, Ffestiniog Railway and the Welsh Highland Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S06 Coedwig Gwydyr



1:75,000



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Location and Extent

This landscape is bounded by the Vale of Conwy to the east and the higher land of the National Park to the west. The LCA includes the popular visitor destination of Betws-y-Coed.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale, confined landscape
- High hills and valleys
- Extensive conifer plantations

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (14%) / <u>Large</u> (74%) / <u>Vast</u> (7%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Strongly undulating landform, rounded hill summits dissected by a series of valleys , with higher hills to the south. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (74%) / <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (17%) / <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (7%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (81%) / <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> (14%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Extensive conifer plantations on hill slopes and summits contrasting with some open rough grazed summits and lower lying pockets of pastoral farmland, marshy grassland and meadows along the valley floors.	↓			↓	↓

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Wooded Hillside& Scarp Slopes</u> (74%) / <u>Mosaic Lowland Valleys</u> (9%) / <u>Open Lowland Valleys</u> (6%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> (6%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (7%) / <u>Field Pattern</u> / <u>Mosaic</u> (7%) / <u>Woodland</u> (76%) / <u>Mixture</u> (10%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Extensive conifer plantations cover much of this LCA.</p> <p>Betws-y-Coed is a nucleated town popular with tourists which lies to the east of the LCA. Associated tourist related development such as static caravan/chalet parks bring a man-made influence to this part of the LCA. This influence is extended into the west along the A5 main road corridor where a number of mobile masts are located together with properties and hotels.</p> <p>The industrial past of this LCA is evident in the presence of relics such as mines, waste heaps and shafts.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Village</u> (9%) / <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (5%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (81%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	↓			↓	↓
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>The complex topography and wooded slopes create varied and distinctive skylines.</p> <p>To the south higher land and a series of peaks create more dramatic skylines.</p>	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Away from the road network and tourist related development around Betws-y-Coed a lack of movement gives this landscape a still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Constant</u> (5%) / <u>Occasional</u> (81%) / <u>Frequent</u> (13%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of</p> <p>Views are typically confined by the topography and vegetation within this LCA; however, some scenic panoramic views are available from popular viewpoints on the higher ground.</p>	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
each Landscape Character Area)	VS9: Enclosed (18%)/ <u>Confined</u> (74%)/ Exposed (7%) Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous properties on the valley floor Snowdonia National Park Betws-y-Coed popular tourist destination Open Access Areas Local attractions and public rights of way The Conwy Valley Railway The A5 and A470 tourist routes The local road network 						
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑		
Condition	Not applicable						
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	This landscape conveys a strong character and sense of place with high scenic qualities. VS25: <u>Strong</u> (81%)/ Moderate (19%) VS46: High (13%)/ Moderate (6%)/ <u>Low</u> (74%)/ Outstanding (6%) VS47: <u>High</u> (94%)/ Moderate (6%) VS48: <u>High</u> (89%)/ Moderate (5%)/ Low (6%)	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity	Away from settlements and the localised disturbance of roads this LCA has a highly remote and tranquil quality . VS24: <u>Sheltered</u> (82%)/ Settled (10%)/ Exposed (6%)	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas.</p> <p>Small areas defined as ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (56%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (38%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (6%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (9%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (16%)/ <u>Low</u> (74%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (9%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (21%)/ <u>Low</u> (37%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (33%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (18%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (78%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (97%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (41%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (56%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (26%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (14%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (60%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (61%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (9%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (30%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁴ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

²⁴ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>Extensive conifer plantations exert a strong visual influence over the landscape and control views throughout the LCA. This serves to lessen sensitivity to wind energy development.</p> <p>Although the large scale of this landscape may also be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development this is counterbalanced by the strong character of the landscape and varied and distinctive skylines created by the wooded slopes. Much of the landscape, particularly the more elevated areas, is tranquil and remote in character.</p> <p>Betws-y-Coed is an important tourist destination and attracts a high number of sensitive visual receptors, increasing sensitivity in this part of the LCA. Sensitivity is further enhanced in areas of higher ground by views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the mountain ranges of the Glyderau, the Carneddau, the Snowdon Massif itself and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. The designation of this LCA within the National Park and some parts within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty reinforces the sensitivity of the landscape to development.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. domestic development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Limited capacity for domestic to micro scale wind energy developments that relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>Extensive conifer plantations strongly influence the landscape and confine views throughout the LCA. This serves to lessen sensitivity to mobile mast development.</p> <p>The presence of number of existing mobile masts located along the road network, locally reduces sensitivity to this type of development, although some of these are camouflaged to better blend into the landscape in particularly sensitive locations.</p> <p>This lowered sensitivity is outweighed by the strong character of the landscape and varied and distinctive skylines created by the wooded slopes. Much of the landscape is considered tranquil and remote, particularly the more elevated areas.</p> <p>Betws-y-Coed is an important tourist destination and attracts a high number of sensitive visual receptors, increasing sensitivity in this part of the LCA. Sensitivity is further enhanced in areas of higher ground by views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features including the mountain ranges of the Glyderau, the Carneddau, the Snowdon Massif itself and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. The designation of this LCA within the National Park and some parts within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty reinforces the sensitivity of the landscape to development.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 8 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty, (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>Extensive conifer plantations strongly influence the character of much of the landscape and together with undulating landform this confines views throughout much of the LCA. This offers potential screening opportunities which is indicative of lower visual sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park developments. The presence of existing static caravan/chalet parks along main roads to the east near Betws-y-Coed, further reduces sensitivity to this type of development.</p> <p>This lowered sensitivity is outweighed by the strong character of the landscape, the presence of valued semi-natural broadleaved woodlands along valley/gorge slopes and the fact that much of the landscape is considered tranquil and remote, particularly in the more elevated areas.</p> <p>Betws-y-Coed is an important tourist destination and attracts a high number of sensitive visual receptors, increasing sensitivity in this part of the LCA. The designation of this LCA within the National Park and some parts within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty reinforces the sensitivity of the landscape to development.</p>

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. medium development - 3 no. small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty for static caravan/chalet park developments. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

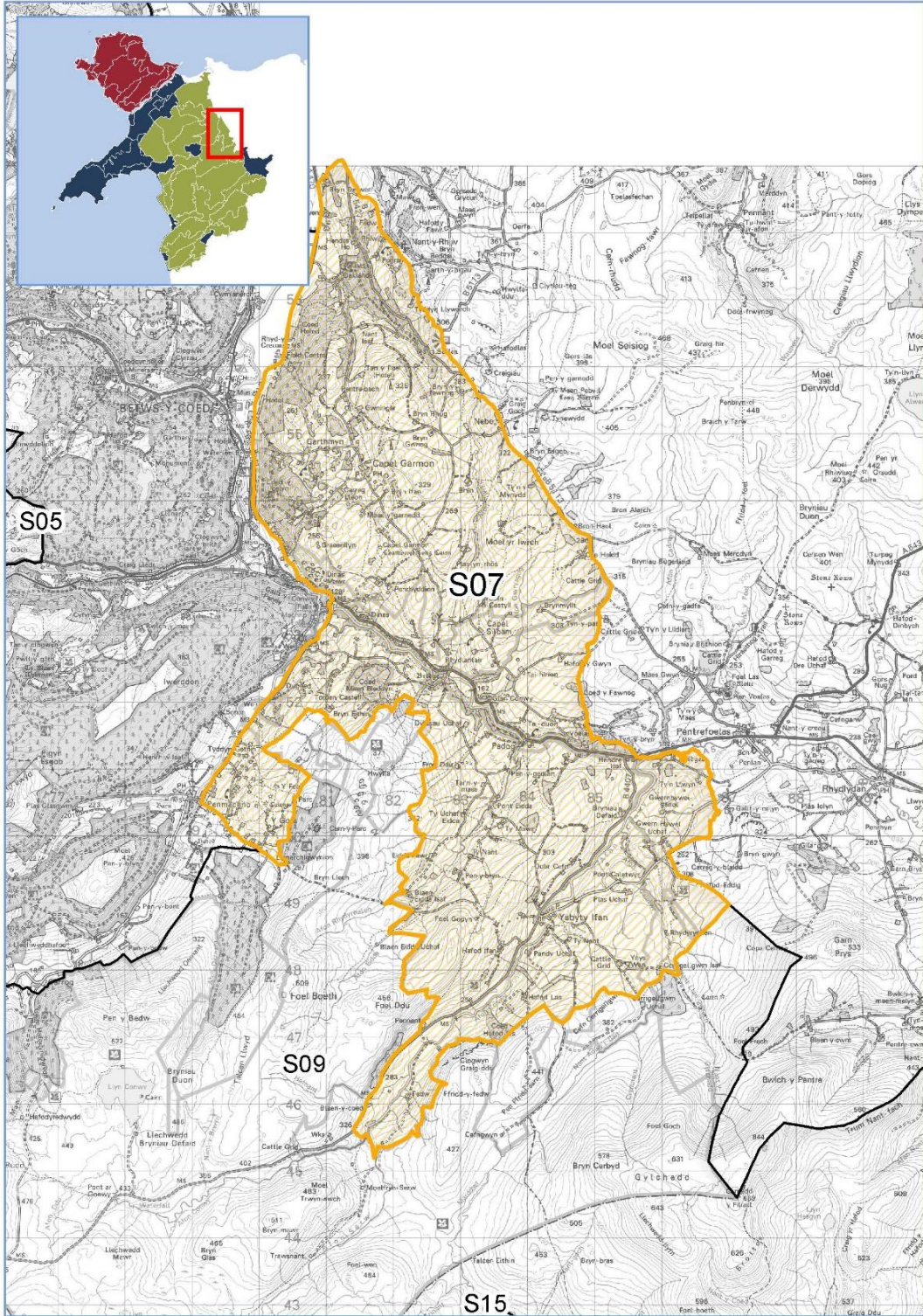
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓

Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic Landscape.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments, siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A5 and A470 tourist routes and the Conwy Valley Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect...	✓	✓	✓
As well as taking into account views from elevated isolated properties, siting should take into consideration important views from the more densely populated settlement of Betws-y-Coed. The town is a popular visitor destination with its own visitor attractions and has a strong connection with the landscape in which it is situated.	✓	✓	✓

S07 Dyffryn Conwy



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Location and Extent

This landscape Character Area is considered to be the eastern gateway into the National Park and is centred on the Afon Conwy as it flows through the eastern edge of the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale, open rural landscape
- Undulating landform defined by the Afon Conwy and its tributaries

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: <u>Large</u> (79%)/ <u>Vast</u> (15%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Undulating vale landscape with occasional rounded hill summits. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (79%)/ <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (15%)/ <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (6%) VS4: <u>Plateaux</u> (15%) / <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> (50%)/ <u>Hills/Valleys</u> (34%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	A varied mosaic of historical small-medium size, irregular fields, predominantly pastoral interspersed with wooded valleys and riverbanks with large mixed and coniferous plantation dominant to the north of the LCA. Pockets of open rough grazing are present on many hill summits.	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing</u> (31%)/ <u>Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic</u> (48%)/ <u>Upland Moorland</u> (15%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (15%)/ <u>Field Pattern/ Mosaic</u> (80%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Modern man-made influences are typically concentrated along the A5 trunk road/tourist route and B4406, with only scattered rural properties elsewhere.</p> <p>Development includes several mobile masts located centrally and to the west, and a small number of static caravan/chalet parks to the north east.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Clustered</u> (31%)/ <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (66%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>Skylines within this LCA are relatively simple and sweeping, punctuated in places by scattered mature trees and small woodland blocks and strips. The higher mountains of Snowdonia create distinctive skylines which backdrop views to the west.</p>	-			-	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Away from the main road corridors movement is infrequent.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Infrequent</u> (94%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically open within this LCA with elevated viewpoints afforded from higher ground affording panoramic scenic views of the nearby mountain ranges to the west.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (6%)/ <u>Open</u> (79%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (15%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A5 and A470 tourist routes 	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Denbigh Moors Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Scenic Quality and Character</p> <p>Typically a Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Weak</u> (31%) / <u>Moderate</u> (53%) / <u>Strong</u> (15%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (51%) / <u>Moderate</u> (34%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (15%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (52%) / <u>Moderate</u> (48%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (6%) / <u>Moderate</u> (79%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (15%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	<p>Remoteness/Tranquillity</p> <p>The road network and small villages provides a localised level of disturbance in the LCA. Away from this the landscape is tranquil and sometimes remote.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Exposed</u>; <u>Remote</u> (15%) / <u>Other</u> (48%) / <u>Settled</u> (35%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas.</p> <p>Small areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding. VS50: High (6%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (79%)/ Outstanding (15%) VS49: High (17%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (83%) LH45: High (15%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (81%) LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%) GL31: <u>High</u> (56%)/ Outstanding (43%) GL33: <u>High</u> (49%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (50%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (79%)/ Moderate (5%)/ Unassessed (16%) HL35: High (21%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (78%) HL40: <u>High</u> (99%)/ Outstanding (1%)</p>	-			-	-

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁵ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

²⁵ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>The presence of some large conifer plantations to the north locally reduces sensitivity to this type of development.</p> <p>Although the large scale of this undulating landscape may also be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development this is counterbalanced by the presence of complex field patterns and semi-natural wooded river banks found in parts of this area. Infrequent movement and a lack of modern development enhances the sense of tranquillity and, together with the open nature of the landscape and a high degree of intervisibility with other sensitive LCAs further increases the overall sensitivity to wind energy development. Additionally, the LCA’s designation as a National Park reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>The presence of some large conifer plantations to the north and a number of existing mobile masts located along the A5 other roads bordering this LCA, locally reduces sensitivity to this type of development.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence complex field patterns and semi-natural wooded river banks found in other parts of this area. There is also strong sense of tranquillity throughout much of the LCA which, together with the open nature of the landscape and a high degree of intervisibility with other sensitive LCAs enhances the overall sensitivity. Additionally, the LCA’s designation as a National Park reinforces the high sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	5 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, that there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>The presence of some large conifer plantations to the north locally reduces sensitivity to this type of development.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence complex field patterns and semi-natural wooded river banks found in other parts of this area. There is also strong sense of tranquillity throughout much of the LCA which, together with the open nature of the landscape and a high degree of intervisibility with other sensitive LCAs enhances the overall sensitivity. Additionally, the LCA’s designation as a National Park reinforces the high sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

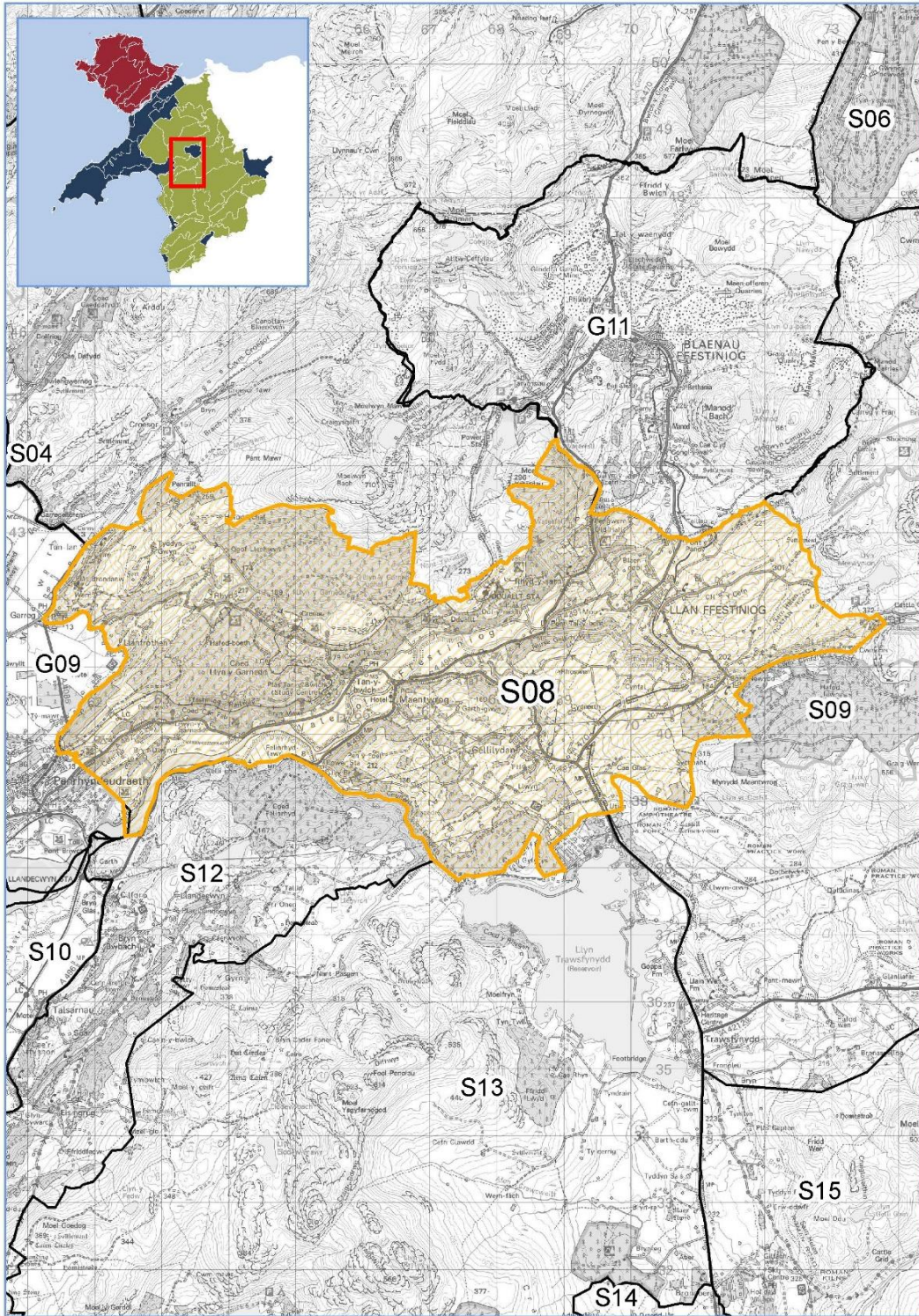
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	2 no. very small developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty for static caravan/chalet park developments. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Denbigh Moors Registered Historic Landscape.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments, siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Avoid cumulative effects on the A5 and A470 tourist routes.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
As well as taking into account views from elevated isolated properties, siting should take into consideration important views from the more densely populated settlement of Betws-y-Coed. The town is a popular visitor destination with its own visitor attractions and has a strong connection with the landscape in which it is situated.	✓	✓	✓

S08 Dyffryn Y Ddwryd



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Location and Extent

This LCA extends from the north of Llan Ffestiniog down to Penrhyndeudraeth, forming a relatively broad, open flat valley...

Key Characteristics

- Medium to large scale, landscape
- Complex topography
- Nationally important oak-dominated ancient woodlands

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium to large scale landscape. VS8: Medium (36%)/ <u>Large</u> (60%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Complex topography , broad valley floor surrounded by varied, gently rolling vale landscape, immediately backed by a steep gorge. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (48%)/ Lowland Valleys (16%)/ Rolling Lowland (32%) VS4: High Hills/Mountains (30%)/ <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> (52%) / Hills/ Valleys (8%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	A variety of landcover is present, steep valley sides are covered by woodland; predominantly coniferous with some significant areas of oak-dominated	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>ancient woodland. Mosaics of marshes and small scale irregular pastures follow the valley floors. Pockets of open rough grazed land are found on some hill summits.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing (14%) / Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (6%) / Mosaic Rolling Lowland (29%) / Open Lowland Valleys (8%) / Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes (28%) / Wooded Lowland Valleys (6%)</p> <p>VS5: Mixture (43%) / Woodland (42%) / Open Land (10%) / Field Pattern / Mosaic (5%) /</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>The villages of Maentwrog, Gellilydan and Ffestiniog are connected by the A470, A487 and A496 and exert a moderate man-made influence over the landscape.</p> <p>Parts of the LCA are also influenced locally by modern vertical structures such as existing 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines, mobile masts and static caravan/chalet parks.</p> <p>Away from road and settlements some pockets of the landscape remain undisturbed.</p> <p>VS6: Clustered (16%) / Mixture (14%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (44%) / Scattered Rural/Farm (16%) / Village (17%)</p> <p>VS27: Fair (100%)</p>	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>The complex topography backed by a steep gorge and wooded valley sides provide prominent skylines throughout the LCA.</p> <p>Skylines are punctuated by overhead lines and occasional masts.</p>	-			-	

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Visual	Movement	<p>Frequent road traffic along the A470, A487 and A496 brings movement, particularly to the centre of the LCA. Movement is less frequent elsewhere.</p> <p>VS18: Constant ^(14%)/ <u>Frequent</u> ^(39%)/ Infrequent ^(17%)/ <u>Occasional</u> ^(30%)</p>	-				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>Views are typically open towards the east particularly from higher vantage points. Views in the west are more confined by dense woodland; however, views to the coast are afforded from some vantage points on higher ground.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Confined</u> ^(42%)/ <u>Open</u> ^(40%)/ Enclosed ^(14%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous properties particularly in the villages ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including Wales Coast Path and Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions such as the Ffestiniog Railway ▪ Local public rights of way ▪ The A487 and A470 tourist routes ▪ The local road network 	-			-	-
	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary Landscapes SLA ▪ Aberglaslyn Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn ELDP Undeveloped Coast ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not applicable					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Typically a Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation. Small parts of the area are defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (46%)/ Moderate (32%)/ Weak (22%)</p> <p>VS46: Low (28%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (65%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (60%)/ Moderate (25%)/ Low (15%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (50%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (46%)</p>					
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity	<p>Away from the road network and settlements much of this landscape is relatively tranquil.</p> <p>VS24: Other; Tranquil; Sheltered; Remote; Spiritual (14%)/ <u>Sheltered</u> (42%)/ <u>Other</u> (38%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and a Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82).</p> <p>Small parts of the landscape are defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path follows a section of the banks of the Afon Dwyryd to the west.</p> <p>Typical Moderate LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: High (22%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (74%)</p> <p>VS49: High (12%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (60%)/ Low (28%)</p> <p>LH45: High (17%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (56%)/ Outstanding (23%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: High (31%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (61%)/ Low (7%)</p> <p>GL33: High (31%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (61%)/ Low (7%)</p>						
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>The southern part of this LCA lies within the Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>The LCA also contains a Registered Park and Garden.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (60%)/ Moderate (27%)/ Unassessed (12%)</p> <p>HL35: High (36%)/ Moderate (13%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (50%)</p> <p>HL40: High (56%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (42%)</p>						

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁶ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This medium to large scale complex landscape is particularly influenced by the villages of Maentwrog, Gellilydan and Ffestiniog which, together with the established road network, bring movement and activity to central and southern parts of the LCA. Views to and from the west are largely confined by dense woodland. Skylines to the south and east are punctuated by existing vertical structures such as overhead lines, further reducing sensitivity to wind energy development. This is counterbalanced by the fact that some parts of the LCA have a strong intervisibility with higher areas of the surrounding National Park and coastline.</p> <p>Sensitivity is enhanced further by the complex mosaic of field patterns, woodland (including ancient woodlands) and parkland landscapes, some of which are considered highly scenic. Away from the settlements and roads the landscape is relatively tranquil. Its designation as part of the National Park reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This medium to large scale complex landscape is particularly influenced by the villages of Maentwrog, Gellilydan and Ffestiniog which, together with the road network, bring movement and activity to central and southern parts of the LCA. Views to and from the west are largely confined by dense woodland. Skylines to the south and east are punctuated by existing vertical structures such as overhead lines, further reducing sensitivity to mobile mast development. This is counterbalanced by the fact that some parts of the LCA have a strong intervisibility with higher areas of the surrounding National Park and coastline.</p> <p>Sensitivity is enhanced further by the complex mosaic of field patterns, woodland (including ancient woodlands) and parkland landscapes within this LCA, some of which are considered highly scenic. Away from the settlements and roads the landscape is relatively tranquil. Its designation as part of the National Park reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

²⁶ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 10 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, it is considered that there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This medium to large scale, complex landscape is particularly influenced by the villages of Maentwrog, Gellilydan and Ffestiniog which, together with the road network, bring development and activity to central parts of the LCA. There are also some existing static caravan/chalet parks in this LCA. Views to and from the east are confined by dense woodland including conifer plantations which offer potential screening opportunities and are indicative of lower visual sensitivity.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the complex mosaic of field patterns, woodland (including ancient woodlands) and parkland landscapes within this LCA, some of which are considered highly scenic. Away from the settlements and roads the landscape is relatively tranquil. Its designation as part of the National Park also reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty or ELDP Undeveloped Coast for static caravan/chalet park developments. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

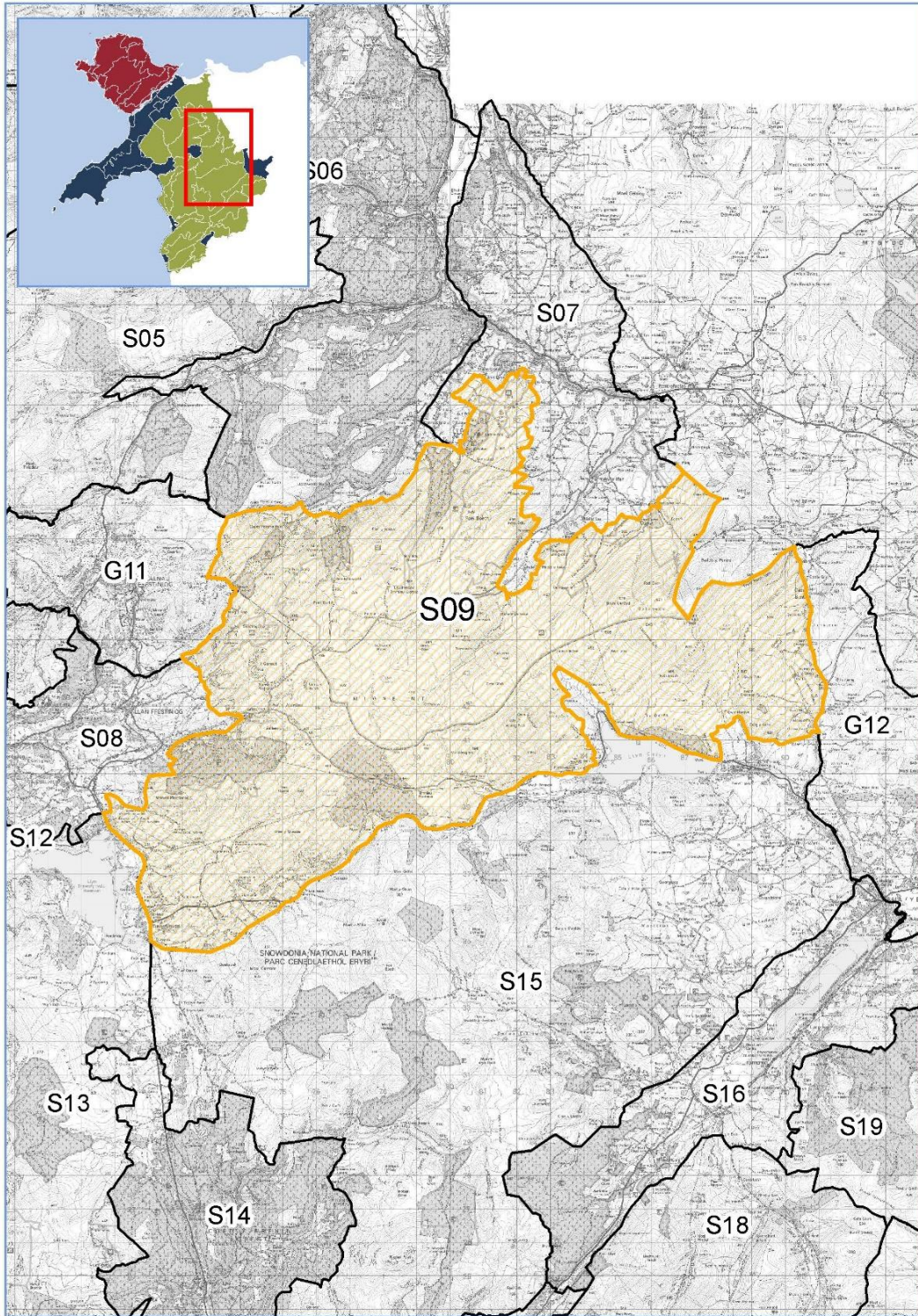
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓

Development should take account and conserve the special qualities of the Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary Landscapes Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Aberglaslyn Registered, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the Ffestiniog Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid impacts upon the setting of areas defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓

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Location and Extent

This LCA extends from the Prysor and Tryweryn valleys in the south to the Machno valley in the north. The western extent is bounded by the A470 while the eastern extend is bounded by Gwynedd landscape character area G12 and marks the edge of the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Vast scale, exposed landscape
- Undulating upland area
- Predominantly treeless, upland moorland

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast scale landscape. VS8: Medium (11%)/ Large (7%)/ <u>Vast</u> (82%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Undulating upland plateau , punctuated by isolated summits and u-shaped valleys. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (86%)/ Upland Valleys (10%) VS4: High Hills/Mountains (6%)/ <u>Plateaux</u> (81%) / Hills/ Valleys (12%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	Landcover is predominantly treeless upland moorland interspersed with wetlands and waterbodies. Coniferous plantation blocks are located on the fringes. Lower valley sides are typically a mosaic of pastoral farmland.	↓			-	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	VS Classification Level 3: Open Upland Valleys (10%)/ <u>Upland Moorland</u> (86%) VS5: Field Pattern/Mosaic (9%)/ <u>Open Land</u> (87%)					
Man-made Influences	This LCA is largely unsettled . Man-made influences are typically limited to the local road network. A few scattered farm settlements and slate quarries are found throughout the area. A 400 kV overhead line is a prominent local feature on the southern edge of the LCA along the A4212. A small number of mobile masts are also present. VS6: Scattered Rural/Farm (91%)/ <u>No Settlements</u> (7%) VS27: <u>Fair</u> (95%)					
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Although in some places skylines within this LCA are simple and sweeping , many are punctuated by distinctive isolated summits , large blocks of coniferous plantation and views of mountain ranges in adjacent and distant LCAs. Skylines to the south are punctuated by tall pylons .					
Visual	Movement	Movement is infrequent throughout the landscape. VS18: Occasional (6%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (91%)				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	Views are typically exposed within this LCA with long distance panoramic views available from higher ground. VS9: Enclosed (7%)/ Open (6%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (86%) Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scattered properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) runs along small section of the LCA's western boundary ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way 				

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The A487, A470 and A4212 tourist routes The local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Bala Hinterland SLA Blaenau Ffestiniog Registered Historic Landscape Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape Hillfort Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character Typically Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation. VS25: <u>Strong</u> (87%) / Moderate (11%) VS46: High (10%) / Moderate (7%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (82%) VS47: <u>High</u> (96%) VS48: High (10%) / Moderate (8%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (82%)	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity Away from settlements and roads this LCA has a highly tranquil and remote quality. VS24: Exposed; Remote (81%) / Exposed (6%) / Other (11%)	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82).</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: High (9%)/ Moderate (8%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (82%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (86%)/ Moderate (13%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>Outstanding</u> (78%)/Moderate (11%)/ Low (11%)</p> <p>LH42: Unassessed (100%)</p> <p>GL31: High (13%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (71%)/ Unassessed (15%)</p> <p>GL33: High (8%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (92%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>This area also includes a hillfort.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: High (20%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (72%)/ Unassessed (5%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (79%)/ Moderate (9%)/ Outstanding (12%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (89%)/ Outstanding (8%)</p>	-			-	-

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁷ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

²⁷ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the vast scale and consistent landcover may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development, this is far outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly scenic, remote and tranquil upland landscape, which is considered to be one of the focal landscapes within the National Park. The scenic quality of the landscape is reflected by much it being defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Views are open and exposed throughout much of this LCA and the landscape has a strong intervisibility with surrounding parts of the National Park.</p> <p>Sensitivity to wind energy developments is locally reduced where a 400 kV overhead line runs from east-west across the southern end of the LCA.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically has no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This LCA is considered to be one of the focal landscapes within the National Park. The natural characteristics of this highly scenic, remote and tranquil landscape, impart a high degree of sensitivity to mobile mast development. The scenic quality of the landscape is reflected by much of it being defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Views are open and exposed throughout much of this LCA and the landscape has a strong intervisibility with surrounding parts of the National Park.</p> <p>Sensitivity to mobile mast development is locally reduced where a 400 kV overhead line runs from east-west across the southern end of the LCA.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	3 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This LCA is considered to be one of the focal landscapes within the National Park. The natural characteristics of this highly scenic, remote and tranquil, upland moorland landscape, impart a high degree of sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park development. The scenic quality of the landscape is reflected by much of it being defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Views are open and exposed throughout much of this LCA and the landscape has a strong intervisibility with surrounding parts of the National Park.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented static caravan/chalet park developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Development should take account and conserve the special qualities of Bala Hinterland Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A470 tourist route.	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

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Location and Extent

This LCA extends from the Dwyryd Estuary in the north, south to the town of Harlech. The LCA is bounded by the B4573 in the east and the coast to the west.

Key Characteristics

- Medium scale, open landscape
- Coastal landform

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (99%)	-				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Landform comprises a predominantly low lying coastal zone to the north and west rising slightly inland to the east where it becomes more gently rolling and undulating . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Coastal</u> (96%) VS4: <u>Levels</u> (80%) / Rolling/Undulating (20%)	↓			↓	↓
	Landcover	To the north and west landcover is dominated by the dunes and slacks of the Dwyryd Estuary and coastline. Inland the landcover is predominantly reclaimed marshes and farmland interspersed with coniferous plantations . VS Classification Level 3: <u>Dunes & Dune Slack</u> (80%) / Dunes & Dune Slack (17%)	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	VS5: Open Land (28%)/ <u>Mixture</u> (71%)					
Man-made Influences	<p>The LCA is predominantly unsettled apart from Harlech in the south west of the LCA and a couple of static caravan/chalet parks.</p> <p>Major transport infrastructure including the A496 and Cambrian Coast Railway Line, traverses the LCA in a north-south direction.</p> <p>400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines introduce modern vertical development into the LCA, crossing the Dwyryd Estuary at the north eastern tip of the LCA. A wind turbine and mobile mast are located to the south east.</p> <p>VS6: Clustered (13%)/ Village (7%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (77%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (83%)/ Unassessed (17%)</p>	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Although skylines are not prominent in this LCA, the rocky outline of Moel-y-Gest in LCA G09 is a distinctive landmark in views from within the LCA which itself is backed by the dramatic skylines created by the mountains of Snowdonia, in particular the Rhinogau mountain range.	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Frequent movement is focused along the A496 which is a busy tourist route. Elsewhere, movement is infrequent with occasional boats in the Dwyryd Estuary.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Frequent</u> (59%) / Infrequent (22%) / Rare (17%)</p>	-				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are generally open within this LCA with long distance views overlooking the coast and the Llŷn Peninsula and striking panoramic views inland looking towards the upland heart of the National Park. Ynys Gifftan forms a feature in the middle estuary.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Open</u> (100%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type					
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks	
		<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous clustered and scattered properties Snowdonia National Park Harlech Castle Long distance routes including the Wales Coast Path and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) Open Access Areas Local attractions such as Portmeirion Local public rights of way including busy tourist routes The Cambrian Coast Railway, the Ffestiniog Railway and the Welsh Highland Railway The local road network 						
	<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary SLA Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay SLA Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape Aberglaslyn Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑		
	Condition	Not applicable						
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (96%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (58%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (42%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>Moderate</u> (83%)/ <u>High</u> (17%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (96%)</p>	↑			↑	↑	
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	The A496 and Cambrian Coast Line Railway traverse the LCA lessening the sense of remoteness and tranquillity.	-			-	-	

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>Although away from transport infrastructure the LCA retains a sense of remoteness and tranquillity, particularly out of the tourist season along the immediate coast at Morfa Harlech.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Smell; Noisy; Sheltered; Remote</u> (40%)/ <u>Smell; Attractive; Exposed; Wild; Spiritual</u> (21%)/ <u>Smell</u> (11%) / <u>Smell; Exposed</u> (7%)/ <u>Tranquil; Smell</u> (17%)</p>					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8).</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path runs the entire length of the LCA.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (56%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (41%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (56%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (44%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>Moderate</u> (53%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (46%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (31%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (10%)/ <u>Low</u> (59%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (31%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (10%)/ <u>Low</u> (59%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>This LCA lies within the Arduwly Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typically Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (51%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (48%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (50%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (40%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (10%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (57%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (41%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁸ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

²⁸ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale coastal landscape is influenced by the modern development and movement associated with the A496 and Cambrian Coast Railway line. This, together with the influence of 400 kV overhead lines to the north east locally reduces sensitivity.</p> <p>This lowered sensitivity is outweighed by the sense of remoteness and tranquillity (particularly out of the tourist season) experienced away from the transport network. There is also a high degree of intervisibility along the coastline and much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. Additionally, a number of sensitive receptors, including views to and from the Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site, enhance the overall sensitivity of the LCA. The high sensitivity is reinforced by the cultural heritage importance of the landscape and it's designation within the National Park.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. micro development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale, coastal landscape is influenced by the modern development and movement associated with the A496 and Cambrian Coast Railway line. This together with the influence of 400 kV overhead lines to the north east; locally reduces sensitivity to wind energy development.</p> <p>This lowered sensitivity is outweighed by the sense of remoteness and tranquillity (particularly out of the tourist season) experienced away from the transport network. There is also a high degree of intervisibility along the coastline and much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. A number of sensitive receptors, including views to and from the Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site, enhances the overall sensitivity of the LCA which is further reinforced by the cultural heritage importance of the landscape and it's designation within the National Park.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. mobile mast development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale, relatively flat coastal landscape is influenced by the modern development and movement associated with the A496 and Cambrian Coast Railway line. This together with the influence of existing static caravan/chalet parks to the south west and 400 kV overhead lines to the north east; locally reduces sensitivity to wind energy development.</p> <p>This is lowered sensitivity is outweighed by the sense of remoteness and tranquillity (particularly out of the tourist season) experienced away from the transport network. There is also high degree of intervisibility along the coastline and much of this landscape is defined within ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. Additionally, a number of sensitive receptors, including views to and from the Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site, enhances the overall sensitivity of the LCA. The high sensitivity is reinforced by the cultural heritage importance of the landscape and it's designation within the National Park.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. large development - 1 no. medium development - 1 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.=

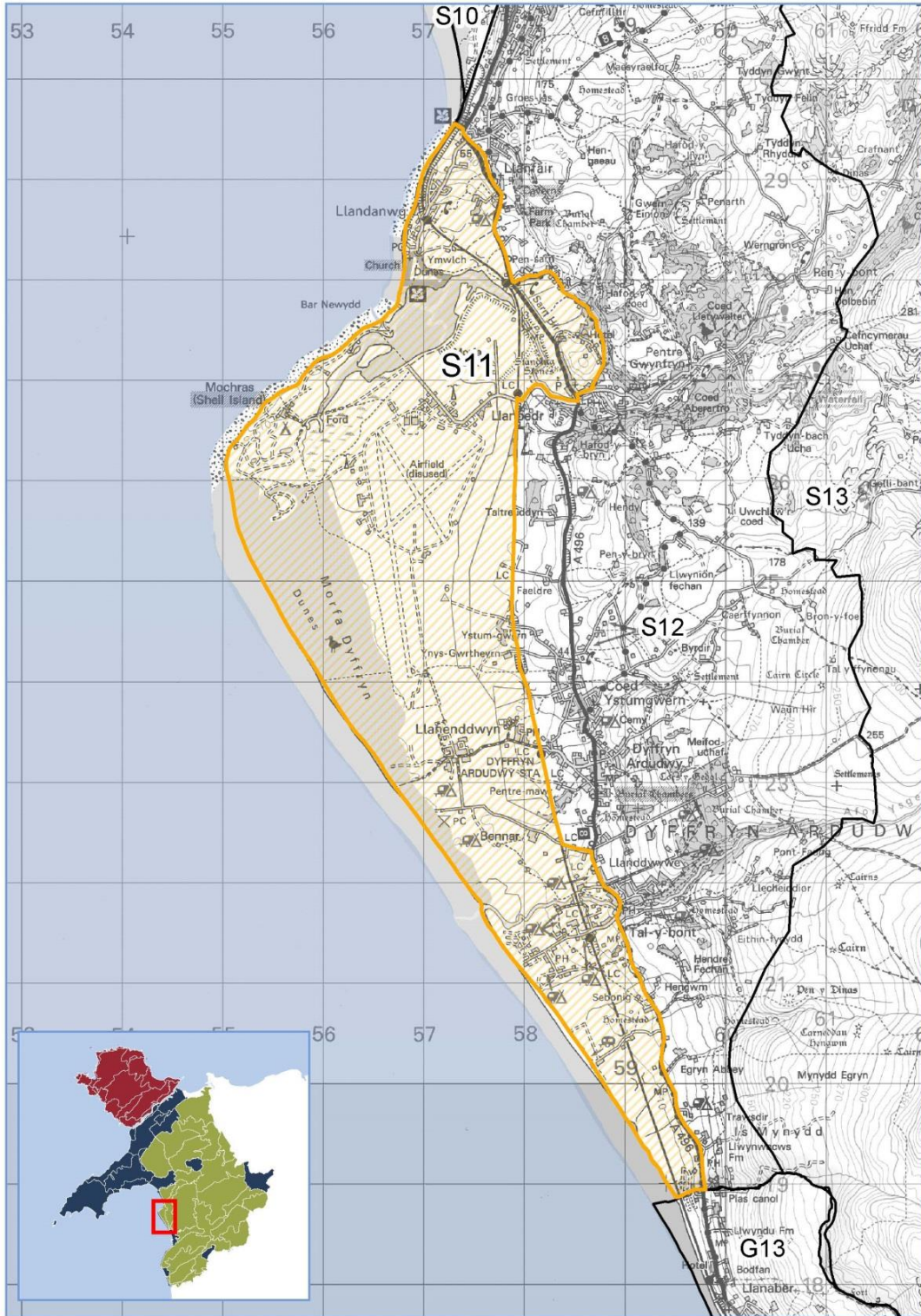
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Llŷn AONB.	✓	✓	✓

Conserve the special qualities of the Glaslyn & Dywryd Estuary and Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay Special Landscape Areas.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the setting and key views to and from Harlech Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Ardudwy and Aberglaslyn Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and important local attractions such as Portmeirion; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments such as existing 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development within the sight lines of key views, particularly out to sea.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development along the coastline and its immediate setting, in particular avoiding areas defined as ELDP Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A496, the Cambrian Coast Railway, the Ffestiniog Railway and the Welsh Highland Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
As well as taking into account views from elevated isolated properties, siting should take into consideration important views from the more densely populated settlement of Porthmadog. The town has a number of visitor attractions associated with it and a strong connection with the landscape in which it is situated.	✓	✓	✓

S11 Morfa Dyffryn



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Location and Extent

This LCA extends from the Afon Artro estuary in the north, encompassing the coast and its hinterland and terminating just north of Abermaw. As such it provides the western frontage to the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Medium scale, open landscape
- Flat coastal landscape
- LCA comprised of large areas of dunes, the area known as Mochras and Llanbedr Airfield

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (97%)	-				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Generally low lying, flat coastal plain . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Coastal</u> (90%)/ <u>Built form</u> (6%) VS4: <u>Levels</u> (97%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	The landcover predominantly comprises a large dune system , with dunes and dune slack towards the coast together with a wide intertidal zone at Morfa Dyffryn to the north. Llanbedr Airfield and associated buildings create localised urban landcover towards the centre of the LCA. Further inland, pastures forming a small scale irregular field pattern.	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	VS Classification Level 3: <u>Dunes & Dune Slack</u> (90%)/ Urban (6%) VS5: <u>Mixture</u> (97%)					
Man-made Influences	<p>Transport infrastructure, includes the A496 and Cambrian Coast Railway line which traverses the LCA in a north to south direction and defines the eastern edge of the LCA.</p> <p>Modern developments also include Llanbedr Airfield and associated buildings and a number of small settlements such as Llanfair, Coed Ystumgwern and Llanbedr.</p> <p>A number of static caravan/chalet parks influence the character of this LCA.</p> <p>VS6: Scattered Rural/Farm (90%)/ Urban (6%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	↓			↓	↓
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	The landscape within the LCA is low lying with a lack of prominent landform . The backdrop provided by the mountains of Snowdonia creates dramatic skylines and settings , in particular the Rhinogau mountain range.	↑			↑	
Movement	The presence of road and rail traffic brings frequent movement into parts of this LCA, in particular during the busy summer months. VS18: Constant (6%) / Frequent (90%)	-				
Visual	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically open within this LCA with panoramic long distance views available along the coastline and towards the Llŷn Peninsula to the north west and towards the upland heart of the National Park to the east, in particular the Rhinogau mountain range.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Open</u> (100%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scattered properties Long distance routes including the Wales Coastal Path and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) Open Access Areas Local attractions such as Shell Island (Mochras) Local public rights of way The Cambrian Coast Railway The local road network including important coastal tourist routes. 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site Barmouth SLA Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Garden ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Scenic Quality and Character</p> <p>Typically moderate LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Moderate</u> (100%)</p> <p>VS46: High (33%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (67%)</p> <p>VS47: High (17%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (83%)</p> <p>VS48: High (30%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (70%)</p>	-			-	-
	<p>Remoteness/ Tranquillity</p> <p>Away from the inland transport network the landscape is relatively tranquil, particularly out of the tourist season in the coastal dune landscape of Shell Island (Mochras).</p> <p>VS24: Smell (30%) / <u>Smell; Unattractive; Exposed; Spiritual</u> (61%)/ <u>Smell; Unattractive; Noisy; Sheltered; Settled</u> (6%)</p>	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8).</p> <p>Includes area defined within ELDP as Area of Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path runs along the north and western boundary.</p> <p>Typical moderate LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: High (30%) / <u>Moderate</u> (64%) / Low (6%)</p> <p>VS49: High (30%) / <u>Moderate</u> (70%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>Moderate</u> (69%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (29%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p>	-			-	-
	Historic Value	<p>This LCA lies within the Arduwly Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (64%) / <u>Moderate</u> (32%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (77%) / <u>Moderate</u> (18%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>Moderate</u> (95%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types²⁹ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

²⁹ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>This medium scale, relatively flat coastal landscape is influenced by various forms of modern development including transport infrastructure, Llanbedr Airfield, small settlements and a relatively high number of static caravan/chalet parks. The industrial size and nature of the buildings within the airfield are a particular visual detractor; this in combination with the man-made influence of the other developments causes a reduced sensitivity.</p> <p>In counterbalance, the entire LCA lies within Snowdonia National Park and has high cultural heritage importance. Western parts are also comparatively undeveloped and as such are defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. A high number of sensitive receptors together with high intervisibility with other coastal landscapes including Llŷn AONB and also the inland heart of the National Park further enhances sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>This medium scale, relatively flat coastal landscape is influenced by various forms of modern development including transport infrastructure, Llanbedr Airfield, small settlements and a relatively high number of static caravan/chalet parks. The industrial size and nature of the buildings within the airfield are a particular visual detractor; this in combination with the man-made influence of the other developments causes a reduced sensitivity.</p> <p>In counterbalance, the entire LCA lies within Snowdonia National Park and has high cultural heritage importance. Western parts are also comparatively undeveloped and as such are defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. A high number of sensitive receptors together with high intervisibility with other coastal landscapes including Llŷn AONB and also the inland heart of the National Park further enhances sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. mobile mast development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

Medium-High	<p>This medium scale, relatively flat coastal landscape is influenced by various forms of modern development including transport infrastructure, Llanbedr Airfield, small settlements and a relatively high number of static caravan/chalet parks which causes a reduced sensitivity to further static caravan/chalet park development and extensions. The industrial size and nature of the buildings within the airfield are a particular visual detractor as are the high number of static caravans in this LCA.</p> <p>In counterbalance, the entire LCA lies within Snowdonia National Park and has high cultural heritage importance. Western parts are also comparatively undeveloped and as such are defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. A high number of sensitive receptors together with high intervisibility with other coastal landscapes including Llŷn AONB and also the inland heart of the National Park further enhances sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Although it is recognised that Landscape Change has occurred where numerous developments influence the landscape, in particular to the southern coastline; Landscape Protection is the overriding objective.
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 no. very large development - 3 no. large developments - 2 no. medium developments - 1 no. small development - 3 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	No capacity for further static caravan/chalet park developments on the grounds that capacity has been reached.

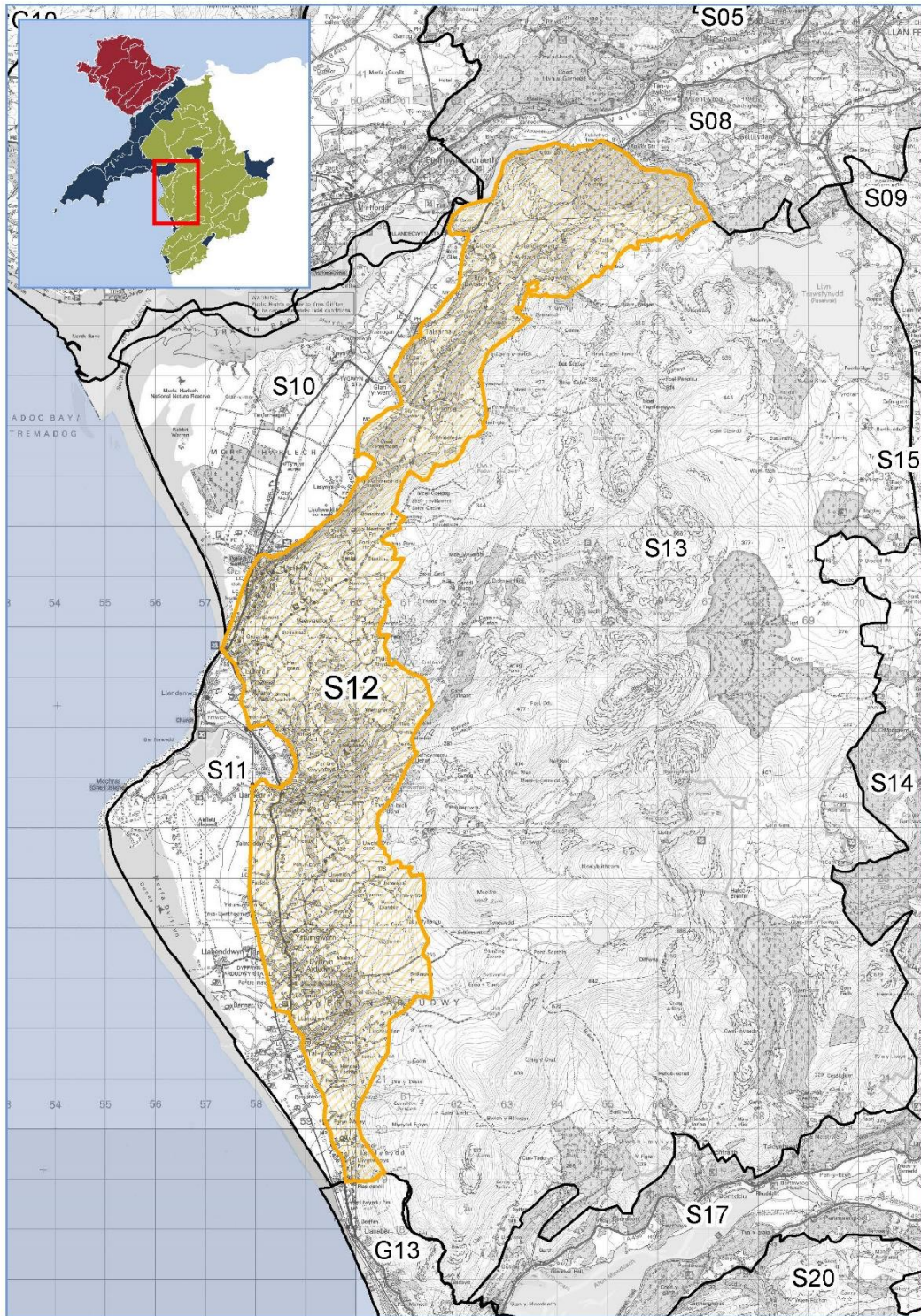
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Llŷn AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Barmouth Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the setting and key views to and from Harlech Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seawards and towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Arddwy Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and important local attractions such as Shell Island (Mochras); and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓

Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development along the coastline and its immediate setting, in particular avoiding areas defined as ELDP Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A496 and the Cambrian Coast Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S12 Cefnwlad Arfordir Arduwgy



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Location and Extent

This LCA is located immediately to the west of the Rhinogau mountain range and extends from the mouth of the Afon Dwyrdd in the north to the National Park boundary of Barmouth in the south.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale open landscape
- Landform slopes dramatically down towards the coast
- Cultural Heritage Interest

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: Small _(6%) / Medium _(10%) / <u>Large</u> _(84%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Landform is typically rolling and undulating and dissected by a series of valleys. Landform slopes down dramatically towards the coast in the west. VS Classification Level 2: Lowland Valleys _(6%) / <u>Rolling Lowland</u> _(86%) VS4: <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> _(87%) / Hills/ Valleys _(6%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	Predominantly pastoral agricultural landcover with a large area of low lying open lowland towards the coast. Coniferous plantations and some nationally important semi-natural woodland are scattered throughout. Several small waterbodies are scattered throughout the open lowland to the north east of the LCA.	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	VS Classification Level 3: Mosaic Rolling Lowland ^(6%) / <u>Open Rolling Lowland</u> ^(81%) / Wooded Lowland Valleys ^(6%) VS5: <u>Mixture</u> ^(97%)					
Man-made Influences	Settlement pattern is typically clustered in small villages along the A496 to the west of the LCA, and characterised by scattered properties on the more elevated land east of the A496. 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines , wind turbines and masts bring some modern vertical developments into the landscape. There are also a number of static caravan/chalet parks. Harlech Castle is a historically important feature on the western edge of the LCA. VS6: <u>Clustered</u> ^(80%) / Scattered Rural/Farm ^(8%) / Settlements ^(9%) VS27: <u>Fair</u> ^(00%)	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	The rising land to the east of the LCA is framed by the dominant skyline of Snowdonia, particularly the Rhinogau mountain range. An expansive skyline to the north of the LCA is interrupted by overhead lines.	↑			↑	
Movement	Road traffic brings occasional movement into the landscape along the A496, particularly in the summer months. VS18: <u>Occasional</u> ^(82%) / <u>Frequent</u> ^(8%) / <u>Infrequent</u> ^(13%)	↑				
Visual Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	Views are typically open within this LCA with higher ground providing strong visual links between the mountains and the coast. Views are often extensive with hills of the Llŷn Peninsula visible to the north. VS9: <u>Confined</u> ^(6%) / <u>Enclosed</u> ^(6%) / <u>Open</u> ^(84%)	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous properties typically clustered along the A496. Harlech Castle Long distance routes including the Wales Coast Path and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) Open Access Areas Local attractions and public rights of way The Cambrian Coast Railway The local road network including the A496 which is an important coastal tourist route 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site Barmouth SLA Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape Hillfort Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not Applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Scenic Quality and Character</p> <p>Typically moderate LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Moderate</u> (90%)/ <u>Strong</u> (10%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (79%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (21%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>Moderate</u> (84%)/ <u>High</u> (16%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (16%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (84%)</p>	-			-	-
	<p>Remoteness/ Tranquillity</p> <p>Away from the settlements and A496 road corridor the sense of tranquillity and remoteness increases.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Other</u> (75%)/ <u>Other; Tranquil; Sheltered; Remote; Spiritual</u> (6%)/ <u>Sheltered</u> (6%) / <u>Smell</u> (6%)</p>	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8).</p> <p>Small parts of ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path runs along small sections of the west boundary and crosses the LCA to the north.</p> <p>Typical Moderate LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: High (16%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (83%)</p> <p>VS49: High (9%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (90%)</p> <p>LH45: High (21%)/ Moderate (32%)/ Low (7%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (40%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: High (40%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (58%)</p> <p>GL33: High (40%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (58%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>This LCA comprises Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.</p> <p>The LCA lies almost entirely within the Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape with the exception of a small part to the far north.</p> <p>This area also includes a hillfort.</p> <p>Typically Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: High (9%)/ Moderate (12%)/ Outstanding (23%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (56%)/</p> <p>HL35: High (40%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (60%)</p> <p>HL40: High (33%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (63%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁰ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This large scale landscape comprises pastures interspersed with conifer plantations. Clustered villages focussed along the A496, together with the Cambrian Coast Railway line, introduce movement to the west of this LCA. Skylines in the north are interrupted by existing vertical structures such as overhead lines, further reducing sensitivity.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence of Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site which contributes towards the outstanding cultural heritage value of the landscape together with a high number of sensitive receptors and intervisibility with highly sensitive LCA's. Additionally, the LCA's designation within the National Park further reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. small development - 1 no. domestic development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This large scale landscape comprises pastures interspersed with conifer plantations. Clustered villages are focussed along the A496; these together with the Cambrian Coast Railway line represent man-made influences to the west of this LCA. Skylines in the north are interrupted by existing vertical structures such as overhead lines, further reducing sensitivity.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence of Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site which contributes towards the outstanding cultural heritage value of the landscape together with a high number of sensitive receptors and intervisibility with highly sensitive LCA's. Additionally, the LCA's designation within the National Park further reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

³⁰ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 10 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no further capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This large scale landscape comprises pastures interspersed with conifer plantations. Clustered villages and existing static caravan/chalet parks are focussed along the A496 and local road networks; these together with the Cambrian Coast Railway line and overhead lines represent man-made influences to the west and north of this LCA and locally lessen sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence of Harlech Castle - Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site which contributes towards the outstanding cultural heritage value of the landscape together with a high number of sensitive receptors and intervisibility with highly sensitive LCA's. The LCA's designation within the National Park further reinforces sensitivity as does the presence of some nationally important semi-natural woodland and some highly scenic parts of this LCA which are defined within ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. medium development - 3 no. small developments - 4 no. very small developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments, in particular within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small scale developments.

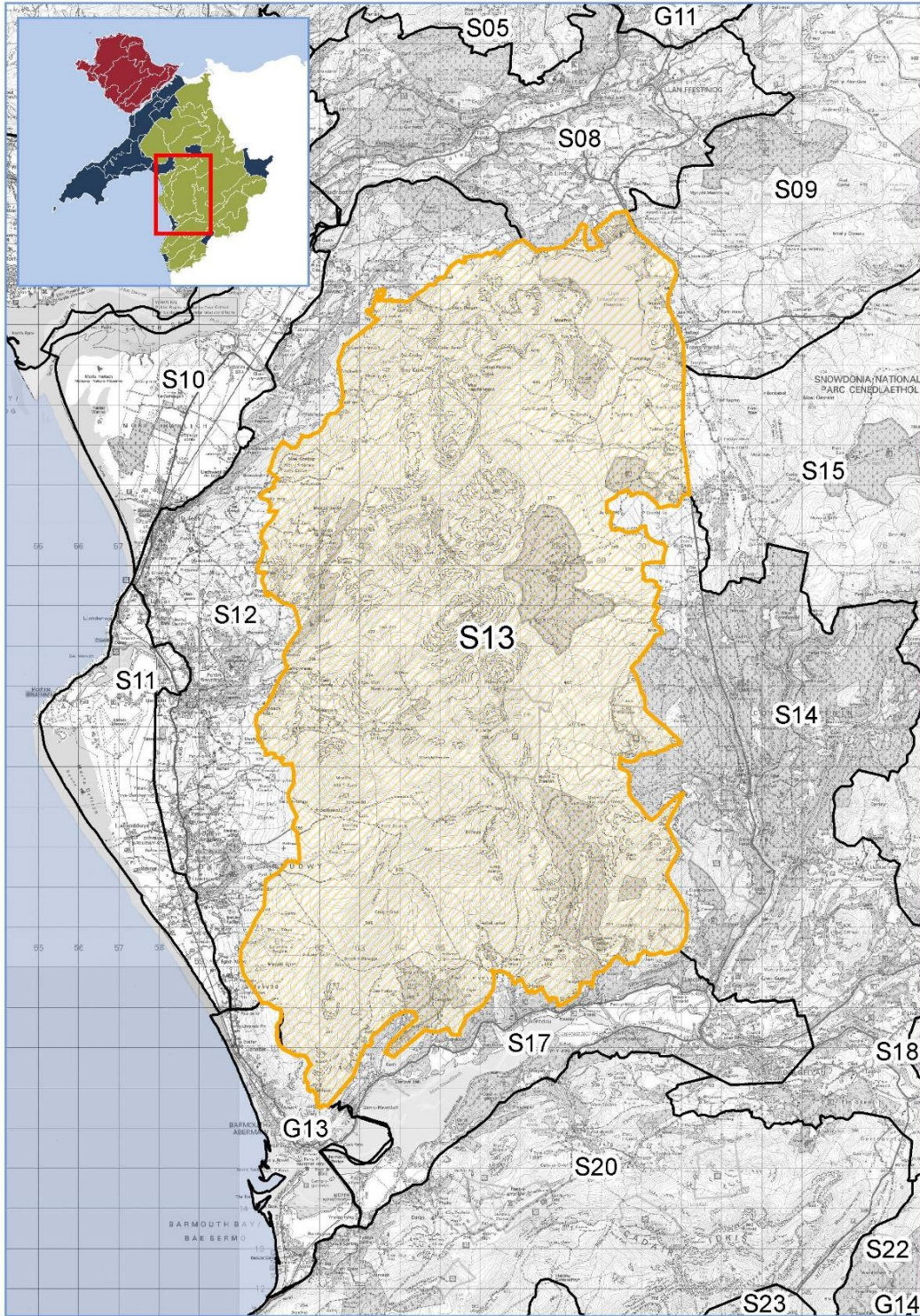
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty and Undeveloped Coast, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓

Consider the effects of development on views to and from Llŷn AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Barmouth Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the setting and key views to and from Harlech Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seawards and towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Ardudwy and Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development along the coastline and its immediate setting, in particular avoiding areas defined as ELDP Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A496 and the Cambrian Coast Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

S13 Y Rhinogau



1:125,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA centres on the rugged Rhinogau mountain range extending from the slopes above the Dwyryd and Glaslyn estuaries in the north down to the Mawddach estuary in the south.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale upland and exposed landscape
- Rugged mountains and valleys
- Influenced (in the north east) by Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: Medium (8%)/ <u>Large</u> (89%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Rugged mountain chain comprising high hills and valleys. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/ Plateau</u> (76%)/ <u>Upland Valleys</u> (7%)/ <u>Inland Water (Including Associated Edge)</u> (6%) / <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (5%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (80%)/ <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> (16%)/ <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> (5%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Landcover is typified by open rugged mountain summits and upland moorland interspersed with barren and rocky uplands and frequent glacial lakes. A number of conifer plantations and mixed woodlands are present on some valley sides.	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
	<p>VS Classification Level 3: Barren/ Rocky upland (14%)/ Lake (6%)/ Open Upland Valleys (7%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> (62%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (76%)/ Field Pattern/ Mosaic (12%)/ Woodland (60%)/ Mixture (6%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Much of this landscape is unsettled with human influences limited to the sparse road network that criss-cross edges of the mountainous heart.</p> <p>The Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station is a locally prominent man-made landmark in the far north of the LCA. Overhead lines associated with the power station introduce further modern vertical structures to the north of the LCA.</p> <p>VS6: Village (6%) / Clustered (12%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (80%)</p> <p>VS27: Good (14%)/ <u>Fair</u> (86%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>Skylines formed by the craggy mountains and rugged topography are highly distinctive and prominent. The Trawsfynydd nuclear power station forms a prominent man-made landmark locally in the north.</p>	↑			↑	
Movement	<p>Occasional movement is focused along the sparse road network whilst most of the remote and inaccessible higher ground of the mountain chain has a still character.</p> <p>VS18: Constant (6%) / <u>Occasional</u> (82%) / Infrequent (13%)</p>	↑				
Visual	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically open and exposed within this LCA with higher vantage points affording long panoramic, unspoilt views eastwards to the coast and north to the heart of the National Park.</p> <p>The Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station is a prominent man-made landmark in the north.</p> <p>Enclosed (5%)/ Open (16%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (76%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few clustered properties Long distance routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) Open Access Areas Local attractions and public rights of way The A470 and A4212 tourist routes The local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Barmouth SLA Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape Mawddach Registered Historic Landscape Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape Hillforts Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not Applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Scenic Quality and Character</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (80%) / <u>Moderate</u> (20%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (79%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (14%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (82%) / <u>Moderate</u> (12%) / <u>Low</u> (6%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (68%) / <u>Moderate</u> (18%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (14%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>The area has a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity associated with its inaccessibility. The former nuclear power station at Trawsfynydd locally detracts from this remoteness in the north.</p>	↑			↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	VS24: Tranquil (6%) / Wild (14%) / Sheltered (6%) / <u>Exposed</u> (62%) / Other (12%)					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8).</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (64%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (22%)/ Outstanding (14%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (64%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (18%)/ Outstanding (14%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (13%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (27%)/ <u>Low</u> (7%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (53%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (13%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (86%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (13%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (87%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>The western half of this LCA lies within the Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Northern parts of the LCA lie within the Trawsfynydd Basin & Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>This area also includes hillforts.</p> <p>Typically High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (36%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (38%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (26%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (13%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (22%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (66%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (34%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (66%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³¹ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This large scale landscape is locally influenced by the Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station which forms a prominent man-made landmark in the north of the LCA. Overhead lines associated with the power station introduce modern vertical structures to the north of the LCA, thus locally reducing the sensitivity.</p> <p>This is however, far outweighed by the natural characteristics of the majority of this remote and rugged, highly scenic mountainous landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by its dramatic skylines and a strong intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments.

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This large scale landscape is locally influenced by the Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station which forms a prominent man-made landmark in the north of the LCA. Overhead lines associated with the power station introduce modern vertical structures to the north of the LCA, thus locally reducing the sensitivity.</p> <p>This is however, far outweighed by the natural characteristics of the majority of this remote and rugged, highly scenic mountainous landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by its dramatic skylines and a strong intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

³¹ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 4 no. mobile mast developments - 1 no. camouflaged mast development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, and particularly to the south and north eastern boundaries where settlement pattern is most dense, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This large scale landscape is locally influenced by the Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station which forms a prominent man-made landmark in the north of the LCA. Overhead lines associated with the power station introduce modern vertical structures to the north of the LCA, thus locally reducing the sensitivity.</p> <p>This is however, far outweighed by the natural characteristics of the majority of this remote and rugged, highly scenic mountainous landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the highly exposed nature of the varied and dramatic topography of the LCA although the coniferous plantations may offer some screening opportunities and thus indicate a locally lowered sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

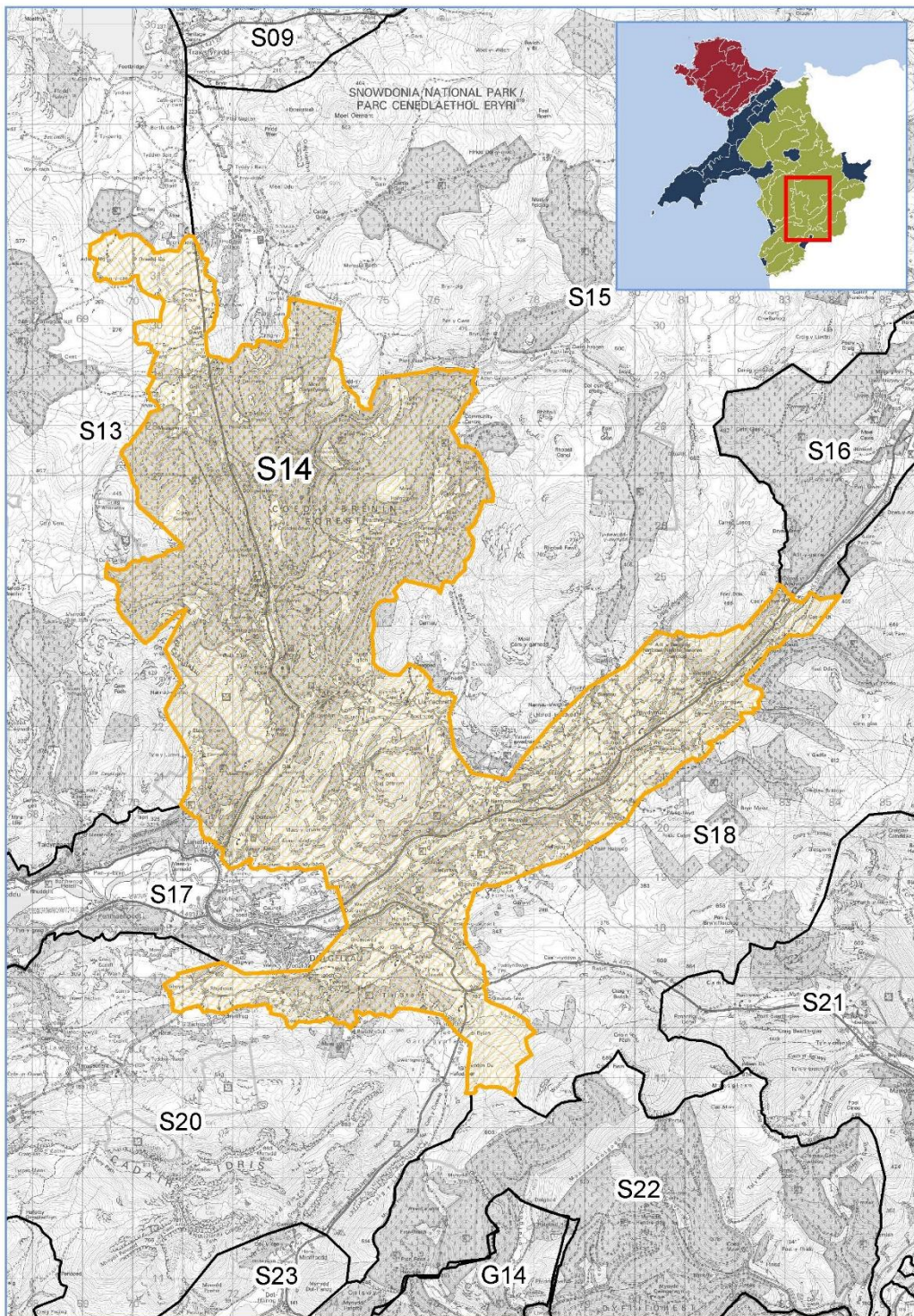
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.			
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Llyn AONB.	✓	✓	✓

Conserve the special qualities of Barmouth Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the setting and key views to and from Harlech Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Arduwy, Mawddach, Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor and Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments such as 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid impacts upon the setting of areas defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

S14 Dyffrynnoedd Mawddach a'r Wnion



1:100,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises the Mawddach and Eden valleys flowing from the uplands to the north of Dolgellau and extends eastwards along the course of the Wnion.

Key Characteristics

- Medium scale confined landscape
- Complex topography defined by three main valleys surrounded by steep slopes and upland blocks
- Extensive conifer plantations to the north and frequent bands of broadleaved woodland elsewhere

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium-large scale landscape. VS8: Medium (41%)/ Large (58%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Complex topography defined by three main valleys surrounded by steep slopes and upland blocks. VS Classification Level 2: Exposed Upland/Plateau (8%)/ <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (43%)/ Rolling Lowland (16%) / Lowland Valleys (25%) / Upland Valleys (7%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (52%)/ Rolling/Undulating (24%)/ Hills/ Valleys (25%)	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landcover	<p>Landcover comprises a mix of mostly well wooded valley sides, locally wooded lowland valley and wetlands associated with the Afon Eden and Wnion.</p> <p>On higher valley sides and upland areas, the woodlands comprise a mix of more extensive commercial conifer plantations and bands of broadleaf woodlands which tend to become more common on lower valley sides and the valley floor.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: Mosaic Lowland Valleys (12%) / Open Upland Valleys (7%) / Mosaic Rolling lowland (16%) / Upland Moorland (8%) / <u>Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes</u> (43%) / <u>Wooded Lowland Valleys</u> (13%)</p> <p>VS5: Open Land (8%) / Field Pattern / <u>Mosaic</u> (36%) / <u>Woodland</u> (45%) / <u>Mixture</u> (11%)</p>	-			-	-
Man-made Influences	<p>Man-made influences comprise clustered settlements along the valley floor, connected by the A470 and A494 roads which are busy routes, particularly in the summer months.</p> <p>The Coed y Brenin mountain biking centre is a popular tourist destination and includes visitor centre and car park; there are also a number of static caravan/chalet parks within this LCA.</p> <p>A number of mobile masts are scattered throughout the LCA along the main road network and bring localised modern vertical developments to the area.</p> <p>Commercial forestry on some higher slopes imparts a man-made influence throughout the LCA, but particularly in the northern half of the LCA.</p> <p>VS6: Clustered (29%) / Mixture (16%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (52%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Skylines and Settings	Varied topography within this LCA provides some dominant skylines . However, the intermittently wooded landcover serves to foreshorten many skyline views.	↑			↑	
Visual	Movement Road traffic brings sometimes frequent movement along the A470 and A494 roads particularly during summer months as these are busy tourist routes to the coast. VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (50%) / <u>Frequent</u> (25%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (25%)	-				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area) Views confined by woodland in places , with some open, long distance views afforded from higher ground surrounding the valleys. VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (13%) / <u>Open</u> (38%) / <u>Exposed</u> (6%) / <u>Confined</u> (43%) Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Properties ▪ Long distance routes including Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A487, A470 and A494 tourist routes ▪ The local road network 	-		-	-	
	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area) These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Hillforts ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not Applicable				

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Small areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (51%) / <u>Weak</u> (16%) / <u>Moderate</u> (33%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (28%) / <u>Moderate</u> (29%) / <u>Low</u> (43%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (54%) / <u>Moderate</u> (46%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (52%) / <u>Moderate</u> (48%)</p>	-			-	-
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>Away from the road network this LCA is perceived to be relatively tranquil.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Sheltered</u> (56%) / <u>Exposed</u> (6%) / <u>Other</u> (36%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8).</p> <p>Small areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Moderate LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: High (11%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (89%)</p> <p>VS49: High (7%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (50%)/ <u>Low</u> (43%)</p> <p>LH45: High (23%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (60%)/ <u>Low</u> (9%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (7%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (95%)</p> <p>GL31: High (12%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (86%)</p> <p>GL33: High (12%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (86%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>A large part of this LCA lies within the Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>A small part of the LCA lies within the Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>The LCA also includes Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>This area also includes hillforts.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (89%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (9%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (59%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (41%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (44%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (56%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³² (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>This large scale, valley landscape is characterised by well wooded valley sides with frequent large conifer plantations. Views are often locally confined by woodland, especially in the southern half of the LCA, thus reducing sensitivity.</p> <p>Away from the busier valley floor and main roads, despite the extensive commercial forestry, the landscape maintains a sense of remoteness and tranquillity which imparts a high degree of sensitivity and has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by cultural heritage value and the highly scenic nature of some parts of this LCA which are defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>This large scale, valley landscape is characterised by well wooded valley sides with frequent large conifer plantations. Views are often locally confined by woodland, especially in the southern half of the LCA; this together with the presence of a number of existing mobile masts imparts a lower sensitivity.</p> <p>Away from the busier valley floor and main roads, despite the extensive commercial forestry, the landscape maintains a sense of remoteness and tranquillity which imparts a high degree of sensitivity and has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Sensitivity is further enhanced by cultural heritage value and the highly scenic nature of some parts of this LCA which are defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	14 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments in particular within ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty. However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

³² NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>This large scale, valley landscape is characterised by well wooded valley sides with frequent large coniferous plantations, which offer potential screening opportunities for static caravan/chalet park developments. Views are often locally confined by woodland, especially in the southern half of the LCA; this together with the presence of a number of existing static caravan/chalet park developments imparts a lower sensitivity to further static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions.</p> <p>Away from the busier valley floor and main roads and despite the extensive commercial forestry, the landscape maintains a sense of remoteness and tranquillity which imparts a high degree of sensitivity and has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Sensitivity is enhanced by cultural heritage value and the highly scenic nature of some parts of this LCA which are defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 5 no. medium developments - 2 no. small developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments in particular within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

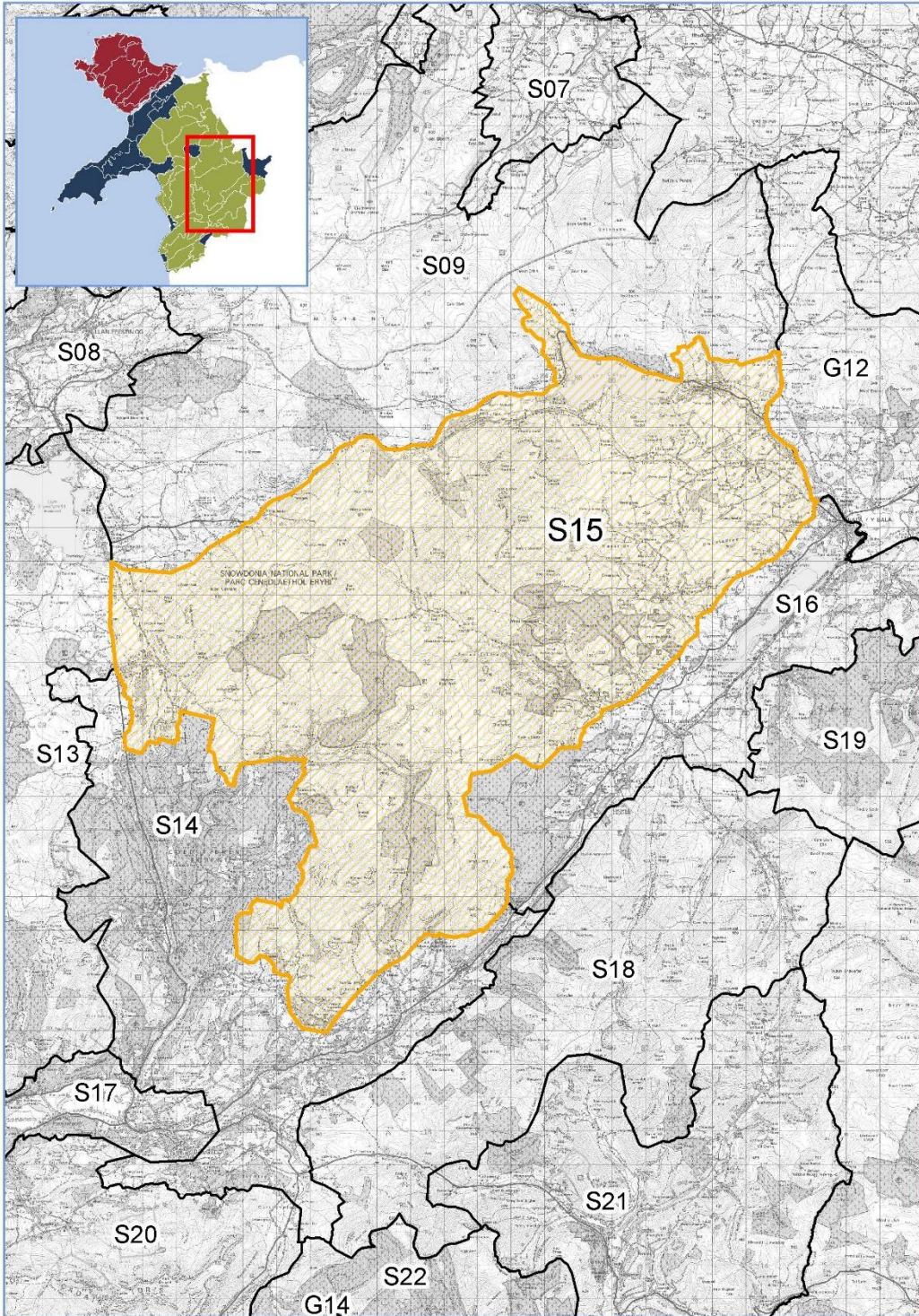
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor and Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	

Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular such as Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8), and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

S15 Yr Arenig



1:150,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA is centred on Arenig Fawr with Tryweryn valley to the east (on the National Park boundary) and Coed y Brenin to the west. To the north are the Mignient Uplands whilst the Upper Dee valley is located to the south.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale, open landscape
- High upland hills with distinctive valleys and small glacial lakes
- Remote and unsettled

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: Medium (27%)/ <u>Large</u> (73%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not Applicable					
	Landform	High upland hills with areas of upland plateau and locally distinctive U-shaped and hanging valleys and some small glacial lakes. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/ Plateau</u> (67%)/ Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes (20%)/ Upland Valleys (5%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (67%)/ Rolling/Undulating (24%)/ Hills/ Valleys (8%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	Landcover is predominantly treeless upland moorland interspersed with wetlands and waterbodies with the large Llyn Celyn reservoir located to the north east. Small belts of commercial coniferous plantations are located in the central uplands and along some valley sides while lower	↓			-	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>slopes and valleys comprise mosaic of well-treed pastoral farmland.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (20%)/ Open Upland Valleys (5%)/ <u>Upland Moorland</u> (67%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (68%)/ Field Pattern/ Mosaic (28%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>This LCA is predominantly unsettled with 400 kV overhead power lines in the Trywern Valley to the north, water treatment works at Lliardiad, commercial forestry and the remnant of quarries all having a localised influence.</p> <p>A dispersed pattern of settlement, concentrated in the valleys and on lower slopes is connected by a local road network and includes several static caravan/chalet parks. The A4212 and A470 which are important transport corridors and particularly busy in summer months, both skirt the edge of the LCA.</p> <p>VS6: Clustered (24%)/ <u>No settlements</u> (70%)/ Village (00%) / Scattered Rural/Farm (5%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (99%)</p>					
Settlement Pattern	Not Applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>In some places skylines within this LCA are simple, sweeping and uninterrupted. However, the summits of Arenig Fawr, Moel Llyfnant and Rhobell Fawr are prominent landforms in some views, as are the dramatic skylines created by surrounding mountain ranges. Skylines to the north are punctuated by large pylons.</p>					
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>This landscape is perceived to be relatively still with the exception of occasional road traffic which brings movement along the main road network (A4212 to the east and A470 to the west) particularly in the summer months.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (50%) / Frequent (25%) / Infrequent (25%)</p>					
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas</p> <p>Views are typically open within this LCA with panoramic long distance views available from</p>					

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
<p>and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>mountain summits; in particular from the summit of Arenig which provides uninterrupted views of all significant North Wales mountain ranges.</p> <p>VS9: Enclosed (7%)/ <u>Open</u> (93%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scattered properties ▪ Long distance Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Sustrans regional routes 13, 14 and 15 ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A470, A4212 and A494 tourist routes ▪ The local road network 					
<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB ▪ Bala Hinterland SLA ▪ Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (31%) / <u>Moderate</u> (66%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (93%) / <u>Moderate</u> (6%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (22%) / <u>Moderate</u> (77%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (69%) / <u>Moderate</u> (30%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>Much of the uplands are inaccessible by road and the LCA has a high sense of remoteness and tranquillity.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Attractive</u> (12%) / <u>Tranquil</u> (17%) / <u>Other</u> (28%) / <u>Threatening</u> (38%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82).</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Moderate - Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: High (31%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (69%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>Moderate</u> (99%)/</p> <p>LH45: High (8%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (19%)/ Low (19%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (54%)</p> <p>LH42: High (8%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (19%)/ Low (19%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (54%)</p> <p>GL31: High (16%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (81%)</p> <p>GL33: High (16%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (84%)</p>		↑			↑	↑
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>North western parts of this LCA lie within the Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>A small part of this LCA lies within Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: High (27%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (62%)/</p> <p>Unassessed (11%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (73%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (25%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (92%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (8%)</p>		-			-	-

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³³ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>Although the large scale of this landscape may be indicative of a lowered sensitivity to wind energy development this is outweighed by the natural characteristics of this highly scenic upland mountain landscape which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the prominent peaks and skylines within this LCA together with a high degree of intervisibility with other sensitive LCAs and landscapes in North Wales. A relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity; this together with cultural heritage value further reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments in particular within ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of a limited number of domestic scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly scenic upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity to mobile mast development is further enhanced by the prominent peaks and skylines within this LCA together with a high degree of intervisibility with other sensitive LCAs and landscapes in North Wales. A relative lack of human influence imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity; this together with cultural heritage value further reinforces sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no further capacity for mobile mast developments in particular within ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

³³ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this highly scenic upland mountain landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park development is further enhanced by the exposed nature of the landscape and a relative lack of human influence which imparts a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity; reinforced by the cultural heritage value of the LCA.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. very large development - 2 no. medium development - 1 no. small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments in particular within ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed, very small to small scale developments to the north east).

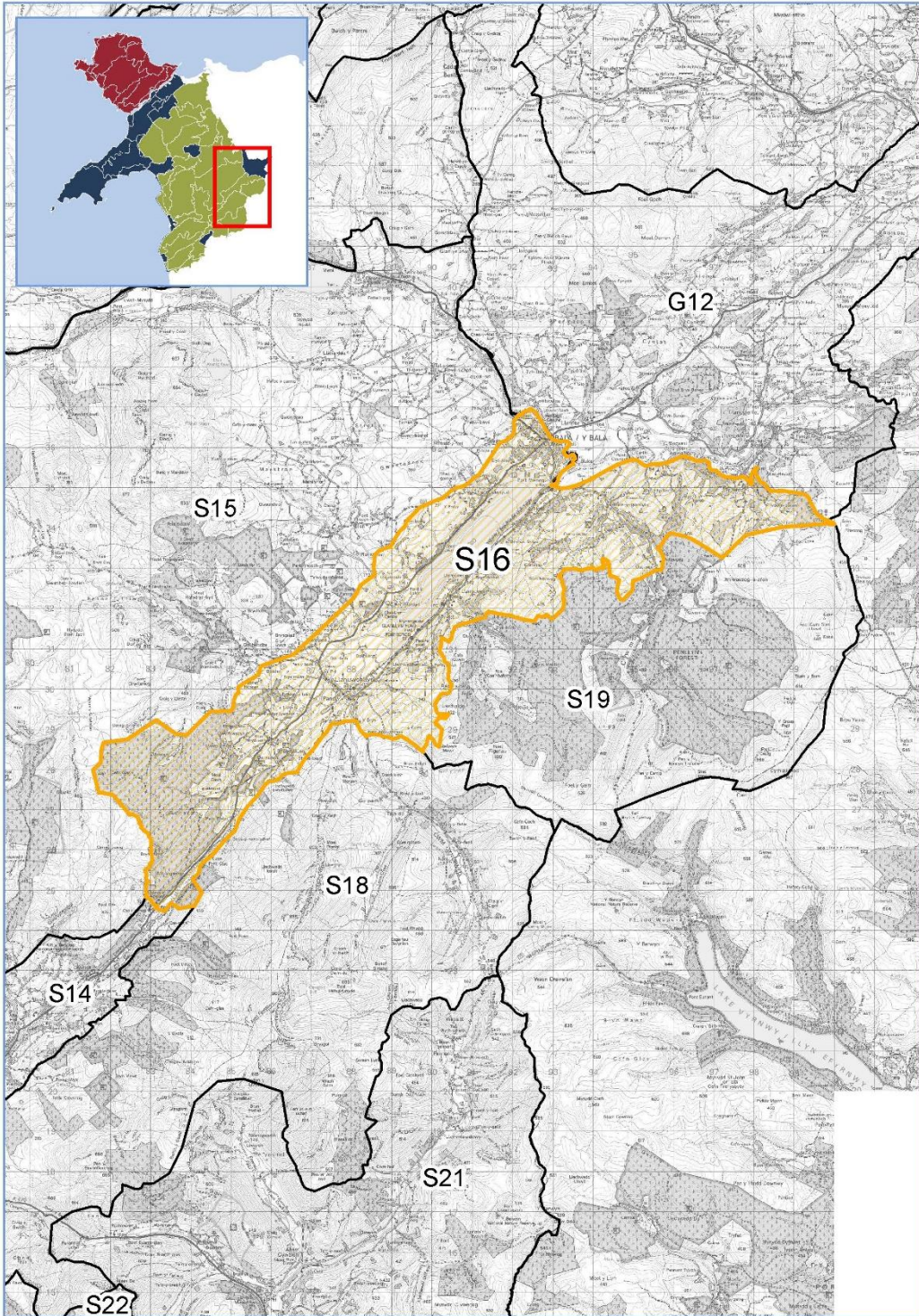
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Development should take account and conserve the special qualities of the Bala Hinterland Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Bala and Bala Lakesides and Trawsfynydd Basin and Cwm Prysor Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments such as 400 kV overhead lines. Siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	

Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular such as Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82) and Sustrans Regional Routes 13 and 15, and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S16 Llyn Tegid A Dyffryn Dyfrdwy



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprise the upper Dee Valley extending from Llyn Tegid (Lake Bala) in the east (which marks the eastern boundary of the National Park) to the watershed of the Afon Dyfrdwy and Afon Wnion in the south-west.

Key Characteristics

- Medium scale landscape
- U-shaped valley landform
- Large deep glacial lake

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (67%)/ <u>Large</u> (21%)/ <u>Vast</u> (13%)	-				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not Applicable					
	Landform	U-Shaped valley. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/ Plateau</u> (13%)/ <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (55%)/ <u>Inland Water (Including Associated Edge)</u> (8%)/ <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (23%) VS4: <u>Levels</u> (00%)/ <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (33%)/ <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> (35%)/ <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> (29%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	Strongly pastoral landscape with mosaic of small, irregular fields, scattered mature trees and small broadleaved woodlands. Pockets of unenclosed rough grassland and heathland on hill summits and upper slopes. Significant blocks and bands of coniferous and mixed plantations on valley sides to the south.	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>The Afon Dyfrdwy meanders through the landscape to the south feeding into Llyn Tegid (the largest natural lake in Wales) which dominates the valley floor.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic</u> (35%) / <u>Lake</u> (8%) / <u>Mosaic Lowland Valleys</u> (22%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> (13%) / <u>Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes</u> (20%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (13%) / <u>Field Pattern</u> / <u>Mosaic</u> (29%) / <u>Water</u> (8%) / <u>Woodland</u> (20%) / <u>Mixture</u> (31%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Man-made influences include the settlements of Bala and Llanuwchllyn; located on opposite ends of Llyn Tegid and connected by the relatively busy A494 and B4403 roads.</p> <p>Tourist developments, such as a number of static caravan/chalet parks, camping sites and car parks bring movement and activity to the area, in particular during the busier summer months. The Llyn Tegid Railway follows the southern shoreline of the Dee Valley.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Clustered</u> (10%) / <u>Village</u> (19%) / <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (35%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (33%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	-			-	↓
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Much of landscape within this LCA is rarely seen as a skyline feature ; however, the skylines created by the elevated parts of this LCA and adjacent upland areas are prominent ; these frame and provide a backdrop to views out of the valley.	↑			↑	

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Visual	Movement	Rail and road traffic brings frequent movement to parts of the LCA, together with boating and water sports activities on the lake. Elsewhere, movement is more infrequent. VS18: Occasional (21%) / <u>Frequent</u> (36%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (40%)	-				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	Views are typically open from the higher ground above Llyn Tegid with views more enclosed within the valley and by intervening landform and vegetation to the south. VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (29%) / <u>Exposed</u> (13%) / <u>Confined</u> (20%) / <u>Open</u> (39%) Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous properties particularly in Bala and Llanuwchllyn ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Sustrans regional routes 12, 13, 14 and 15 ▪ Local attractions including the Llyn Tegid Railway ▪ Local public rights of way ▪ The A4212 and A494 tourist routes ▪ The local road network ▪ Boats and water sports 	↑			↑	↑
	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Bala Hinterland SLA ▪ Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not applicable					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Small areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (41%)/ <u>Weak</u> (14%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (45%) /</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (45%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (35%)/ <u>Low</u> (20%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (49%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (51%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (42%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (55%)</p>	-			-	-
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>The presence of settlements and the transport network lowers the sense of remoteness and tranquillity although away from the settlements and main road corridors the sense of tranquillity and remoteness increases.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Tranquil</u> (8%)/<u>Sheltered</u> (21%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (13%)/ <u>Other</u> (57%)</p>	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas</p> <p>Small areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Moderate LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: High (14%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (86%)</p> <p>VS49: High (13%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (67%)/ Low (20)</p> <p>LH45: Outstanding (11%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (39%)/ <u>Low</u> (48%)</p> <p>LH42: Outstanding (11%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (39%)/ <u>Low</u> (48%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (79%)/ Low (20%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (79%)/ Low (20%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Much of this landscape lies within Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>The LCA fringes on a Registered Park and Garden to the north.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (83%)/ Moderate (17%)</p> <p>HL35: High (17%)/ Moderate (16%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (68%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (83%)/ Outstanding (17%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁴ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>The medium scale valley is located within the National Park and is characterised by a mosaic of small scale, irregular fields, scattered mature trees and small broadleaved woodlands which typically increases sensitivity.</p> <p>There are a number of key vistas and sensitive receptors in this LCA, including views to and from a number of landscape and cultural heritage features which further increases sensitivity. The area also has a high cultural heritage value.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence of modern man-made elements such as the town of Bala, villages, main roads and a narrow gauge railway which introduce frequent movement into this landscape thereby lowering sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>The medium scale valley is located within the National Park and is characterised by a mosaic of small scale, irregular fields, scattered mature trees and small broadleaved woodlands which typically increases sensitivity.</p> <p>There are a number of key vistas and sensitive receptors in this LCA, including views to and from a number of landscape and cultural heritage features which further increases sensitivity. The area also has a high cultural heritage value.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence of modern man-made elements such as the town of Bala, villages, main roads and a narrow gauge railway which introduce frequent movement into this landscape thereby lowering sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

³⁴ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	2 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments in particular within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium- High	<p>The medium scale valley is located within the National Park and is characterised by a mosaic of small scale, irregular fields, scattered mature trees and small broadleaved woodlands which typically increases sensitivity.</p> <p>There are a number of key vistas and sensitive receptors in this LCA, including views to and from a number of landscape and cultural heritage features and open views from the higher ground above Llyn Tegid which further increases sensitivity. The area also has a high cultural heritage value.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the presence of modern man-made elements such as the town of Bala, villages, main roads, a narrow gauge railway and existing static caravan/chalet parks which introduce frequent movement into this landscape thereby lowering sensitivity to further static caravan/chalet park development.</p>

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 3 no. medium developments - 1 no. small developments - 1 no. very small developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no further capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments in particular within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

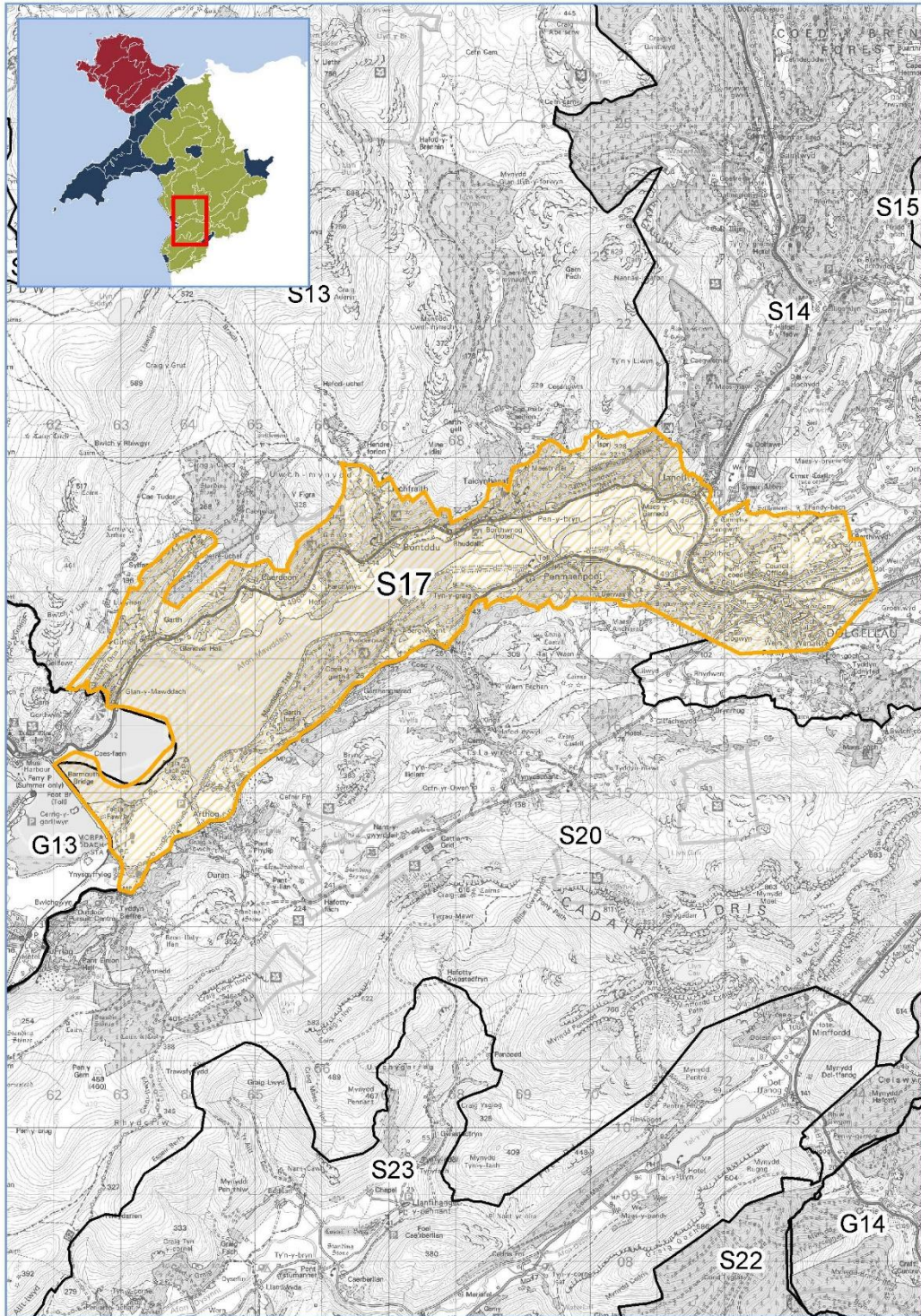
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.	✓	✓	✓

Development should take account and conserve the special qualities of the Bala Hinterland Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular such as Sustrans regional cycle routes 12, 13, 15 and 16 and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
As well as taking into account views from elevated isolated properties, siting should take into consideration important views from the more densely populated settlements of Bala and Llanuwchllyn. These settlements have a number of visitor attractions associated with them and a strong connection with the landscape in which they are situated.	✓	✓	✓

S17 Aber Y Fawddach



1:75,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA is focussed on the Mawddach Estuary, extending from Dolgellau in the east towards the fringes of the mouth of the estuary near Barmouth in the west.

Key Characteristics

- Medium scale landscape
- Broad open estuary flanked by steeply rising landform
- Extensive coniferous and broadleaved woodland
- Cultural heritage interest

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (77%) / <u>Large</u> (23%)	-				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Broad, flat estuary contained by steeply rising landform either side. VS Classification Level 2: Built land (6%) / Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes (21%) / Rolling Lowland (8%) / Lowland Valleys (20%) / <u>Coastal</u> (44%) VS4: Levels (21%) / High Hills/Mountains (8%) / <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> (45%) / Hills/ Valleys (26%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Landcover is typified by the estuary itself. Areas of grazing marsh are present on the estuary fringes together with pockets of small scale regular and irregular pastoral fields. The valley sides are dominated by extensive coniferous plantations and broadleaved woodlands . To the east there is a more	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>complex mosaic of small scale regular and irregular pastoral fields interspersed with small woodland blocks and numerous hedgerow trees.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (15%) / <u>Intertidal</u> (44%) / Mosaic Rolling lowland (7%) / Urban (6%) / Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes (6%) / Wooded Lowland Valleys (16%)</p> <p>VS5: Field Pattern/ Mosaic (26%) / Development (6%) / Woodland (7%) / <u>Mixture</u> (58%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Principally concentrated around the historic market town of Dolgellau and also along the A470, A496 and A493 main roads, including a number of static caravan/chalet parks, and a small number of wind turbines and mobile masts. The Grade II* Barmouth railway viaduct is a notable man-made feature to the far western edge of this LCA. Elsewhere, particularly on higher ground, man-made influences are much less evident.</p> <p>VS6: Urban (6%) / Village (15%) / <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (44%) / Mixture (7%) /</p> <p>No Settlements (8%)</p> <p>VS27: Fair (100%)</p>	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>Prominent landform within and surrounding this LCA, including Cadair Idris, creates distinctive skylines.</p>	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Local traffic within settlements, principally Dolgellau, and traffic along the main roads introduces frequent movement into much of the landscape. Away from the roads, movement is less frequent.</p> <p>VS18: Constant (6%) / Occasional (8%) / <u>Frequent</u> (49%) / Infrequent (36%)</p>	-				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical</p> <p>Although this landscape is typically enclosed by steep sided landform either side of the estuary, far reaching views are afforded from elevated vantage</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
<p>Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>points over the estuary to the coast and also inland to prominent mountains such as Cadair Idris.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (65%)/ <u>Open</u> (26%)/ <u>Confined</u> (6%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and a further link to NCN route 8 ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions including Barmouth Bridge ▪ Local public rights of way ▪ The A470, A494 and A493 tourist routes and Cambrian Coast Railway ▪ The local road network 					
<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Barmouth SLA ▪ Mawddach Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ▪ ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
<p>Condition</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>This landscape is highly scenic which is reflected in its designation as part of the National Park.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: Strong (31%) / Weak (7%) / <u>Moderate</u> (62%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (65%) / Moderate (23%) / Low (12%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (52%) / <u>Moderate</u> (42%) / Low (6%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (67%) / Moderate (27%) / Low (6%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>The main roads and activity concentrated around Dolgellau locally reduce the sense of tranquillity which is perceived elsewhere. Areas of higher ground are more remote in character.</p> <p>VS24: Attractive (23%) / Unattractive (6%) / Sheltered (8%) / Smell (21%) / <u>Other</u> (40%) /</p>	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and a further link to NCN route 8.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Undeveloped Coast with small parts of ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path runs along the western edge of this LCA.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (61%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (33%)/ <u>Low</u> (06%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (61%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (27%)/ <u>Low</u> (12%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (11%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (64%)/ <u>Low</u> (21%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (98%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (60%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (40%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (60%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (40%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Much of this LCA lies within the Mawddach Registered Historic Landscape with the majority of the remaining areas lying within the Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Registered Historic Parks and Gardens also lie within this LCA.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (22%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (18%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (54%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (7%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (93%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (22%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (78%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁵ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale, estuarine landscape is enclosed by steep valley sides and wholly contained within the National Park. The developed character, particularly to the east and along the main road network, lessens sensitivity.</p> <p>This is outweighed by the distinctive and scenic valley setting, much of which is defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. The panoramic views and high number of sensitive visual receptors, nationally designated cycle routes and two nationally important Historic Landscapes together with a high degree of intervisibility from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park, the Wales Coast Path and a Registered Park and Garden) enhances sensitivity further.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. domestic development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale, estuarine landscape is enclosed by steep valley sides and wholly contained within the National Park. The developed character, particularly to the east and along the main road network, lessens sensitivity. Furthermore, the extensive areas of woodland do provide potential to mitigate and accommodate such development.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the distinctive and scenic valley setting, much of which is defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast. The panoramic views and high number of sensitive visual receptors, nationally designated cycle routes and two nationally important Historic Landscapes together with a high degree of intervisibility from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park, the Wales Coast Path and a Registered Park and Garden) enhances sensitivity further.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

³⁵ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	8 no. mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast, (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments, particularly around more heavily populated areas such as Dolgellau.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale, estuarine landscape is enclosed by steep valley sides and wholly contained within the National Park. The developed character, particularly to the east and along the main road network, lessens sensitivity. Furthermore, the extensive areas of woodland provide potential to mitigate and accommodate such development.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the distinctive and scenic valley setting, much of which is defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast, the panoramic views and high number of sensitive visual receptors, nationally designated cycle routes and two nationally important Historic Landscapes together with a high degree of intervisibility from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park, the Wales Coast Path and a Registered Park and Garden) enhance sensitivity further.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. medium development - 2 no. small developments - 1 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no further capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

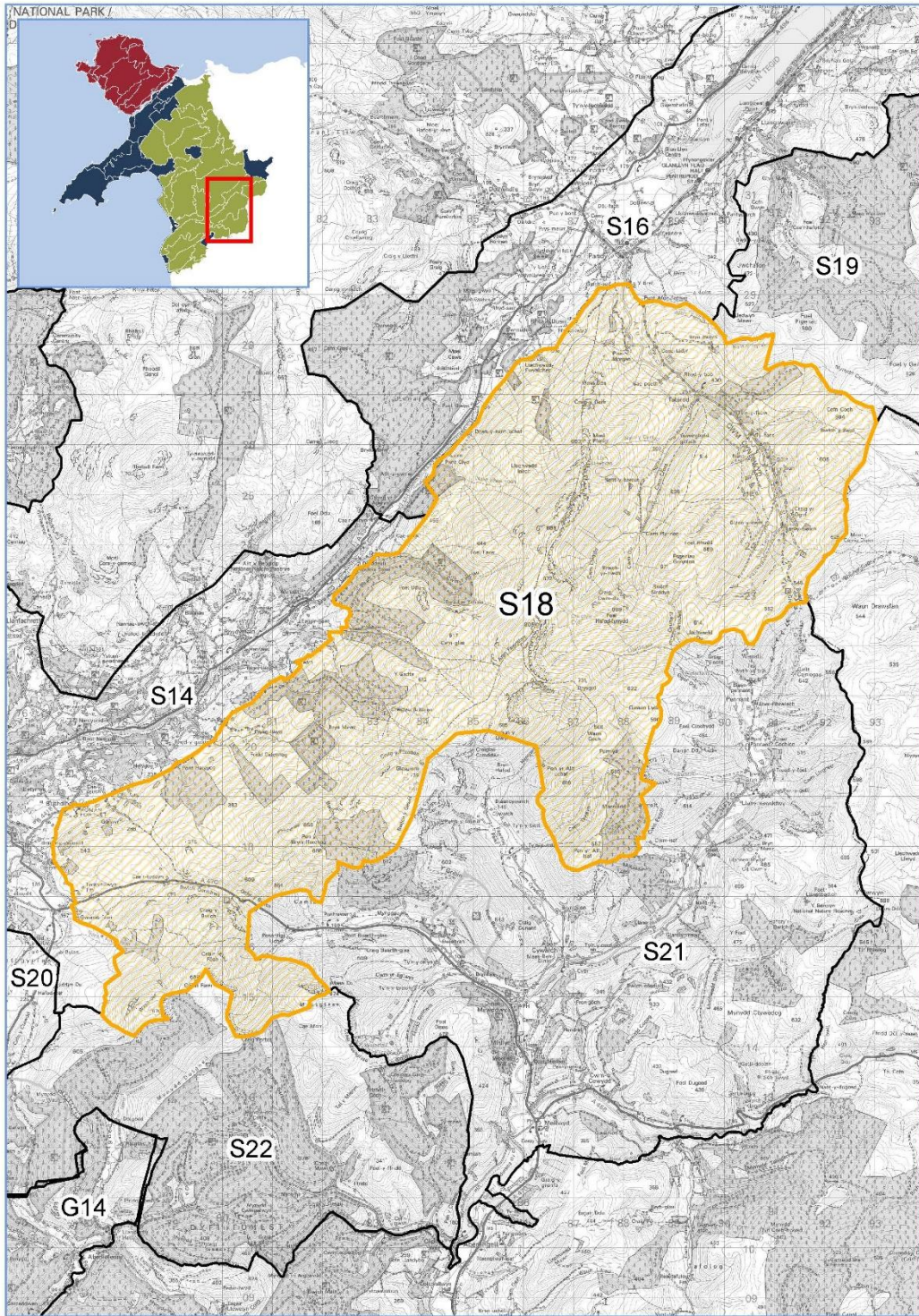
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Barmouth Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓

Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seawards and towards the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Mawddach and Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and important local attractions such as Barmouth Bridge; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8), a further link to NCN route 8 and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid impacts upon areas defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast and upon their setting.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A470, A494 and A493 and the Cambrian Coast Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
As well as taking into account views from elevated isolated properties, siting should take into consideration important views from the more densely populated settlement of Dolgellau. The town has a number of visitor attractions associated with it and a strong connection with the landscape in which it is situated.	✓	✓	✓

S18 Mynyddoedd Yr Aran



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Location and Extent

This LCA extends to the Afon Twrch and Cwm Cynllwyd valley to the north and encompasses the main Aran ridgeline running south west towards Dolgellau and extends to Bwlch y Groes near the eastern boundary of the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- A vast mountainous upland landscape
- Prominent and remote open mountain ridgeline

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast landscape. VS8: Medium (13%)/ Large (6%)/ <u>Vast</u> (81%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Landform is typified by high hills and mountains with a prominent ridgeline running along the LCA. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (86%)/ Lowland valleys (6%) / Upland Valleys (5%) / VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (87%)/ Hills/ Valleys (11%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Although the main Aran ridgeline is typified by rugged and rocky landcover much of this LCA is dominated by open upland moorland punctuated to the west by large conifer plantations . There is a localised network of irregular pastures on the valley floors. VS Classification Level 3: Barren/ Rocky upland (5%)/ Mosaic Lowland Valleys (6%)/ Open Upland Valleys (5%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> (81%)	-			-	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
	VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (86%)/ <u>Field Pattern</u> / <u>Mosaic</u> (11%)					
Man-made Influences	<p>With the exception of the A470 to the south west man-made influences are limited. This LCA is predominantly unsettled and devoid of roads.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (7%)/ <u>Clustered</u> (6%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (87%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Good</u> (5%)/ <u>Fair</u> (95%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Prominent landform within this LCA creates dramatic skylines .	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Infrequent movement within this landscape imparts a still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (6%) / <u>Frequent</u> (6%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (89%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically exposed and far reaching within this LCA. Extensive panoramic views are afforded towards the main Snowdonia peaks of Rhinogau and Cadair Idris and eastwards across the wider Berwyn Mountains, including the nearby Lake Vyrnwy.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (6%)/ <u>Open</u> (8%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (86%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relatively few properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Sustrans regional route 12 and national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A470 and A494 tourist routes ▪ The limited local road network 	↑			↑	↑
	<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Bala and Bala Lakeside Registered Historic Landscape 	↑			↑	

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
each Landscape Character Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 						
Condition	Not applicable						
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding . VS25: <u>Strong</u> (87%) / Moderate (13%) / VS46: <u>High</u> (94%) / Outstanding (5%) VS47: <u>High</u> (89%) / Moderate (6%) / Outstanding (5%) VS48: <u>High</u> (82%) / Moderate (13%) / Outstanding (5%)		↑		↑	↑	
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity Much of this landscape has a wild, remote and tranquil character. VS24: Wild (5%) / <u>Exposed</u> (81%) / Other (13%)		↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (81%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (14%)/ Outstanding (5%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (81%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (13%)/ Outstanding (5%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>Low</u> (85%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (8%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (36%)/ (<u>blank</u>) (64%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (14%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (86%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (14%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (86%)</p>						
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>A small part of this LCA to the south west falls within the Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>A very small part to the north of this LCA lies within the outer fringes of the Bala and Bala Lakeside Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (100%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>Moderate</u> (86%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (10%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (100%)</p>						

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁶ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	This is a vast and largely unpopulated upland landscape with large areas of exposed open moorland and blocks of coniferous plantation. Although these characteristics may be indicative of a reduced sensitivity to wind energy development, they are far outweighed by the high scenic quality, distinctive mountainous character and dramatic skylines of the LCA which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. This is heightened by much of this area being defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty and the presence of the prominent Aran ridgeline which is a key feature of the LCA and from which wind energy development may significantly detract. Such development may also effect the extensive and panoramic views available from the LCA and this, together with the presence of highly sensitive visual receptors, a high degree of intervisibility from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park) and two nationally important Historic Landscapes greatly increases sensitivity.
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. micro development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	This vast and largely unpopulated upland landscape, is lacking in man-made influence, with large areas of open moorland and blocks of coniferous plantation. The high scenic quality, distinctive mountainous character and dramatic skylines of the LCA impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. This is heightened by much of this area being defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty and the presence of the prominent Aran ridgeline which is a key feature of the LCA and from which mobile mast development may significantly detract. Such development may also effect the extensive and panoramic views available from the LCA and this together with the presence of highly sensitive visual receptors, a high degree of intervisibility from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park) and two nationally important Historic Landscapes greatly increases sensitivity.
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

³⁶ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 7 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This vast and largely unpopulated upland landscape has significant areas of open moorland and is lacking in man-made influences. Together with the high scenic quality and distinctive mountainous character of this LCA imparts a high degree of sensitivity and has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The nature and arrangement of static caravan/chalet park development typically conflicts with the natural characteristics of much of this landscape. Such development may also effect the extensive and panoramic views available to and from the LCA and this, together with the presence of highly sensitive visual receptors, a high degree of intervisibility from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park) and two nationally important Historic Landscapes greatly increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented static caravan/chalet park developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

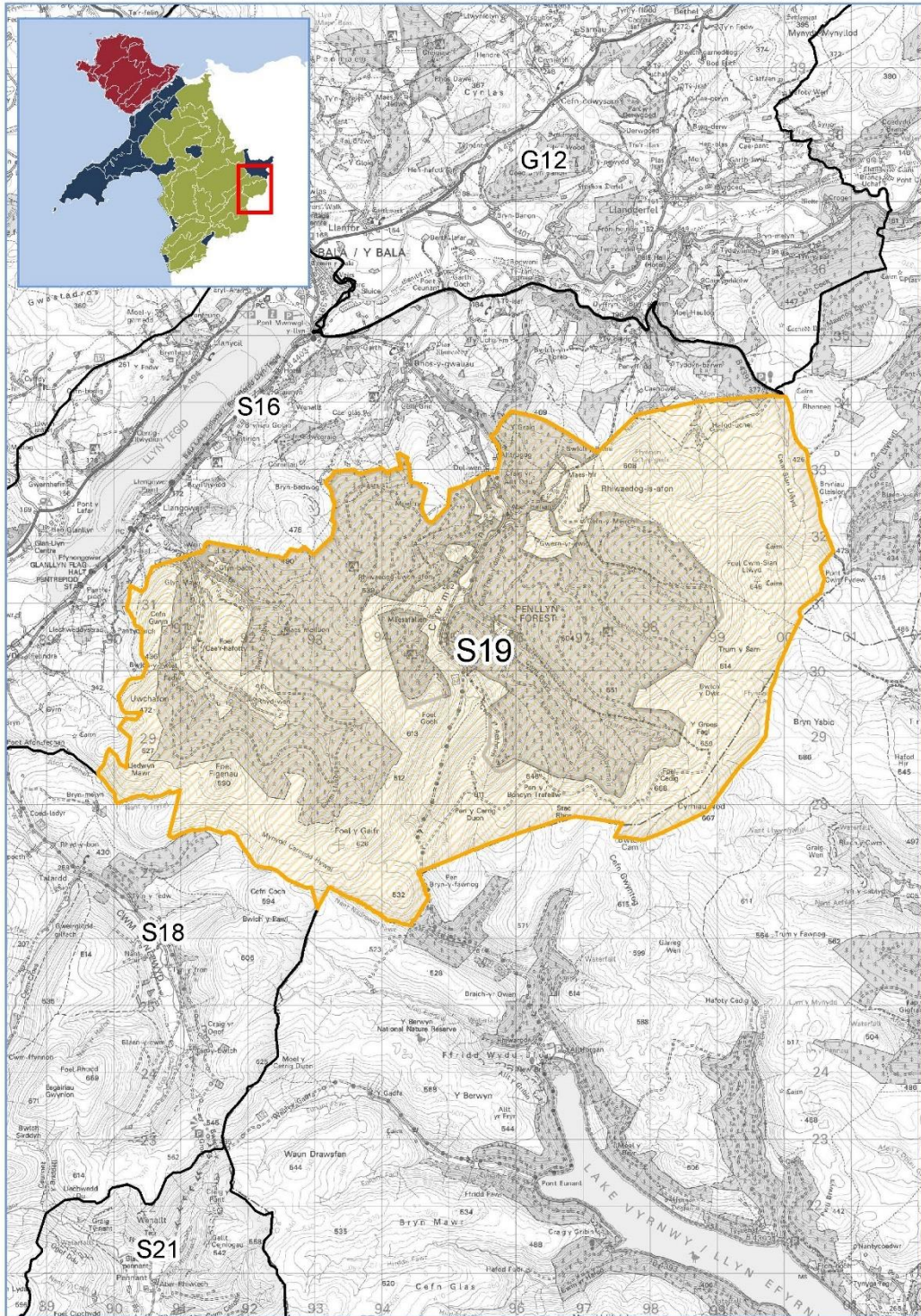
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.			
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly towards the National Park...	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Bala and Bala Lakesides and the Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓

Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Sustrans Regional Route 12, national cycle route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A470 tourist route.			
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S19 Coedwig Penllyn



1:75,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA is centred on Penllyn Forest to the south eastern corner of the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- A landscape which is large to vast in scale
- Extensive coniferous plantation
- Upland moorland rises above scarp slopes and wooded hillsides
- A number of fast flowing streams and waterfalls forming the headwaters of the rivers below

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large to vast landscape. VS8: Large (50%)/ Vast (47%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Landform is typified by upland plateau and a series of rounded hills broken by scarp slopes . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (47%) / <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (50%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (95%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	Extensive coniferous plantations , outside of which, exposed heather upland heath dominates with farmed pastoral fields found on the valley floors. VS Classification Level 3: <u>Upland Moorland</u> (47%) / <u>Wooded Hillside and Scarp Slopes</u> (50%) VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (47%)/ <u>Woodland</u> (50%)	↓			↓	↓

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Man-made Influences	<p>This landscape is mainly unsettled with little modern development. Modern day human influences are limited to large areas of commercial coniferous plantation.</p> <p>VS6: <u>No Settlements</u> (97%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (98%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	<p>Heavily undulating and largely uninterrupted skylines are created by the rounded hills within this LCA. Large blocks of coniferous plantation are features of some of the higher skylines.</p>	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>A lack of settlement and road networks means there is only occasional and infrequent movement within this landscape, which imparts a still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (50%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (48%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are often enclosed by steep sided landform or by the extensive areas of plantation. Where landform and landcover permits, views become far reaching and at times panoramic with scenic views north and west and strong intervisibility with the Berwyn Mountains and Lake Vyrnwy.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Confined</u> (50%) / <u>Exposed</u> (47%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relatively few properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Sustrans regional route 12 ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The limited local road network 	-			-	-
	<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB ▪ Cynwyd and Llandrillo AOB (within Denbighshire) ▪ Bala Hinterland SLA 	↑			↑	

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanat Valley Registered Historic Landscape Berwyn Registered Historic Landscape Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscape ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 					
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>This landscape is highly scenic and has a strong sense of place which is reflected in its designation as part of the National Park.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (97%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (50%) / <u>Low</u> (50%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (100%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (100%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	<p>Remoteness/Tranquillity</p> <p>This landscape has a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Sheltered</u> (53%) / <u>Exposed</u> (45%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (50%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (50%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (47%)/ <u>Low</u> (50%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (46%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (42%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (98%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (98%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (98%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Cefn Gwyn to the west falls within the Bala and Bala Lakeside Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Moderate.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (98%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>Moderate</u> (98%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (98%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁷ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

³⁷ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>A predominantly unsettled, upland plateau landscape, large to vast in scale and typified by upland moorland and extensive coniferous plantation. Although these characteristics may be indicative of a reduced sensitivity to wind energy development, they are counterbalanced by the high scenic quality, distinctive mountainous character and prominent skylines of the LCA which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. This together with a notable lack of modern day human influence (limited to commercial plantations interspersed by a network of forest access tracks) enhances sensitivity. Parts of this area are also defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Wind energy development may affect the extensive and panoramic views available from parts of this LCA. There is a high degree of intervisibility with other important landscape and cultural heritage features including other parts of the National Park, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Bala Hinterland SLA and three nationally important Historic Landscapes which further increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>A predominantly unsettled, upland plateau landscape, large to vast in scale and typified by upland moorland and extensive coniferous plantation. Although these characteristics may be indicative of a reduced sensitivity to mobile mast development, they are counterbalanced by the high scenic quality, distinctive mountainous character and prominent skylines of the LCA which impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. This together with a notable lack of modern day human influence (limited to commercial plantations interspersed by a network of forest access tracks) enhances sensitivity. Parts of this area are also defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Mobile mast development may affect the extensive and panoramic views available from parts of this LCA. There is a high degree of intervisibility with other important landscape and cultural heritage features including other parts of the National Park, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Bala Hinterland SLA and three nationally important Historic Landscapes which further increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

High	<p>This LCA comprises a vast and predominantly unsettled upland landscape with significant areas of open moorland and extensive coniferous plantations. Overt man-made influence within this LCA is limited to commercial plantations which are interspersed with a network of forest access tracks. The high scenic quality and distinctive mountainous character of this LCA imparts a high degree of sensitivity and has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Parts of this area are also defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty. Although the plantations may offer potential screening opportunities and are indicative of lower visual sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park developments, the nature and arrangement of such development typically conflicts with the natural characteristics of many parts of this landscape.</p>
	<p>There is a high degree of intervisibility to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park) and two nationally important Historic Landscapes which further increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented static caravan/chalet park developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

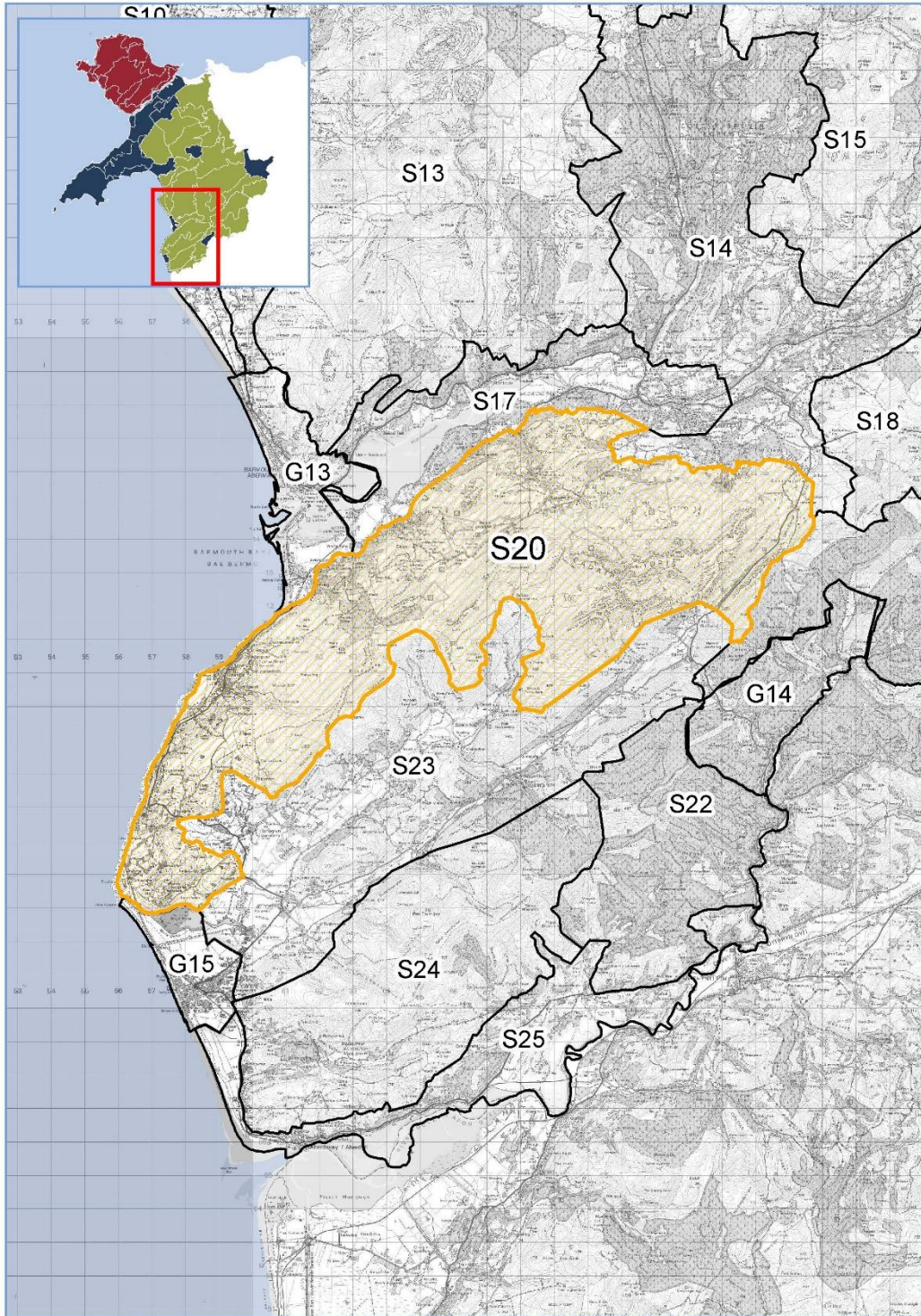
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the effects of development on views to and from Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.	✓	✓	✓
Development should take account and conserve the special qualities of the Bala Hinterland Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Tanat Valley, Berwyn and Bala and Bala Lakesides Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	

Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Sustrans regional route 12 and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S20 Cadair Idris



1:150,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises the uplands immediately south of the Mawddach Estuary extending south east to include the Cadair Idris massif and south west to the settlement of Llwyngwriol on the coast.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale, mountainous landscape extending to the coast
- Open summits and slopes contrast with well wooded valleys
- Cultural heritage interest

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: Medium <small>(30%)</small> / <u>Large</u> <small>(58%)</small> / Vast <small>(12%)</small>	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Typified by high hills and mountains extending to a narrow coastal strip. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> <small>(48%)</small> / <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> <small>(46%)</small> VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> <small>(48%)</small> / <u>Rolling/Undulating</u> <small>(44%)</small> / <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> <small>(6%)</small>	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Craggy open mountain summits and scarp slopes. Upland moorland surrounded by improved pastures. Small scale irregular fields are interspersed with woodland within the valleys and lower elevations including several large conifer plantations.	-			↑	↑

		VS Classification Level 3: Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (21%) / Barren / Rocky Upland (11%) / <u>Upland Moorland</u> (37%) / Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing (25%) VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (39%) / <u>Field Pattern</u> / <u>Mosaic</u> (47%) / Mixture (14%)					
	Man-made Influences	Much of this LCA is unsettled. Development concentrated along a narrow coastal strip to the west and including the A493, the Cambrian Coast Railway, small settlements, a number of static caravan/chalet parks and a disused quarry, together with a couple of telecommunication masts and wind turbines. The A487 runs down the far eastern edge of the LCA. VS6: Village (23%) / Scattered Rural / Farm (25%) / No Settlements (62%) VS27: Fair (100%)	↑			↑	↑
	Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
	Skylines and Settings	Prominent landform within this LCA creates distinctive skylines.	↑			↑	
Visual	Movement	With the exception of frequent road traffic along a narrow coastal strip to the far west and on the A487 to the east this landscape has a still character. VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (46%) / <u>Frequent</u> (30%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (24%)	↑				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	Views are typically open and exposed within this LCA and can be far reaching towards the coast and beyond the National Park. VS9: <u>Open</u> (49%) / <u>Exposed</u> (48%) Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and a further short link between the two ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A493 and A487 tourist routes and the Cambrian Coast Railway ▪ The local road network 	↑			↑	↑

	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Barmouth SLA ▪ Upper Corris SLA ▪ Arduwy Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Mawddach Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Hillforts ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ▪ ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not Applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (12%)/<u>Moderate</u> (88%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (51%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (46%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (48%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (52%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (60%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (29%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (11%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity	<p>The tranquillity and remoteness of much of this landscape imparts a sense of wilderness in places.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Wild</u> (11%) / <u>Exposed</u> (62%) / <u>Other</u> (23%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and a further short link between the two.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. The LCA also includes areas defined within ELDP as Area of Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path also runs along the western edge of this LCA.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p>	↑			↑	↑

	<p>VS50: <u>High</u> (60%) / <u>Moderate</u> (29%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (11%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (60%) / <u>Moderate</u> (29%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (11%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (14%) / <u>Low</u> (6%) / <u>Moderate</u> (37%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (43%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>High</u> (16%) / <u>Unassessed</u> (83%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (100%)</p>				
Historic Value	<p>Much of this LCA lies within the Mawddach Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Small parts of the LCA also lie within the Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape and Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include hillforts.</p> <p>This area also includes hillforts.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (46%) / <u>Moderate</u> (26%) / <u>Unassessed</u> (28%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (52%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (45%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (51%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (45%)</p>	↑		↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁸ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

³⁸ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this distinctive and highly scenic mountainous upland landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of the area is defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Away from the immediate coastline, the large scale landscape is typically unsettled and has few local roads; imparting a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness and a sense of wilderness in places.</p>
	<p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the high cultural heritage value of the landscape and the presence of some prominent and distinctive skylines, formed by mountains and ridgelines such as Cadair Idris. There is a high degree of intervisibility with adjoining landscapes and far reaching views to the coast, and beyond the National Park.</p> <p>Sensitivity within localised western parts of this LCA is marginally reduced due to the influence of existing modern development.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	2 no. domestic developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this distinctive and highly scenic mountainous upland landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of the area is defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Away from the immediate coastline, the large scale landscape is typically unsettled and has few local roads; imparting a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness and a sense of wilderness in places.</p>
	<p>Sensitivity to mobile mast development is further enhanced by the high cultural heritage value of the landscape and the presence of some prominent and distinctive skylines, formed by mountains and ridgelines such as Cadair Idris. There is a high degree of intervisibility with adjoining landscapes and far reaching views to the coast, and beyond the National Park.</p> <p>Sensitivity within localised western parts of this LCA is marginally reduced due to the influence of existing modern development.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 3 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and EDLP Undeveloped Coast, (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>The natural characteristics of this distinctive and highly scenic mountainous upland landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of the area is defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Away from the immediate coastline, the large scale landscape is typically unsettled and has few local roads. The tranquillity and remoteness of much of this landscape imparts a sense of wilderness in places which increases sensitivity.</p> <p>This is further enhanced by the sensitive nature and numbers of visual receptors, a high degree of intervisibility and far reaching views to the coast, and beyond the National Park together with the high landscape and cultural heritage value of the landscape.</p> <p>Sensitivity within localised western parts of this LCA is marginally reduced due to the influence of existing static caravan/chalet parks.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. very large development - 1 no. large development - 1 no. small developments - 2 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

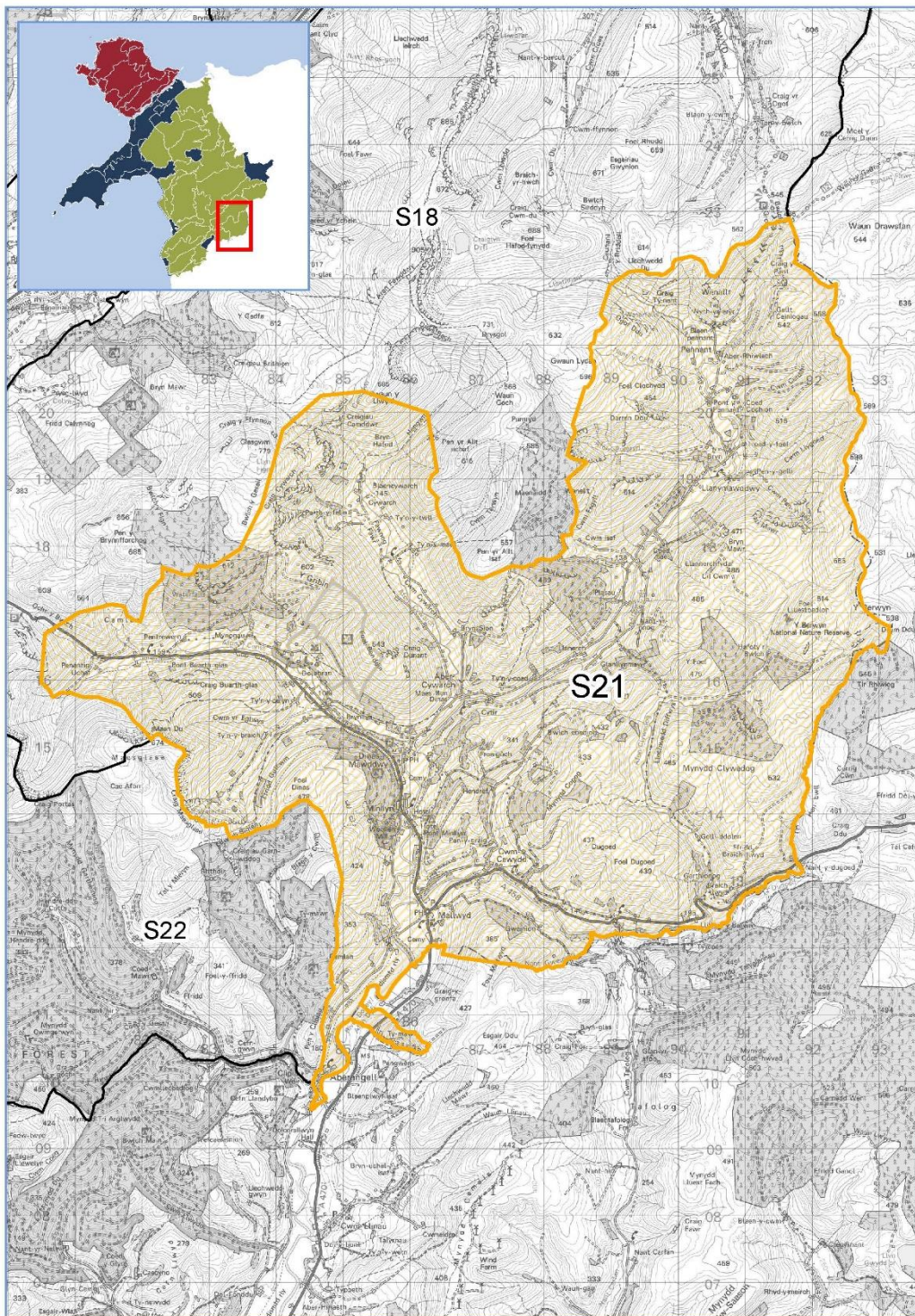
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Barmouth and Upper Corris Special Landscape Areas.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seaward and towards the uplands of the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Ardudwy, Vale of Dolgellau, Mawddach and Dysynni Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓

Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as the Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Bangor to Fishguard (NCN route 82), route Lôn Las Cymru cycle route (NCN route 8) and a further short link between the two., and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development along the coastline and its immediate setting, in particular avoiding areas defined as ELDP Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A493 and A487 and the Cambrian Coast Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features	✓	✓	

S21 Pen Dyffryn Dyfi



1:75,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA is located to the far south east of the National Park

Key Characteristics

- Large to vast in scale
- Network of steep sided U-shaped valleys between high hills and mountains

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a vast landscape. VS8: <u>Large</u> (38%)/ <u>Vast</u> (62%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Landform is typified by steep sided U-shaped valleys between high hills and mountains . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (62%)/ <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (37%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (62%)/ <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> (37%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Extensive grazed upland moorland on hill summits and valley sides with some large coniferous plantations contrasting with a mosaic of small-scale pastures interspersed with mature hedgerow trees and clumps of woodland located along the valley floors. VS Classification Level 3: <u>Mosaic Lowland Valleys</u> (38%)/ <u>Upland Moorland</u> (62%) VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (62%)/ <u>Field Pattern/ Mosaic</u> (38%)	-			-	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Man-made Influences	<p>Man-made influences are limited to the A470 and A458 main road corridors and include a number of mobile masts. Isolated properties and minor roads are located along the valley floors and there is a concentration of development including static caravan/chalet parks around the historic village of Dinas-Mawddwy. The higher parts of this LCA remain unsettled and relatively devoid of human influence.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Village</u> (37%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (62%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (99%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Landform within this LCA creates some prominent skylines .	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Road traffic along the A458 and A470 brings frequent movement to the south west of this LCA, elsewhere along the valley floors movement is less frequent and the higher ground has a still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Frequent</u> (37%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (62%)</p>	-				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Much of this landscape is exposed with far reaching panoramic views over the National Park and across the Berwyn Mountains from areas of high ground. In contrast views within the deep valley floors are enclosed.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (37%) / <u>Exposed</u> (62%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Berwyn Mountains ▪ Short section of Sustrans regional route 12 runs along the boundary to the north east ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A458 and A470 tourist route ▪ The local road network 	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty. Typical High LANDMAP evaluation. VS25: <u>Strong</u> (63%) / <u>Moderate</u> (37%) VS46: <u>High</u> (100%) VS47: <u>High</u> (100%) VS48: <u>High</u> (100%)	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity Typically a tranquil and relatively remote landscape. VS24: <u>Settled</u> (37%) / <u>Exposed</u> (62%)	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas.</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High-Outstanding LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (100%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (62%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (38%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (9%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (25%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (28%)/ <u>Low</u> (38%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (71%)/ (blank) (28%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (5%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (95%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (5%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (95%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (67%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (32%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (33%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (67%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (100%)/</p>	↑			↑	↑

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types³⁹ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

³⁹ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Very High	<p>This LCA is referred to in the 'Landscapes of Eryri Supplementary Planning Guidance' as a 'gateway' to the National Park; it comprises a network of steep sided valleys which lie between the high hills and mountains that form prominent and distinctive skylines throughout this area. Scattered settlement is limited to the relatively tranquil valley floors. Here modern development includes several existing telecommunications/mobile masts. In areas of higher ground the sense of remoteness, tranquillity and scenic quality of the landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in the designation of this landscape within Snowdonia National Park. Elevated parts are also defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The expansive views afforded to and from this LCA and other areas of the National Park and the Berwyn Mountains enhances sensitivity further.</p>
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LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

Very High	<p>This LCA is referred to in the 'Landscapes of Eryri Supplementary Planning Guidance' as a 'gateway' to the National Park; it comprises a network of steep sided valleys which lie between the high hills and mountains that form prominent and distinctive skylines throughout this area. Scattered settlement is limited to the relatively tranquil valley floors together with associated modern development including several existing telecommunications/mobile masts which locally reduce sensitivity. In areas of higher ground the sense of remoteness, tranquillity and scenic quality of the landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in the designation of this landscape within Snowdonia National Park. Elevated parts are also defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The expansive views afforded to and from this LCA and other areas of the National Park and the Berwyn Mountains further increases sensitivity in areas of higher more open ground.</p>
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LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 3 no. mobile mast developments - 3 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

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Very High	<p>This LCA is referred to in the 'Landscapes of Eryri Supplementary Planning Guidance' as a 'gateway' to the National Park; it comprises a network of steep sided valleys which lie between the high hills and mountains. Scattered settlement is limited to the relatively tranquil valley floors where associated modern development includes several telecommunications/mobile masts and existing static caravan/chalet parks which locally reduce sensitivity. In areas of higher ground the sense of remoteness and tranquillity and scenic quality of the landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in the designation of this landscape within Snowdonia National Park. Elevated parts are also defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>The expansive views afforded to and from this LCA and other areas of the National Park and the Berwyn Mountains further increases sensitivity in areas of more open higher ground.</p>
	LANDSCAPE STRATEGY
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. medium developments - 1 no. small developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity within the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty for static caravan/chalet park developments. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

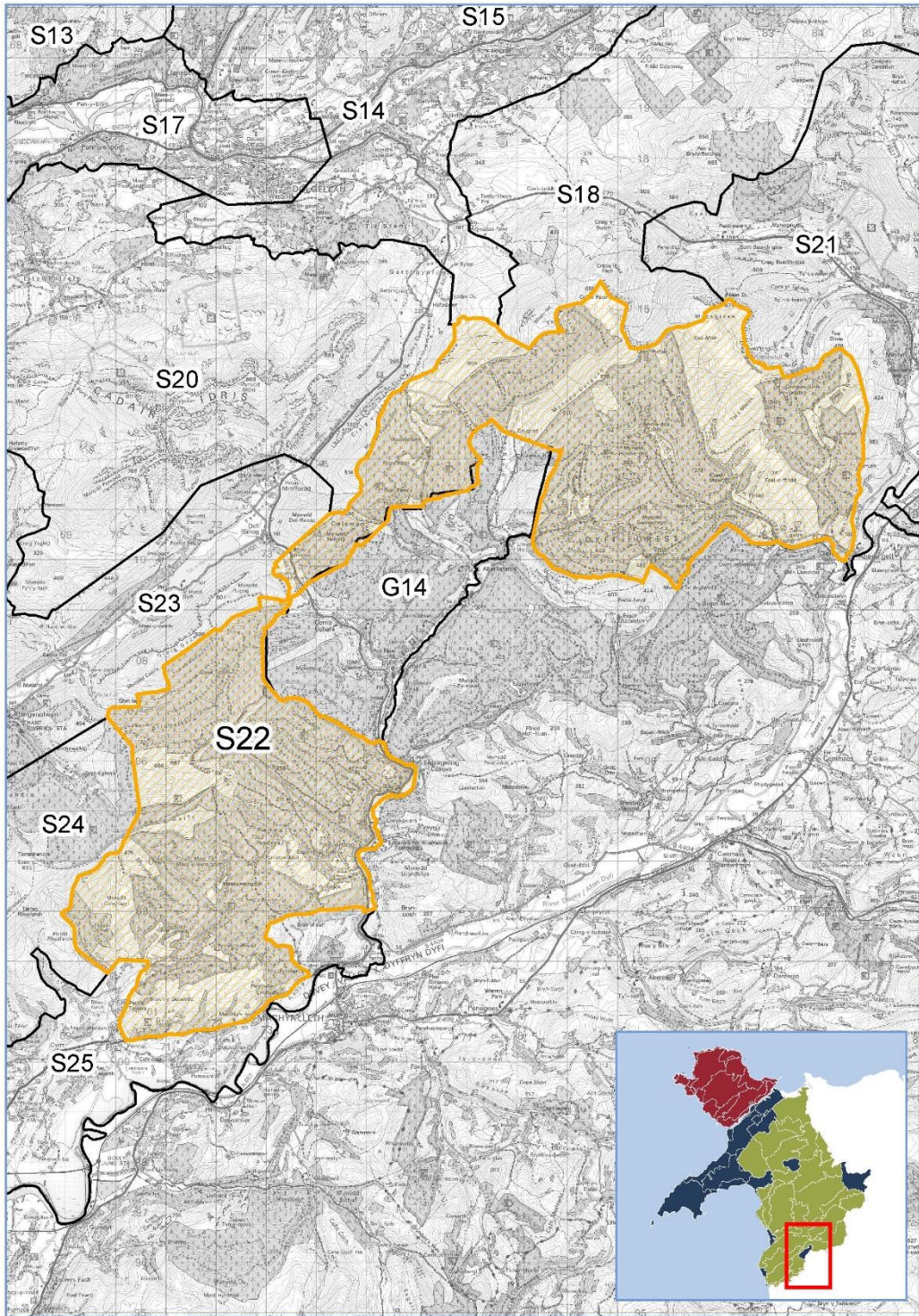
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views.	✓	✓	
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features and important tourist destinations such as the Berwyn Mountains and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓

Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Sustrans regional route 12 and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on the A458 and A470 tourist routes.			
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S22 Coedwig Dyfi



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Location and Extent

A heavily forested LCA which includes higher ground and upper valleys above Corris and Corris Uchaf. This landscape forms the central-southern fringe of the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly a large scale landscape
- Complex landform of extremely steep valleys with rounded hill summits cutting through upland landscape
- Almost entirely covered in coniferous plantation

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: Medium (5%) / <u>Large</u> (83%) / Vast (12%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Complex landform of extremely steep valleys with rounded hill summits cutting through upland landscape. VS Classification Level 2: Exposed Upland/Plateau (14%) / <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (81%) / Lowland Valleys (5%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (95%) / Hills/ Valleys (5%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Almost entirely covered in coniferous plantation with narrow bands of broadleaved woodland along valley sides. VS Classification Level 3: Upland Moorland (12%) / <u>Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes</u> (81%) VS5: Open Land (14%) / Field Pattern/ Mosaic (5%) / <u>Woodland</u> (81%)	↓			↓	↓

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Man-made Influences	<p>Man-made influences limited to disused quarries and tips. The most notable human influence in this LCA are the extensive areas of commercial coniferous plantation.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Village</u> (5%) / <u>No Settlements</u> (95%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (96%)</p>	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Prominent landform within this LCA creates distinctive skylines.	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Occasional and infrequent movement within this landscape imparts a still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (83%) / <u>Frequent</u> (5%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (12%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically confined within this LCA. Away from wooded areas and where landform and elevation allows, there are extensive views of the Dyfi Valley, Cadair Idris and Aran Ranges.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (5%) / <u>Confined</u> (81%) / <u>Exposed</u> (14%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relatively few properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including the Welsh Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8) and regional route 80 ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ The A493 and A487 tourist routes ▪ Local public rights of way ▪ The A487 and A493 tourist routes ▪ The limited local road network 	-			-	-
	<p>Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Corris SLA ▪ Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscapes ▪ Registered Park and Garden 	↑			↑	

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) 					
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character Includes areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty. Typically High LANDMAP evaluation. VS25: <u>Strong</u> (93%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (7%) VS46: <u>High</u> (14%)/ <u>Low</u> (81%) VS47: <u>High</u> (100%) VS48: <u>High</u> (100%)	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity An isolated landscape with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity. VS24: <u>Settled</u> (5%)/ <u>Sheltered</u> (81%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (12%)	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle routes from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82) and route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8).</p> <p>Includes areas defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typically High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (19%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (81%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (14%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (5%)/ <u>Low</u> (81%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (32%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (19%)/ <u>Low</u> (49%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>Unassessed</u> (89%)/ (blank) (11%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (66%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (34%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (66%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (34%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (100%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>Moderate</u> (99%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (54%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (46%)</p>	-			-	-

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types⁴⁰ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

⁴⁰ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This typically large scale, upland landscape is dominated by extensive coniferous plantations and the presence of sensitive visual receptors within the LCA is limited; thus indicative of a lowered landscape and visual sensitivity.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the fact that this landscape is largely devoid of modern development and has relatively few local roads which imparts a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The area’s inclusion within the National Park and its strong associations and intervisibility with highly valued, historic landscapes also increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented wind energy developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Area of Natural Beauty.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This typically large scale, upland landscape is dominated by extensive coniferous plantations. The presence of sensitive visual receptors within the LCA is limited and extensive areas of woodland provide potential to mitigate and accommodate such development; thus indicative of a lowered landscape and visual sensitivity.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the fact that this landscape is largely devoid of modern development and has relatively few local roads which imparts a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The area’s inclusion within the National Park and its strong associations and intervisibility with highly valued, historic landscapes also increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented mobile mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This typically large scale, upland landscape is dominated by extensive coniferous plantations. The presence of sensitive visual receptors within the LCA is limited and extensive areas of woodland provide potential to mitigate and accommodate such development, thus indicative of a lowered landscape and visual sensitivity.</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the fact that this landscape is predominantly devoid of modern development and has relatively few local roads which imparts a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The varied mountainous landform of the LCA and the area’s inclusion within the National Park and its strong associations with highly valued, historic landscapes also increase sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

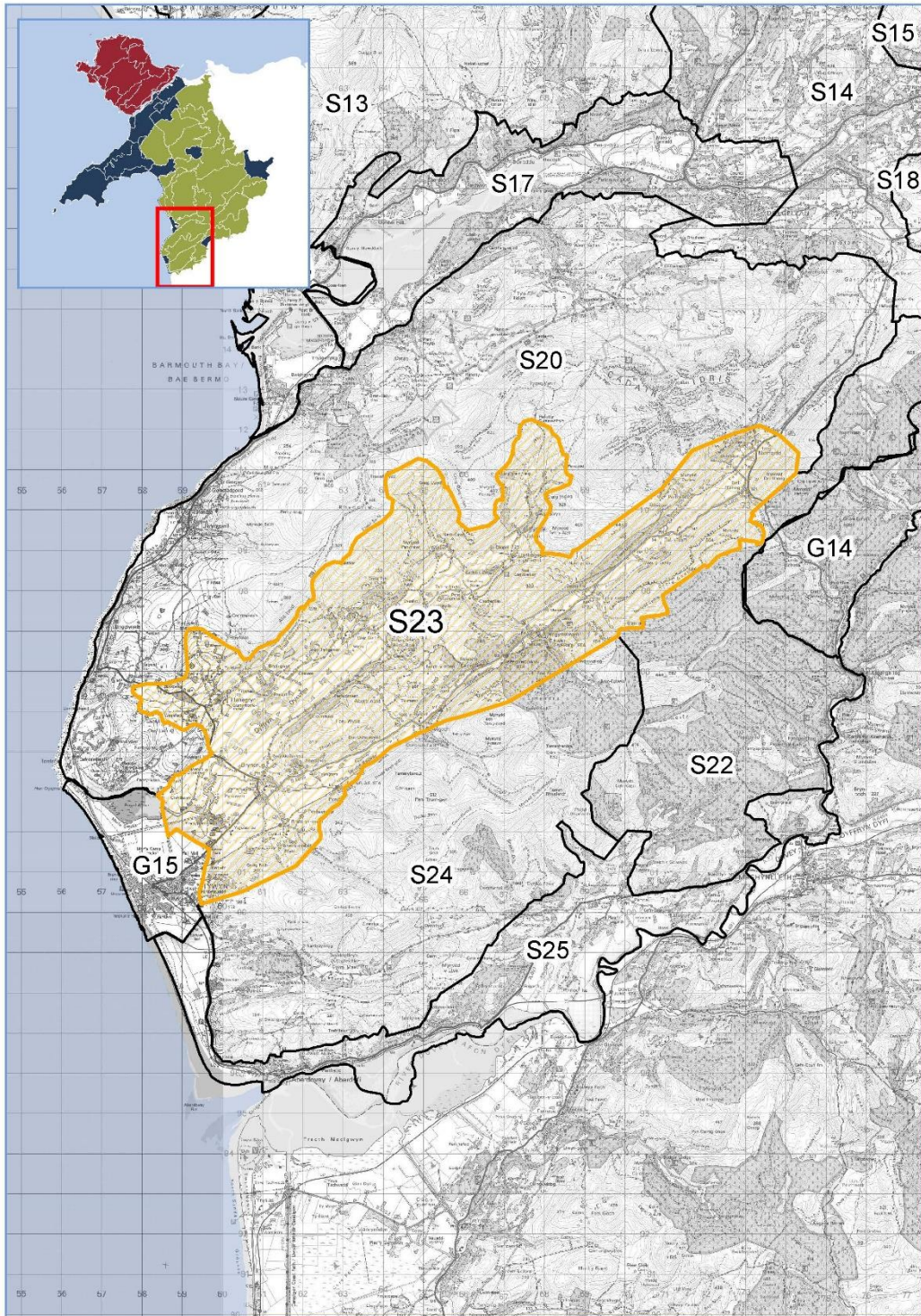
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	No existing or consented static caravan/chalet park developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments in particular within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of the Corris Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Vale of Dolgellau Registered Historic Landscape.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Welsh Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82), route Lôn Las Cymru (NCN route 8), regional route 80, and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓

S23 Dyffryn Dysynni



1:125,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA includes the main section of the Dysynni Valley to include both its broad floodplain and the narrow valleys at its source at Lyn Mwyngil. It also includes the tributary valleys of the Afon Cadair and Nant-caw.

Key Characteristics

- Medium scale landscape
- Narrow, deep sided, U-shaped valley opening into the broad floodplain of the Afon Dysynni to the west.
- Varied landcover ranging from upland heath, coniferous and mixed plantation, and pastoral grassland to valley floors and saltmarsh and reed beds to mouth of the valley.

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (61%)/ <u>Large</u> (28%)/ <u>Vast</u> (10%)	-				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Narrow, deep sided, U-shaped valley opening into the broad floodplain of the Afon Dysynni to the west. To the east, the LCA is dominated by the glacial lake of Llyn Mwyngil, above which are steep slopes and upland plateau . VS Classification Level 2: <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (28%)/ <u>Exposed Upland/ Plateau</u> (35%)/ <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (28%)/ <u>Flat Lowland/ Levels</u> (7%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (39%)/ <u>Levels</u> (8%)/ <u>Hills/ Valleys</u> (52%)	↑			↑	↑
	Landcover	Large blocks of coniferous and mixed plantation to valley sides with bands of broadleaved woodland . Heathland and grassland to the upper slopes and	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>uplands above Llyn Mwyngil. Grazed open valley sides and mosaic of pastures and woodland blocks to valley floor. Landcover associated with coastal location such as saltmarsh and reed beds located to the west at the mouth of the valley.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: Flat Open Lowland Farmland (7%)/ <u>Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing</u> (25%)/ <u>Open Lowland Valleys</u> (25%) / <u>Upland Grazing</u> (17%)/ <u>Upland Moorland</u> (18%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (36%)/ <u>Field Pattern/ Mosaic</u> (35%)/ <u>Mixture</u> (25%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>The influence of modern development is typically restricted to the valley floors and includes several relatively large villages (Abergynolwyn, Llanegryn and Brynchrug), Dispersed farmsteads and hamlets are scattered across the LCA and are linked by a network of connecting roads including the A493, A487 and the B4405. Other man-made influences comprise several small wind turbines, mobile masts, disused quarries and several tourist destinations including static caravan/chalet parks, caravan/camping sites and the Talyllyn Railway. Extensive areas of coniferous and mixed plantation are also a dominant feature. Man-made influence is much less evident towards the tops of the hills/mountains.</p> <p>VS6: Village (12%) / <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (46%)/ <u>No Settlements</u> (40%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (99%)</p>	-			-	-
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	The landform of the steep sided valley which contrasts with the surrounding, sometimes prominent upland landform creates distinctive skylines .	↑			↑	

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Visual	Movement	Local and tourist traffic within and between settlements, particularly westwards towards Tywyn and the coast introduces frequent movement into the valley floor. Elsewhere, movement is much less frequent . VS18: Occasional (29%) / Frequent (14%) / Infrequent (58%)	-				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	Although views are typically enclosed within this LCA there are some vantage points from the head of the valley and from surrounding uplands from which long views are afforded towards the coast and over the National Park. VS9: Enclosed (52%) / Open (9%) / Exposed (35%) Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including Sustrans national cycle routes from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82) and a link to NCN route 8; Lôn Dysynni cycle route. ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions such as the Talyllyn Railway ▪ Local public rights of way ▪ The A487 and A493 tourist routes ▪ The local road network 	↑			↑	↑
	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Corris SLA ▪ Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Mawddach Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Hillfort ▪ Registered Park and Garden ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ▪ ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not applicable					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>This landscape is highly scenic which is reflected in its designation as part of the National Park and parts of the LCA being defined within ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: Strong _(17%)/ Weak _(19%)/ <u>Moderate</u> _(64%)</p> <p>VS46: High _(31%)/ <u>Moderate</u> _(56%)/ Outstanding _(8%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> _(46%)/ <u>Moderate</u> _(53%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> _(57%)/ <u>Moderate</u> _(43%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/ Tranquillity	<p>Away from the main roads there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.</p> <p>VS24: Exposed; Wild _(17%) / Sheltered _(10%)/ <u>Exposed</u> _(43%)/ Other _(22%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle routes from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82) and a link to NCN route 8.</p> <p>Some parts of the LCA are defined as ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding. VS50: <u>High</u> (39%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (60%) VS49: <u>High</u> (39%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (57%) LH45: <u>High</u> (19%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (68%)/ Outstanding (12%) LH42: <u>High</u> (40%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (60%) GL31: <u>Outstanding</u> (99%) GL33: <u>Outstanding</u> (99%)</p>						
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>Much of the LCA falls within the Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>This LCA also includes a Registered Park and Garden.</p> <p>This area also includes a hillfort.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding. HL38: <u>High</u> (74%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (23%) HL35: <u>High</u> (63%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (19%)/ Outstanding (18%) HL40: <u>High</u> (89%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (8%)</p>						

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types⁴¹ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	This medium scale, deep sided valley opens into the broad floodplain of the Afon Dysynni to the west. A limited amount of modern development, including wind turbines, telecommunications infrastructure and static caravan/chalet parks is restricted to the valley floors along which there is a localised reduction in sensitivity.
	This is overridden by the distinctive and scenic valley setting, dramatic skylines and the potential to experience far reaching views from higher ground. A high number of sensitive visual receptors, nationally designated cycle routes and a nationally important Historic Landscape and Registered Park and Garden together with a high degree of intervisibility from other important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park and the Wales Coast Path) greatly increases sensitivity.
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. domestic development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic to micro scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside of the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	This medium scale, deep sided valley opens into the broad floodplain of the Afon Dysynni to the west. A limited amount of modern development, including wind turbines, telecommunications infrastructure and static caravan/chalet parks is restricted to the valley floor along which there is a localised reduction in sensitivity.
	This is overridden by the distinctive and scenic valley setting, the potential to experience far reaching views from higher ground. A high number of sensitive visual receptors, nationally designated cycle routes and a nationally important Historic Landscape and Registered Park and Garden together with a high degree of intervisibility from other important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park and the Wales Coast Path) greatly increases sensitivity.
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	

⁴¹ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 3 no. mobile mast developments - 2 no. camouflaged mast developments
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty and ELDP Undeveloped Coast, (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.) However, outside of these areas, there may be limited capacity for sensitively sited and well-designed mobile mast developments.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale deep sided, U-shaped valley opens into the broad floodplain of the Afon Dysynni to the west. A limited amount of modern development, including wind turbines, telecommunications infrastructure and static caravan/chalet parks is restricted to the valley floor along which there is a localised reduction in sensitivity (in particular to the west within the wider part of the valley).</p> <p>This is counterbalanced by the distinctive and scenic valley setting, the potential to experience far reaching views from higher ground. A high number of sensitive visual receptors, nationally designated cycle routes and a nationally important Historic Landscape and Registered Park and Garden together with a high degree of intervisibility from other important landscape and cultural heritage features (including other parts of the National Park and the Wales Coast Path) increases sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. very large development - 1 no. large development - 3 no. medium development - 1 no. small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments. In particular within the ELDP Areas of Natural Beauty or ELDP Undeveloped Coast. However, outside of these areas, there may be capacity for a limited number of sensitively sited, well designed and very small to small scale static caravan/chalet park developments.

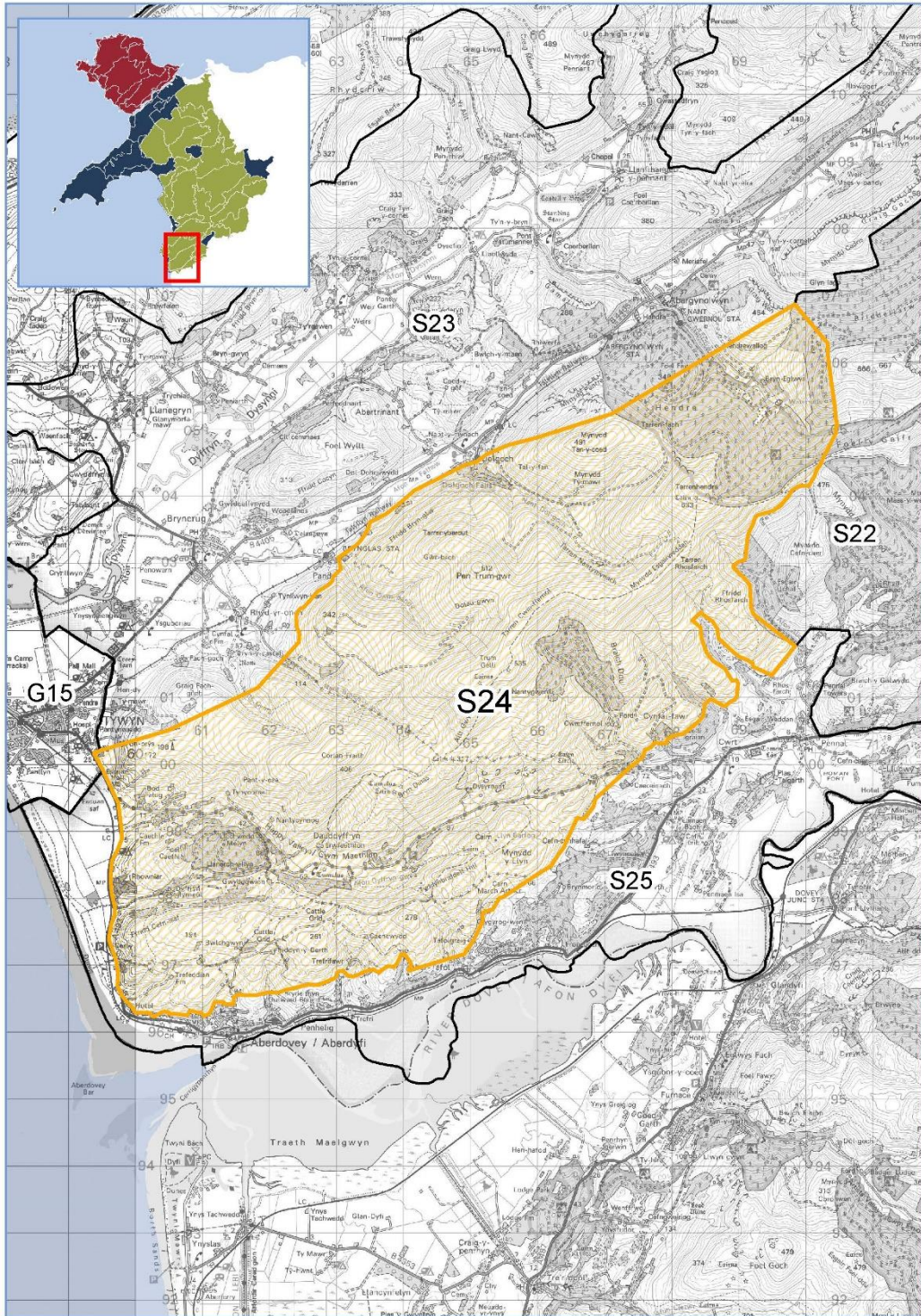
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓

Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Corris Special Landscape Areas.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seaward views and those toward the uplands of the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Mawddach and Dysynni Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Sustrans national cycle routes from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82), a link to NCN route 8; Lôn Dysynni cycle route and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid impacts upon the setting of areas defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A493 and tourist attractions such as the Talylyn Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain intervisibility between hilltop cultural heritage features.	✓	✓	

S24 Y Tarrenau



1:75,000



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Location and Extent

This LCA comprises land rising from the coast and the Dyfi Estuary in the south west which form a series of uplands, dissected by the valley of the Cwm Maethlon, also known as 'Happy Valley'.

Key Characteristics

- Typically a large scale landscape
- Upland area between the Dysynni and Dyfi valleys, including a ridge of peaks and broken by Cwm Maethlon.
- Large areas of upland heath with several large areas of coniferous plantation with more pastures in the lower ground.

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a large scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (10%)/ <u>Large</u> (88%)	↓				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Upland landscape between the Dysynni and Dyfi valleys with areas of upland plateau and a ridge of peaks broken by the valley of Cwm Maethlon. VS Classification Level 2: <u>Exposed Upland/Plateau</u> (81%)/ <u>Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes</u> (9%)/ <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (10%) VS4: <u>High Hills/Mountains</u> (89%)/ <u>Hills/Valleys</u> (10%)	-			-	↑
	Landcover	Extensive areas of heath and upland moorland dominate this LCA together with large coniferous plantations to the east. Bands of broadleaved woodland occupy the valley sides with improved pasture along valley floors.	↓			-	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>VS Classification Level 3: <u>Upland Grazing</u> (79%)/ <u>Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes</u> (9%)/ <u>Wooded Lowland Valleys</u> (9%)</p> <p>VS5: <u>Open Land</u> (81%)/ <u>Field Pattern</u>/ <u>Mosaic</u> (10%)/ <u>Woodland</u> (9%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Limited to some large areas commercial forestry in the north eastern half of the LCA and some of properties and static caravan/chalet parks concentrated in the south and west.</p> <p>Modern vertical development includes a small number of wind turbines and mobile masts to the south west.</p> <p>VS6: <u>Scattered Rural/Farm</u> (10%)/ <u>No Settlements</u> (89%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Fair</u> (100%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	The elevated nature and coastal setting of much of the LCA produces some prominent and distinctive skylines .	↑			↑	
Visual	<p>Movement</p> <p>Movement is limited within this area which has a broadly still character.</p> <p>VS18: <u>Occasional</u> (88%) / <u>Infrequent</u> (12%)</p>	↑				
	<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p> <p>Views are typically exposed within this LCA. The elevated nature of much of the LCA allows extensive views over southern Snowdonia, including Rhinogau, Cadair Idris and south towards the Cambrian Mountains.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> (10%)/ <u>Confined</u> (9%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (81%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relatively few properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park 	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long distance routes including Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82) and regional route 80 Open Access Areas Local attractions such as the Tallylyn Railway Local public rights of way The A493 tourist route The restricted local road network 					
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowdonia National Park Corris SLA Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
Condition	Not applicable					
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	<p>Scenic Quality and Character</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: Strong (11%) / <u>Moderate</u> (89%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (81%) / Moderate (10%) / Low (9%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (90%) / Moderate (10%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (99%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	<p>Remoteness/Tranquillity</p> <p>The tranquillity and remoteness of much of this landscape imparts a sense of wilderness in places.</p> <p>VS24: Settled (9%) / <u>Wild</u> (79%) / Sheltered (10%)</p>	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	Landscape Value (including landscape related features)	<p>The entire LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82).</p> <p>Much of the landscape is defined within ELDP as Area of Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (81%) / <u>Moderate</u> (19%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (81%) / <u>Moderate</u> (10%) / <u>Low</u> (9%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (13%) / <u>Moderate</u> (74%) / <u>Low</u> (13%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>High</u> (9%) / <u>Unassessed</u> (91%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (43%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (57%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (43%) / <u>Outstanding</u> (57%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Historic Value	<p>The central western part of the LCA falls within the Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (100%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>Moderate</u> (100%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>Moderate</u> (98%)</p>	-			-	-

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types⁴² (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This large scale upland landscape is dominated by a simple landcover pattern formed by extensive areas of open heath and moorland; characteristics which are indicative of a lowered sensitivity.</p> <p>However, this is outweighed by the fact that this landscape is typically unsettled, has relatively few roads and is devoid of modern development. There is a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and, in some places, wilderness which has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty and has strong associations and intervisibility with highly valued, historic landscapes which greatly increase sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments.

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This large scale upland landscape is dominated by extensive areas of open heath and moorland; characteristics which are indicative of a lowered sensitivity.</p> <p>However, this is outweighed by the fact that this landscape is typically unsettled, has relatively few roads and is devoid of modern development. There is a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and, in some places wilderness which has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty and has strong associations and intervisibility with highly valued, historic landscapes which greatly increase sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	1 no. mobile mast development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for mobile mast developments (with the exception of a limited number of sensitively sited and well-designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

⁴² NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Very High	<p>This large scale upland landscape is dominated by extensive areas of open heath and moorland with extensive views and intervisibility.</p> <p>This landscape is typically unsettled, has relatively few roads and is devoid of modern development all of which imparts a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and, in some places, wilderness which has resulted in its designation within Snowdonia National Park. Much of this area is also defined within the ELDP as an Area of Natural Beauty and has strong associations and intervisibility with highly valued, historic landscapes which greatly increases its sensitivity.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 no. large development - 1 no. medium development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

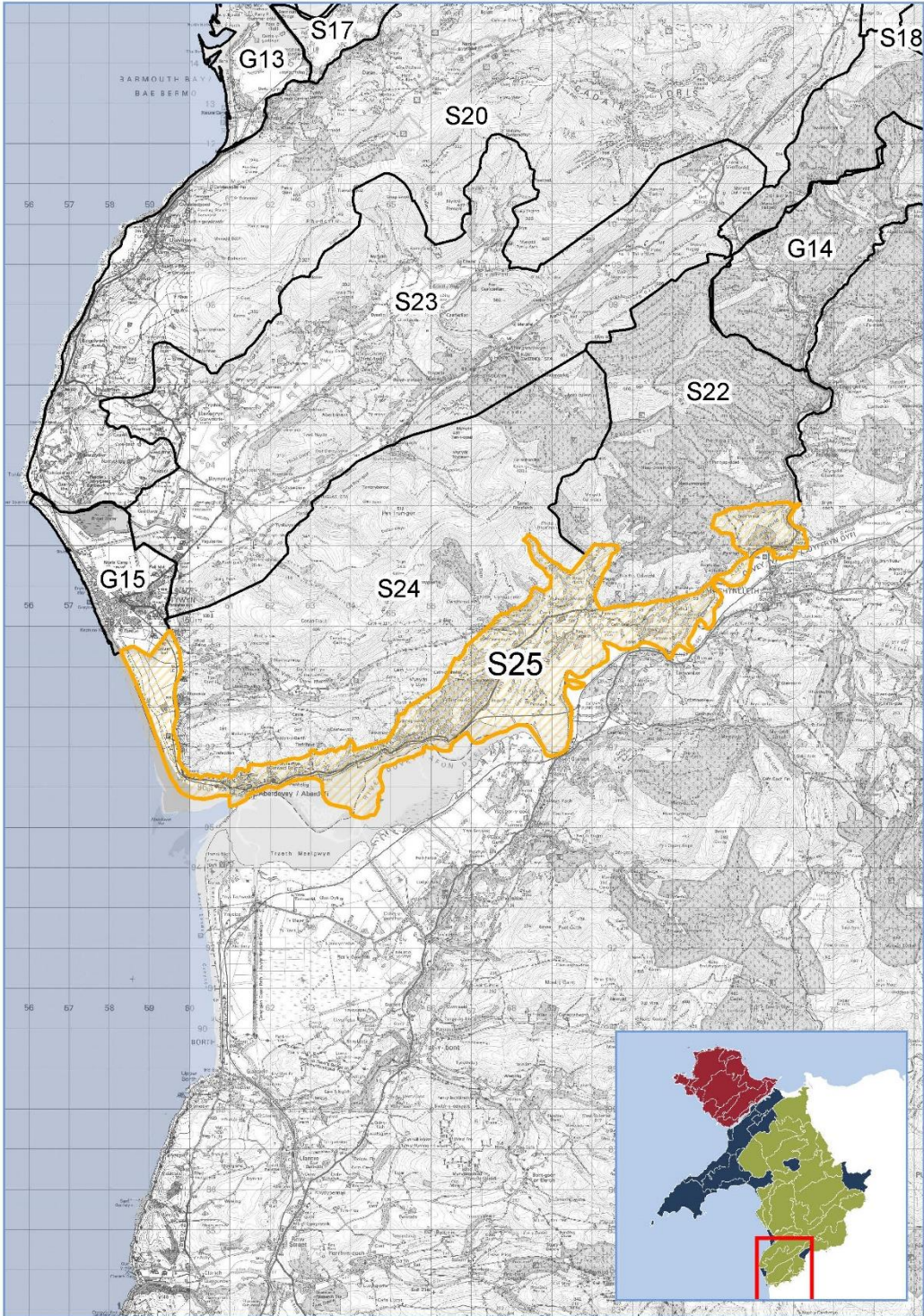
Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Corris Special Landscape Areas.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seaward views and those towards the uplands of the National Park.	✓	✓	
Maintain the integrity of the Dysynni Registered Historic Landscapes.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	
Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Sustrans national cycle route Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82), regional route 80 and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓

Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A493 and tourist attractions such as the Talylyn Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid impacts upon the setting of areas defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓

S25 Aber y Ddyfi



1:125,000



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Location and Extent

The LCA includes the northern banks of the Dyfi Estuary and the resort town of Aberdyfi, following the course of the river and its tributaries inland to the edge of the National Park just north of Machynlleth.

Key Characteristics

- Typically a medium scale landscape
- Predominantly comprised of the Dyfi and its floodplain with the land rising to the north and east into a landscape of undulating steep valleys
- Predominantly an estuarine landscape fringed by sand banks, mudflats and sand dunes, rising to wooded slopes to an upland landscape of woodland and rough grazing

Evaluation

The following table illustrates the appraisal of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) against sensitivity criteria which have been predetermined for the five different development types.

Key	Higher Sensitivity	↑	Medium Sensitivity	-	Lower Sensitivity	↓	Criterion/development type not applicable	
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Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Landscape	Scale	Typically a medium scale landscape. VS8: <u>Medium</u> (78%)/ <u>Large</u> (22%)	-				
	Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure	Not applicable					
	Landform	Narrow low lying coastal strip with a wide river floodplain inland. Land rises steeply to the north and east to a landscape of hills and valleys. VS Classification Level 2: Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes (9%)/ Exposed Upland / Plateau (8%) / <u>Lowland Valleys</u> (68%) / Coastal (12%) VS4: Levels (15%)/ High Hills/Mountains (8%)/ <u>Hills/Valleys</u> (77%)	-			-	-
	Landcover	Varied landcover including estuarine sand banks, mudflats and sand dunes , with parts of the	↑			↑	↑

Sensitivity Criteria	Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
		Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
	<p>reclaimed floodplain forming grazing marsh. As the land rises, blocks of broadleaved and coniferous woodland are found on the slopes together with grazed open land. Inland and occupying lower areas there is a mosaic of pastures with hedgerows and hedgerow trees and small woodland blocks.</p> <p>VS Classification Level 3: Dunes & Dune Slack (11%) / Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic (9%) / <u>Open Lowland Valleys</u> (54%) / Upland Grazing (8%) / Wooded Lowland Valleys (14%)</p> <p>VS5: High Hills/Mountains (8%) / <u>Hills/Valleys</u> (77%) / Levels (15%)</p>					
Man-made Influences	<p>Man-made influences are concentrated around the popular resort town of Aberdyfi and the connecting transport links of the A493 and Cambrian Coast Railway.</p> <p>Development including a number of static caravan/chalet parks, mobile masts and a small wind turbine are located within this LCA, typically associated with the A493 corridor.</p> <p>VS6: Clustered (8%) / <u>Village</u> (54%) / Scattered Rural/Farm (26%) / No Settlements (12%)</p> <p>VS27: <u>Good</u> (57%) / <u>Fair</u> (42%)</p>	-			-	↓
Settlement Pattern	Not applicable					
Skylines and Settings	Broad estuarine setting with landform rising steeply behind it creating distinctive skylines .	↑			↑	

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks
Visual	Movement	<p>Frequent and sometimes constant movement is concentrated within the settlements of Aberdyfi and Pennal and along the A493. Vehicles and trains travelling along the connecting network of local roads and the Cambrian Coast Railway also introduce movement. Elsewhere, inland and in parts of the estuary, the landscape is relatively still.</p> <p>VS18: Constant ^(14%) / Occasional ^(12%) / <u>Frequent</u> ^(66%) / Infrequent ^(9%)</p>	-				
	Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>Whilst the landscape is typically enclosed by the steep sided landform to the north of the estuary, far reaching views are afforded from high points over the Dyfi estuary to the coast and inland to southern Snowdonia and Ceredigion.</p> <p>VS9: <u>Enclosed</u> ^(65%) / Open ^(27%) / Exposed ^(8%)</p> <p>Typical receptors include occupiers, users and visitors to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Properties ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Long distance routes including Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Lôn Las Cymru (NCN Route 8), route from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82) and regional route 80 ▪ Open Access Areas ▪ Local attractions and public rights of way ▪ The A493 and A487 tourist routes and Cambrian Coast Railway ▪ The A487 and A493 tourist routes ▪ The local road network 	↑			↑	↑
	Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)	<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snowdonia National Park ▪ Corris SLA ▪ Dysynni Valley Registered Historic Landscape ▪ Registered Historic Parks and Gardens ▪ ELDP Area of Natural Beauty (Development Policy 2) ▪ ELDP Morfa Harlech & Morfa Dyffryn Area of Undeveloped Coast (Development Policy 2) 	↑			↑	
	Condition	Not applicable					

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential	Scenic Quality and Character	<p>This coastal landscape is a distinctive and picturesque as reflected by the area being designated as part of the National Park.</p> <p>+ Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation.</p> <p>VS25: <u>Strong</u> (5%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (95%)</p> <p>VS46: <u>High</u> (26%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (70%)</p> <p>VS47: <u>High</u> (73%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (24%)</p> <p>VS48: <u>High</u> (81%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (16%)</p>	↑			↑	↑
	Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>The main roads/railway and activity around settlements, particularly those of Aberdyfi and Pennal, locally reduce the sense of tranquillity. Elsewhere to higher ground and on parts of the estuary there remains a sense of remoteness and tranquillity.</p> <p>VS24: <u>Settled</u> (54%)/ <u>Wild</u> (8%) / <u>Spiritual</u> (7%)/ <u>Exposed</u> (9%)/ <u>Other</u> (11%)/ <u>Safe</u> (8%)</p>	-			-	-

Sensitivity Criteria		Characteristics of the LCA	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to each Development Type				
			Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Value	<p>Landscape Value (including landscape related features)</p> <p>This LCA falls within the National Park.</p> <p>Nationally designated features also include Open Access Areas and Sustrans national cycle route from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82).</p> <p>Includes area defined within ELDP as Area of Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>The Wales Coast Path also runs along the western edge of this LCA.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>VS50: <u>High</u> (80%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (17%)</p> <p>VS49: <u>High</u> (21%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (77%)</p> <p>LH45: <u>High</u> (32%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (45%)/ <u>Low</u> (20%)</p> <p>LH42: <u>High</u> (5%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (91%)</p> <p>GL31: <u>High</u> (35%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (62%)</p> <p>GL33: <u>High</u> (38%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (62%)</p>						
	<p>Historic Value</p> <p>The northern coastal edge is within the Dysyni Valley Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some areas Outstanding.</p> <p>HL38: <u>High</u> (57%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (29%)/ <u>Unassessed</u> (11%)</p> <p>HL35: <u>High</u> (40%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (55%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (5%)</p> <p>HL40: <u>High</u> (39%)/ <u>Moderate</u> (56%)/ <u>Outstanding</u> (5%)</p>						

Overall Landscape Sensitivity and Strategy

The following tables provide an overall summary of sensitivity in relation to the relevant development types⁴³ (based on the LCA sensitivity evaluation table), together with the proposed landscape strategy:

WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale coastal/estuarine landscape lies entirely within the National Park. The area is distinctive and picturesque and has prominent skylines created by the valley sides. There is a varied pattern of landcover including man-made influences which are centred on main settlements and transport routes. Parts of the immediate coastline are comparatively undeveloped defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>Sensitivity to wind energy development is further enhanced due to the presence of a number of sensitive visual receptors and intervisibility between this and other highly valued landscapes, including Registered Historic Landscapes and other parts of the National Park.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 1 no. small development - 1 no. domestic development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no capacity for wind energy developments (with the exception of a limited number of domestic scale wind energy developments which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings and which are outside ELDP Undeveloped Coast.)

MOBILE MASTS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
High	<p>This medium scale coastal/estuarine landscape lies within the National Park. The area is distinctive and picturesque and prominent skylines created by the valley sides. There is a varied pattern of landcover including man-made influences which are centred on main settlements and transport routes. Parts of the immediate coastline are comparatively undeveloped and defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>Sensitivity to mobile mast development is further enhanced due to the presence of a number of sensitive visual receptors and intervisibility between this and other highly valued landscapes, including Registered Historic Landscapes and other parts of the National Park.</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	- 7 no. mobile mast developments - 1 no. camouflaged mast development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no further capacity for mobile mast developments in particular within ELDP Undeveloped Coast (with the exception of limited well sited and designed camouflaged mobile masts.)

⁴³ NOTE: This LCA falls outside the study areas for field-scale solar PV energy and 400 kV overhead line developments, therefore there are no strategies for these types of development.

STATIC CARAVAN/ CHALET PARKS AND EXTENSIONS

OVERALL SENSITIVITY	
Medium-High	<p>This medium scale coastal/estuarine landscape lies within the National Park. Blocks of broadleaved and coniferous woodland exert an influence over parts of this landscape and, together with strongly undulating landform, confine views throughout much of the LCA. This offers potential screening opportunities which are indicative of lower visual sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park developments. Man-made influences on this landscape include several existing static caravan/chalet parks concentrated around main settlements and transport routes; thus locally reducing sensitivity. However, parts of the immediate coastline are comparatively undeveloped and as such are defined within the ELDP as Undeveloped Coast.</p> <p>Sensitivity is further enhanced by the area's distinctive and picturesque qualities, together with the presence of a number of sensitive visual receptors and intervisibility between this and other highly valued landscapes (including Registered Historic Landscapes and other parts of the National Park including those defined within ELDP as an Area of Undeveloped Coast).</p>
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	
Landscape Objective	Landscape Protection
Baseline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 no. large developments - 3 no. medium development - 2 no. small developments - 1 no. very small development
Indicative Overall Capacity	Typically no further capacity for static caravan/chalet park developments.

Guidance

The table below provides LCA specific Guidance notes on siting developments to minimise adverse effects.

Guidance Notes on Siting	Wind Energy	Field-Scale Solar PV Energy	Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks and Extensions
Conserve the natural beauty of Snowdonia National Park, its special qualities and its wider setting. Consider the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. The effect of development outside the National Park boundary needs to be considered using visualisations. Development must avoid creating a sense of unacceptable encroachment, encirclement, prominence, or discordance, individually or cumulatively on the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Development should respect and conserve the character and setting of the landscape defined within the ELDP as Areas of Natural Beauty, in particular areas valued for their remote and wild qualities.	✓	✓	✓
Conserve the special qualities of Corris Special Landscape Area.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting developments on open skylines or hillsides and protect key views, particularly seaward views and those towards the uplands of the National Park.	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the integrity of Dysynni Registered Historic Landscape.	✓	✓	✓
Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens; and the key views to and from these features.	✓	✓	✓
Consider views from residential receptors, particularly those that already have views of existing modern vertical developments; siting of additional vertical development should aim to avoid cumulative visual effects.	✓	✓	

Ensure that developments are clearly separate so that their effect on the perception of the landscape remains local and there is no collective / cumulative defining influence on the experience of the landscape. This requires a particularly careful consideration of the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on popular routes such as Wales Coast Path, Sustrans national cycle routes Lôn Las Cymru (NCN Route 8), route from Bangor to Fishguard (NCN 82), regional route 80, a further short link between the two and other valued local viewpoints – use visualisations to assess sequential views (including views to existing development).	✓	✓	✓
Site smaller development close to existing buildings to avoid the proliferation of development within the less developed parts of this LCA.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid siting any development along the coastline and its immediate setting, in particular avoiding areas defined as ELDP Undeveloped Coast.	✓	✓	✓
Avoid cumulative effects on busy tourist routes such as the A493 and Cambrian Coast Railway.	✓	✓	✓
Consider the locations of existing and proposed development when planning a new development to avoid incremental cumulative effect.	✓	✓	✓
As well as taking into account views from elevated isolated properties, siting should take into consideration important views from the more densely populated settlement of Aberdyfi. The town is a popular visitor destination and has a strong connection with the landscape in which it is situated.	✓	✓	✓

SECTION 4: GENERIC GUIDANCE ON SITING & DESIGN

- 4.1 This SPG provides strategic guidance on the siting and design of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism developments and should be read in conjunction with the more specific Guidance Notes that are included for each LCA. To understand whether development can be integrated within its local context however requires site specific landscape and visual assessment.
- 4.2 The landscape factors set out in Table 2.03 can be used to assess the capacity of the landscape in the locality of the site at the development feasibility stage. Where a number of *Indicators of higher sensitivity* are present, the landscape is less likely to be able to accommodate development. Where areas of Natural Beauty and Special Qualities are *strongly expressed and evident*, landscape is less likely to be able to accommodate development (see section 6 - What is Natural Beauty?). In both cases carefully designed proposals in response to local character and the availability of views would be necessary to ensure development could be integrated sympathetically without harming the purpose of the statutory landscape designation.
- 4.3 Proposals would need to demonstrate how the assessment of landscape sensitivity/capacity and site assessment has informed the planning application.
- 4.4 It is also necessary to take into consideration the effects of development on views to and from Snowdonia National Park. Wireframe and photomontage visualisations are likely to be required for wind developments larger than micro in scale.
- 4.5 In considering how the proposed development accords with the landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment, it will be necessary to have regard to both the LCA within which the development is proposed and adjacent LCAs where the scale of development is such as to result in wider visual effects. Where the proposal lies towards the edge of Snowdonia National Park, consideration must be given to the sensitivity and capacity of LCAs in neighbouring local planning authorities.
- 4.6 The initial stages in planning any development involve the identification of an appropriate type/scale of development and the consideration and selection of a suitable site in order to minimise landscape and visual effects. For example, choosing an appropriate site may help mitigate the visual impact of a development even before the detailed design stage. As a starting point, the sensitivity assessment of the relevant LCA should be consulted for each potential development to gain an understanding of the baseline landscape character and key sensitivities to that particular type of development.
- 4.7 The next step is to consult the strategy for that type of development within the LCA to understand whether there may be scope to accommodate it and, if so, where it may best be located. The specific siting and design guidelines produced for each LCA may also assist in the selection of a suitable site and type/scale of development. At this point it is also important to understand how the baseline situation with regard to that particular development may have changed through consultation with the local planning authority (this is particularly important where there may be a need to consider potential cumulative effects (refer Section 6)).
- 4.8 It is important to note that there are often local variations in the character and sensitivity of each LCA, therefore a site specific analysis should be undertaken to identify any potential landscape and/or visual issues at any given location. As part of this it will be important to consider potential impact on the following:
- Landscape character (particularly key characteristics)
 - Key views
 - Special qualities (of landscape designations/remoteness/tranquillity etc.)
- 4.9 Impacts on landscape character are likely to be related to the following:

Potential Impacts on Landscape Character	Wind Energy	Field Scale Solar PV Energy	400 kV Overhead Line	Mobile Masts	Static Caravan/Chalet Parks
Scale of the landscape – whether it is small or large and whether the proposed development is of an appropriate scale	✓		✓		
Field Pattern, Scale and Enclosure – whether field scale is large or small and patterns are simple or complex and how the proposed development relates or conflicts with this together with the sense of enclosure.		✓			
Landform – whether landform is complex or simple and how the nature of the proposed development relates to this or conflicts with it. Development can dominate small scale or intricate landform if not carefully sited.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landcover – how the proposed developments fits in or conflicts with the pattern of the land cover and what sensitive features may be at risk.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Man-made Influences – does the proposed development introduce an uncharacteristic man-made influence into a landscape?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Settlement Pattern – 400 kV overhead lines cannot easily deviate around individual or small groups of properties			✓		
Skylines and settings – vertical structures such as wind turbines, pylons and mobile masts can affect the simplicity of skyline or ridges even if located below such features	✓		✓		

Useful Sources of Information

4.10 The following Guidance documents are a useful source of information to assist the sensitive siting and design of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism developments:

Wind Energy Development

- *Design Commission for Wales (2012) Designing Wind Farms in Wales*
- *Natural Resources Wales (2013) LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 3: Using LANDMAP for Landscape and Visual Assessment of Onshore Wind Turbines*
- *Scottish Natural Heritage (1996, edited in 2000) Guidelines on the Environmental Impacts of Windfarms and Small Scale Hydroelectric Schemes*
- *Scottish Natural Heritage (2009) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 1*
- *EN-1, Section 4.5 sets out the principles for good design that should be applied to all energy infrastructure*
- *EN-1, Section 5.9 covers generic landscape and visual impacts of energy projects*
- *Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge (GLVIA3)*
- *The Landscape Institute, Advice Note 01/11: Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, March 2011*

Mobile Masts

- *Welsh Assembly Government, Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 19: Telecommunications (2002)*
- *Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership (2002). Siting and Design Guidelines for Mobile Telecommunications Developments in the Highlands and Islands. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. F00AA508*
- *Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development in England (2013) – Appendix B Siting and Design Principles (produced jointly by representatives of central and local government and the mobile phone industry, bVHlds on Government Guidance and operators' commitments)*
- *Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge (GLVIA3)*
- *The Landscape Institute, Advice Note 01/11: Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment, March 2011*

Static Caravan/Chalet Park Development

- *Welsh Assembly Government, Planning Guidance (Wales), Technical Advice Note (TAN) 13: Tourism (1997)*
- *Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge (GLVIA3)*
- *The Landscape Institute, Advice Note 01/11: Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment, March 2011*

4.11 In addition to the above sources of information Cadw has also produced a number of useful publications. Those particularly relevant to this study are as follows:

- *Caring for Coastal Heritage*
http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/docs/cadw/publications/Caring_for_Coastal_Heritage_EN_CY.pdf
- *Caring for Historic Landscapes*
http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/docs/cadw/publications/Caring_for_Historic_Landscapes_EN_CY.pdf

SECTION 5: GUIDANCE FOR ASSESSING CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- 5.1 Although this landscape sensitivity and capacity study has identified that parts of the National Park may be able to accommodate renewable energy, telecoms masts and tourism developments, care must be taken to prevent unacceptable (significant) cumulative landscape and visual effects arising either from multiple developments of the same type or multiple developments of different types.
- 5.2 This area of landscape and visual assessment is evolving and there is no prescribed approach since the issues depend on the specific characteristics of both the proposed developments and the location in which they are to be sited. It is not possible to provide generic Guidance on numbers or distances between proposed developments and each proposal should be considered on a case-by-case basis. This is normally achieved through a cumulative landscape and visual assessment as part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. The requirement for consideration of cumulative landscape and visual effects is a matter for agreement at the scoping stage of the assessment through discussion with the relevant planning authority and consultation bodies.
- 5.3 The results of an assessment of the cumulative landscape and visual effects of any development should be reviewed against the landscape strategy and objective for the LCA/LCAs within which it lies, as well as those for neighbouring LCAs. This is important to determine whether or not the proposed development (in combination with/or addition to the various other developments) fits with the landscape strategy identified for the LCA or whether it would conflict with the strategy.

Definition of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

- 5.4 The assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects⁴⁴ deals with the effects of a proposed development interacting with the effects of other development(s) (associated with or separate to the proposed development). This is in recognition that the overall combined landscape and visual effects of a number of similar developments concentrated in one area may be greater than the sum of the effects from the same developments if considered individually.
- 5.5 GLVIA3⁴⁵ (para. 7.3) refers to the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) definition of cumulative effects as set out in their 2012 paper⁴⁶:
- **Cumulative effects** are ‘the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together’ (SNH, 2012: 4);
 - **Cumulative landscape effects** are effects that ‘can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special values attached to it’ (SNH, 2012: 10); and
 - **Cumulative visual effects** are effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which ‘occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one view-point’ and/or sequential effects which ‘occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments’ (SNH, 2012: 11). (GLVIA3 Paragraph 7.3)

Requirement to Assess Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

- 5.6 The assessment of cumulative effects is set within the framework of EIA⁴⁷. EIA is a methodical approach to undertaking an assessment of the likely significant impacts that a proposed project may have on the environment; thus enabling decision makers to take into account these impacts when considering applications.

⁴⁴ Alternatively referred to as cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (CLVIA)

⁴⁵ Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge

⁴⁶ SNH (2012) Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy development, Inverness: Scottish Natural Heritage

⁴⁷ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, consolidate previous regulations and set out the current requirements for meeting European Directive 85/337/EEC.

- 5.7 EIA is always required for developments which fall within Schedule 1 of the Regulations⁴⁸; however, none of the developments considered in this study fall within this category.
- 5.8 EIA may be required for developments that are located in, or partly in a 'sensitive area' or fall within Schedule 2 of the Regulations and exceed the relevant thresholds. Schedule 2 developments includes, energy producing installations such as wind farms, and tourist development with the following thresholds:
- *The threshold for wind energy developments is more than 2 turbines, or where the hub height of any turbine or any other structure exceeds 15 metres (Regulation 2(1))*
 - *The threshold for tourist development in relation to **static caravan/chalet parks** (permanent camp sites and caravan sites) is where the area of the development exceeds 1 hectare, or where the area of development exceeds 0.5 hectare if it is a permanent caravan site with more than 200 pitches⁴⁹*
- 5.9 Where a development would exceed these thresholds the proposal needs to be screened by the planning authority to determine whether significant effects are likely and hence whether an EIA is required. Projects listed in Schedule 2 which are located in, or partly in, a sensitive area also need to be screened, even if they are below the thresholds or do not meet the criteria.
- 5.10 **Mobile mast development (telecommunications infrastructure)** is also not listed in Schedule 2 and therefore is outside the Regulations; however, such developments may require planning permission particularly within the National Park. The local planning authority would then decide what level of assessment is required.
- 5.11 If a proposed development requires an EIA, then Schedule 4, Part 1 of the EIA Regulations states that: 'a description of the likely significant effects of the Development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.....'⁵⁰
- 5.12 Circular 02/99, which provides Guidance on the Regulations, states: 'in judging... the effects of a development...local planning authorities should always have regard to the possible cumulative effects with any existing or approved development' (paragraph 46).
- 5.15 Once it has been established that an EIA is required, a scoping opinion should be sought from the local planning authority to determine what topics should be considered within the EIA; this will determine whether or not a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects is required. Detailed assessments of cumulative landscape and visual effects are required when it is considered that the proposal could result in a significant cumulative effect which could influence the eventual planning decision.
- 5.16 It is important to note that GLVIA3 advocates that whilst cumulative landscape and visual effects assessment can relate to any form of development, to keep the task reasonable and proportional it is important to focus on likely significant effects; 'the emphasis on EIA is on likely significant effects rather than on comprehensively cataloguing of every conceivable effect that might occur'⁵¹.
- 5.17 Significance is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. GLVIA3 notes that there are no hard and fast rules but generally:
- *'The most significant cumulative landscape effects are likely to be those that would give rise to changes in the landscape character of the study area of such an extent as to have major effects on its key characteristics and even, in some cases, to transform it into a different landscape type.'* (para 7.28)
 - *'Higher levels of significance may arise from cumulative visual effects related to developments that are in close proximity to the main project and are clearly visible together in views'*
 - *Developments that are highly inter-visible with overlapping ZTVs - even though the individual developments may be at some distance from the main project and from individual viewpoints, and*

⁴⁸ EIA Regulations 2011 (see footnote 2)

⁴⁹ <http://planningGuidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/Guidance/environmental-impact-assessment/considering-and-determining-planning-applications-that-have-been-subject-to-an-environmental-impact-assessment/annex/>

⁵⁰ Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments', Scottish Natural Heritage, March 2012

⁵¹ GLVIA3 Paragraph 7.5

when viewed individually not particularly significant, the overall combined effect on a viewer at a particular viewpoint may be more significant.’ (para 7.38)

Published Guidance

5.18 There are three main sources of published Guidance for undertaking an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects:

- *Scottish Natural Heritage (March 2012) Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments*
- *Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (Third Edition 2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)*
- *LANDMAP Guidance Note 3: Guidance for Wales, Using LANDMAP for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Onshore Wind Turbines (May 2013)*

Applying the Guidance

5.19 The developments considered in this study can broadly be broken into two ‘forms’ of development, ‘vertical’ development and ‘horizontal’ development as follows:

Vertical Development	Horizontal Development
Wind Energy Development	
	Static Caravan/Chalet Park Development
Mobile Mast Development	

5.20 The indicative approach outlined below can be used as a starting point for assessing the cumulative landscape and visual effects of any of these developments and identifies any differences in approach between the assessment of ‘vertical’ and ‘horizontal’ developments.

5.21 The assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects for ‘vertical’ developments should broadly follow the Guidance produced by SNH (*Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments*) and that set out within GLVIA3 and LANDMAP Guidance Note 3. There is no specific Guidance for assessing the cumulative landscape and visual effects of field-scale solar PV energy developments or static caravan/chalet parks therefore it is recommended that assessment of ‘horizontal’ development should follow the Guidance set out within GLVIA3.

5.22 The scope of a cumulative assessment (level of detail that is required) should be agreed with the local planning authority and will be dependent upon the sensitivity of the site, the nature of the proposal and other consented and operational developments and the potential for significant cumulative effects (bearing in mind that the assessment should remain appropriate and proportionate).

Study Area

5.23 The establishment of the study area may depend a number of factors, as follows:

- The overall size and scale of the proposed new development
- The size and location of other existing and proposed developments in the landscape
- The topography of the landscape in which it is proposed
- The sensitivity of the landscape and neighbouring or more distant landscapes

5.24 The initial task in defining a study area is to identify all major developments (operational, consented or in planning) which may interact with the proposed development, giving rise to potential significant cumulative landscape and visual effects.

- 5.25 To do this it is necessary to identify the distance within which significant effects would be likely to occur for each type of development. This is because the distance between the main proposed development and any other development to be included in the cumulative assessment affects the magnitude of the cumulative effects which may occur and therefore judgements about their significance.
- 5.26 This is explained further below by reference to zones of influence – areas where significant landscape and visual effects are most likely to occur.
- 5.27 The types of development to be considered should be agreed with the local planning authority at the outset of the study together with the zones of influence. As outlined in LANDMAP Guidance Note 3 (May 2013) it is not necessarily the case that cumulative assessments of wind energy developments should only consider other operational and consented wind energy developments, these assessments may also consider other vertical types of development such as overhead lines as well as horizontal developments such as field-scale solar PV where this is requested or agreed with the local planning authority.
- 5.28 *‘A CLVIA should describe and assess any additional and combined cumulative effects of a potential wind energy development (wind turbines and associated infrastructure) on the landscape when considered in conjunction with other existing or consented wind energy developments or those “in planning”, and potentially other non-energy developments.’ Section 8, LANDMAP Guidance Note 3 (May 2013)*
- 5.29 For ‘vertical’ developments study areas may initially extend over relatively large distances. Recommended distances of zones of theoretical visibility (ZTV) for different height wind turbines are outlined in Table 2 of SNH publication ‘Visual Representation of Windfarms, Good Practice Guidance’ (2006); these indicate that study areas could extend up to 35 km. This table could be used as a starting point for establishing study areas for the cumulative assessments of the ‘vertical’ developments; however, in order to keep the task proportionate it is recommended that they be scaled down to ‘zones of influence’ as and when more detailed analysis identifies areas where it is reasonable to consider that significant effects may occur.
- 5.30 For ‘horizontal’ developments it is reasonable to assume that the study area would be smaller in comparison because the landscape and visual effects of such development are unlikely to extend over such long distances. Study areas for these types of development may initially be up to 10 km but again the progression of more detailed analysis may scale down the extents to focus on ‘zones of influence’ in which significant effects are most likely to occur.

Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 5.31 A cumulative zone of theoretical visibility (CZTV) is often a useful tool, used to inform the assessment of cumulative visual effects. Where considered beneficial, a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) should be generated for the main development being proposed. This can then be compared on a plan to the ZTVs for the other developments being taken into consideration (often these ZTVs will have been produced as part of the EIA/planning application for the other developments – if this is not the case a decision needs to be made about how useful generating new ZTV for each of the other developments). The different ZTVs can then be combined to analyse where interactions between developments are likely to occur and presented as a CZTV or series of different CZTVs to help explain the various cumulative scenarios being assessed (see below). This tool can also be used to refine the overall study area.

Cumulative Scenarios

- 5.32 Where a number of different development proposals are involved, assessments of cumulative landscape and visual effects often consider a range of scenarios.
- 5.33 For each scenario the CLVIA should assess the effects of the proposed scheme in combination with the other developments and identify the contribution that the proposed scheme makes to the degree of cumulative effect. GLVIA3 states that *‘agreement should be reached about whether the cumulative effects assessment is to focus primarily on the additional effects of the main project under consideration, or on the combined effects of all the past, present and future proposals together with the new project.’* Paragraph 1.18, GVLIA
- 5.34 The scenarios and approach to their assessment should be agreed with the local planning authority.

Assessment of Cumulative Landscape Effects

- 5.35 The assessment of cumulative landscape effects is concerned with the totality of potential effects on the landscape, taking into consideration the overall combination of effects from the construction and operation of the proposed development together with the other similar developments as combined in the various cumulative scenarios. These effects may result from changes in the fabric, aesthetic aspects and overall character of the landscape in particular places, arising from the introduction of new elements or from the removal of or damage to existing ones.
- 5.36 The identification and assessment of the significance of cumulative landscape effects should follow the same approach as that taken in the LVIA. The emphasis of the assessment, however, should always be on the proposed development and how or whether it would add to (or combine with) the other developments being considered to create or increase the magnitude of a significant landscape effect.
- 5.37 In making judgements the assessment should consider:
- The susceptibility of the landscape to the types of development being considered.
 - The value attached to the landscape, reflecting its designation status and other valued components of the landscape.
 - The nature or magnitude of effects, both in terms of scale and geographical area.
- 5.38 The significance of identified cumulative landscape effects should then be assessed through the application of professional judgement, based on a combination of the above factors and whether the change is likely to be temporary or permanent, long or short term.
- 5.39 Significance is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. GLVIA3 notes that there are no hard and fast rules but generally:
- *‘Major loss or irreversible negative effects over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes are likely to be of the greatest significance.*
 - *Reversible negative effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value are likely to be of least significance and may, depending on the circumstances, be judged as not significant.*
 - *Where assessment of significance place landscape effects between these extremes, judgements must be made about whether or not they are significant, with full explanations of why these conclusions have been reached.’ (para.5.56)*

540 GLVIA3 also notes that:

- 5.41 *‘the most significant cumulative landscape effects are likely to be those that would give rise to changes in the landscape character of the study area of such an extent as to have major effects on its key characteristics and even, in some cases, to transform it into a different landscape type. This may be the case where the project itself tips the balance through its additional effects. The emphasis must always remain on the main project being assessed and how or whether it adds to or combines with the others being considered to create a significant cumulative effect.’ para. 7.27*
- 5.42 It is recommended that the assessment initially considers potential effects upon designated landscapes (paying particular attention to the individual special qualities of those areas), followed by an assessment of cumulative effects upon the different LCAs likely to be affected.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

- 5.43 The assessment of cumulative visual effects is concerned with the identification and assessment of the additional effects on peoples’ views arising from the proposed development when seen together with the other projects as set out in the various cumulative scenarios. These effects would result from changes in the character and content of the views experienced due to the introduction of new elements or removal of or damage to existing ones.

- 5.44 The identification and assessment of the significance of cumulative visual effects follows the same approach as that taken in the LVIA. The emphasis of the assessment, however, should always be on the proposed development and how or whether it would add to, or combine with, the other developments being considered to create or increase the magnitude of a significant visual effect.
- 5.45 The cumulative visual assessment should be backed up by cumulative wireframes set beneath photographs and/or photomontages prepared from key viewpoints to illustrate the magnitude of cumulative visual effects (these can also be useful to illustrate the nature and degree of cumulative change to the landscape).
- 5.46 A number of representative and/or worst-case viewpoints should be selected and agreed with the local planning authority to illustrate the potential cumulative visual effects arising from the main development being assessed, in combination with the other developments within the various scenarios. Viewpoints should be specifically selected to illustrate cumulative effects.
- 5.47 The visual receptors should be categorised in terms of their importance and susceptibility to change. Judgement should then be made on the magnitude of visual effects, and consideration given to the way in which any sequential views would be experienced from roads and important routes such as National Cycle Routes and the Wales Coast Path.
- 5.48 The significance of effects of development on views is related to the nature and sensitivity of the receptor, the characteristics of the development being proposed and the extent, nature and characteristics of the views, which itself is a reflection of the landscape character.
- 5.49 GLVIA3 (para. 7.38) notes that typically higher levels of significance are considered to arise from:
- ‘Developments that are in close proximity to the main project and are clearly visible together in views from the selected viewpoints.
 - Developments that are highly inter-visible with overlapping ZTVs – even though the individual developments may be at some distance from the main project and from individual viewpoints, and when viewed individually not particularly significant, the overall combined cumulative effect on a viewer at a particular viewpoint may be more significant.’
- 5.50 It is recommended that the assessment initially considers potential effects on views to and from designated landscapes followed by an assessment of cumulative visual effects based on selected viewpoints, and an assessment of the cumulative visual effects on various receptors along the route (with the emphasis being on the identification of likely significant effects) .

Assessing Significance

- 5.51 The significance of identified cumulative landscape and visual effects should be assessed through the application of professional judgement, based on a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape/visual receptor, the magnitude of the change and whether the change is likely to be temporary or permanent, long or short term. The cumulative assessment should identify which effects are considered to be significant (in the context of the EIA Regulations for EIA development) as well as whether they are adverse or beneficial.

SECTION 6: NATURAL RESOURCES WALES STATEMENT ON NATURAL BEAUTY

What is Natural Beauty?

6.1 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, (as amended) does not contain a definition of 'natural beauty', though reference to conservation of natural beauty includes conservation of flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features. NRW have however developed a statement on natural beauty. The statement includes the range of landscape attributes which contribute to an understanding of natural beauty. Their presence within coherent areas of landscape, expression of landscapes of national value and desirability to designate, underpin the UK approach to the designation of National Parks and AONBs to ensure they afforded a national level of planning protection:

- *Scenic quality, in terms of the aesthetic aspects of landscape (those which give pleasure to the senses), its perceptual dimensions and the spiritual or emotional impact that both have on people. There should be a consensus of opinion about the beauty of the landscape, among both experts and the public;*
- *Sense of place, in terms of unity and distinctiveness of landscape character;*
- *Landscape quality, in terms of the intactness of the landscape and its condition, in so far as this helps to deliver distinctiveness of landscape character in a particular locality;*
- *Integrity, in terms of intact rural character and general lack of large-scale, visually intrusive or otherwise inharmonious development;*
- *Perceptual qualities which make a particular contribution to sense of place, including wildness and tranquillity;*
- *Important associations of the landscape with people, places or events relevant to a particular place;*
- *Evidence of importance through expressions or descriptions of the landscape in art, literature, music and other art forms, through language and folklore, and through modern media;*
- *Rarity or representativeness, either of the landscape as a whole, or of individual elements and features within it;*
- *Conservation interest, through the presence of features of particular wildlife, earth science or archaeological, historical and cultural interest which add value to the landscape as well as having conservation value in their own right.*
- *When considering the feasibility of a development in a given location it is important to note the Special Qualities set out in the Statutory Management Plan and supplement this with a local analysis and understanding of the presence of Natural Beauty and how this is experienced within available views.*

6.2 Places within designated landscapes which display high scenic quality, have a strong sense of place, distinctiveness, high integrity and perceptual qualities are likely to be of particular high susceptibility to change in character;

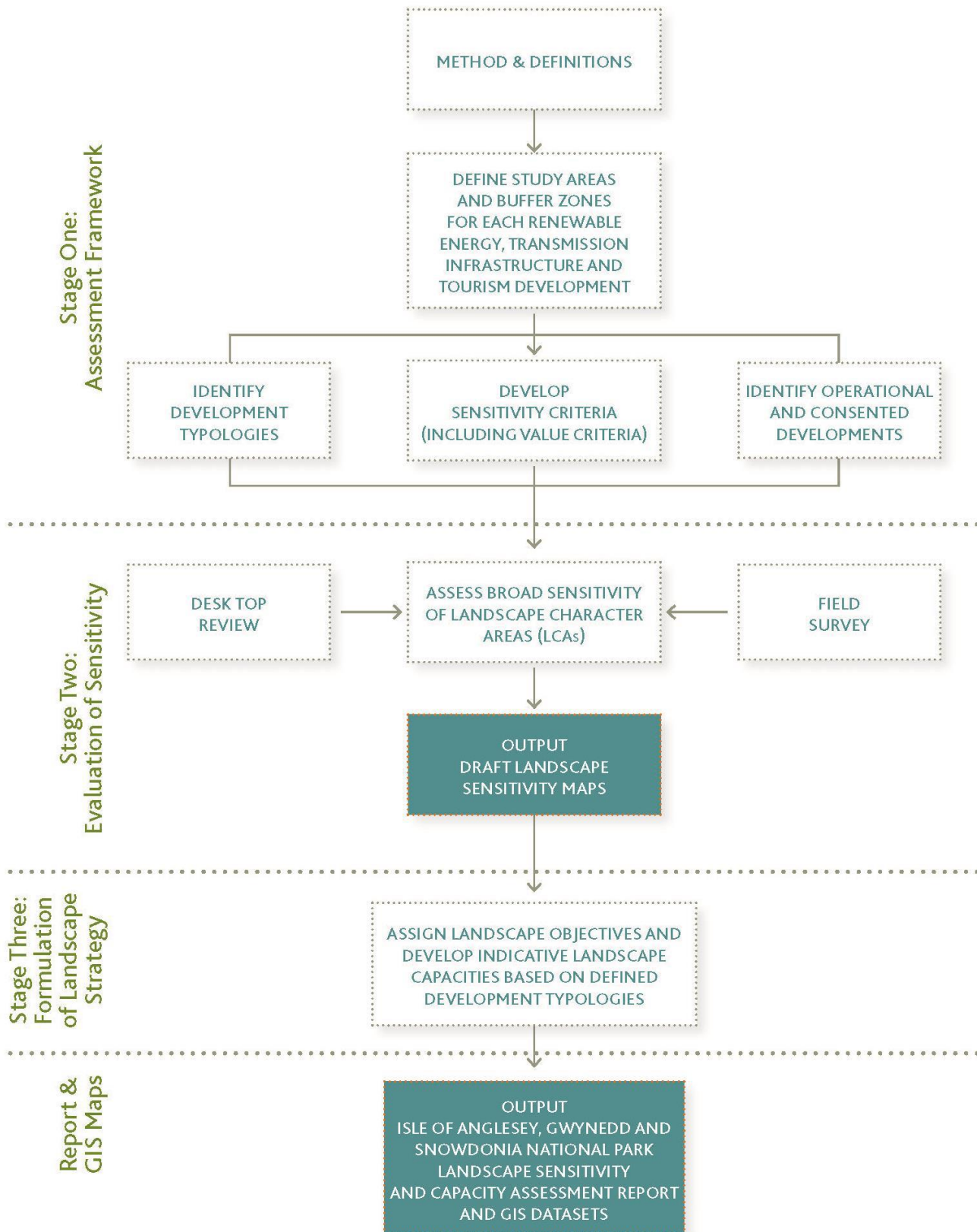
6.3 Adjacent landscapes contribute to the designated area's setting. Perceptual qualities of tranquillity, remoteness, wildness and freedom can be affected by development outside of the designated area.

- 6.4 Designation of the National Park establishes the landscape is of High Value. The need to conserve and enhance these areas is therefore of high policy importance.
- 6.5 Change from development of a nature and character which is in contrast with the existing landscape, would be more difficult to accommodate in these locations.
- 6.6 Landscape and visual Impact assessments submitted to demonstrate the acceptability of proposed development will need to assess the effects upon local perceptions of Natural Beauty.

APPENDIX 1

METHODOLOGY

A.1 The methodology for the report is illustrated in the flowchart below and described in more detail in the text that follows.



Stage One: Assessment Framework

- A.2 The methodology was informed by the various documents along with with Guidance developed for use in Scotland which is widely accepted for use in England and Wales. The following good practice document was particularly informative:
- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)*. The Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (Third Edition 2013). This is the industry standard for landscape and visual assessment.
- A.3 GLVIA3 advocates the use of professional judgement and an understanding of landscape character to help inform broad assumptions as to what makes one landscape relatively more or less sensitive than another to particular forms of development. Key to this is an understanding of which aspects of the landscape are particularly susceptible to the type of development proposed. These include physical, perceptual and experiential characteristics. The susceptibility of these is first assessed individually before being combined with a judgement on the relative value of the particular landscape and a judgement for overall sensitivity made through balanced assessment of all the characteristics.

Data Sources

- A.4 The assessment was informed by data gathered from the sources of baseline information listed in Appendix 5, including maps, relevant landscape and historic character assessments, LANDMAP, field work and consultations with the Steering Group.

LANDMAP

- A.5 LANDMAP is the formally adopted methodology for landscape assessment in Wales and has been extensively used to inform this study. LANDMAP is an all-Wales GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent dataset. LANDMAP comprises five spatially related datasets (layers) - Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape.
- A.6 Which together show what gives a landscape its place, makes it distinctive, and what type of changes and pressures the landscape might be sensitive to. Information on each is detailed in the LANDMAP Methodology: Guidance for Wales (NRW, 2013).
- A.7 Each of the five spatial layers are subdivided into discrete geographical units (GIS polygons) referred to as aspect areas. Each mapped aspect area is defined by its recognisable landscape characteristics and qualities. 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, together with an overall evaluation score, contextualised from a local to international scale of importance.
- A.8 Each Collector Survey records information from the unique perspective of the LANDMAP layer concerned, with each LANDMAP layer 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 sensitive.
- A.9 Although GLVIA3 recommends that data from all five LANDMAP layers should be used in any assessment, the Cultural Landscape information provided in the Cultural Landscape layer was not sufficiently detailed to be useful for this study⁵² hence, it was agreed with the Steering Group that this layer would not be used.

Definition of the Study Area and Scale of Mapping

Overall and Individual Study Areas

- A.10 The overall study area covered all of the local planning authority areas for the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park (see Figure 1). It includes areas with particular landscape interests notably Snowdonia National Park (including Areas of Natural Beauty and Undeveloped Coast as identified within the SNPA LDP), the Isle of Anglesey AONB, the Llŷn AONB, the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd

⁵² LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 3 doesn't identify any specific evaluation criteria for Cultural Landscape

World Heritage Site(s), Aberffraw Bay Heritage Coast (Anglesey), Holyhead Mountain Heritage Coast (Anglesey), North Anglesey Heritage Coast (from Church Bay to Amlwch, Anglesey), Llŷn Heritage Coast (around the Llŷn Peninsula, including Bardsey Island, Gwynedd), Registered Historic Landscapes, and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.

- A.11 The assessment took account of coastal and seascape issues where they are relevant to the assessment of the landscape character and sensitivity of the coastlines of Anglesey and Gwynedd and Snowdonia between Great Orme Head (to the north-east) down to the mouth of the River Dyfi at Aberdyfi (to the far south of the study area). Where landscapes have a close relationship with the coast and sea, information from CCW's Seascape Assessment of Wales and the Anglesey and Snowdonia Seascape Character Assessment has been used alongside the LCA descriptions to help inform the assessment.
- A.12 Consideration of the sensitivity of offshore developments such as wind energy developments and tidal range and offshore hydro energy developments were not in the remit of the study.
- A.13 With regard to wind energy developments this report is principally concerned with the landscape and visual sensitivity of smaller scale developments; however the influence of operational/consented developments on the landscape need to be taken into consideration as part of the baseline for considering sensitivity and capacity. Because landscape and visual effects of tall vertical developments such as wind turbines can extend across boundaries, an overall maximum 35 km study area buffer zone is identified. This takes into consideration the highly elevated nature of the landscape and the potential for far reaching views out of Snowdonia National Park and parts of Gwynedd in combination with presence of three Strategic Search Areas (SSA A, SSA B and SSA D) which all lie within 35 km of Snowdonia National Park.
- A.14 Where relevant this study has considered information held in LANDMAP databases and landscape strategies prepared by the adjoining authorities of Conwy, Denbighshire, Powys and Ceredigion.
- A.15 Because of the varied nature of the different types of development and associated geographical pressures it was agreed that separate study areas and study area buffers would be drawn up for each development type.

Scale of Mapping

- A.16 Landscape sensitivity and capacity studies are typically based on existing local landscape character assessments which subdivide the landscape into character units (types or areas). These are then reviewed and the key characteristics of each landscape unit which are potentially sensitive to any given development (key sensitivity criteria) are identified. Whilst these key sensitivity criteria may vary according to the nature of the development being considered, the general approach is broadly similar.
- A.17 For this study the assessment is based on the 25 existing LCAs which are identified in the Snowdonia National Park Local Development Plan (2011) and shown in the SPG entitled Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri (issued in July 2014).
- A.18 Figure A.1 illustrates the 25 LCAs in Snowdonia.

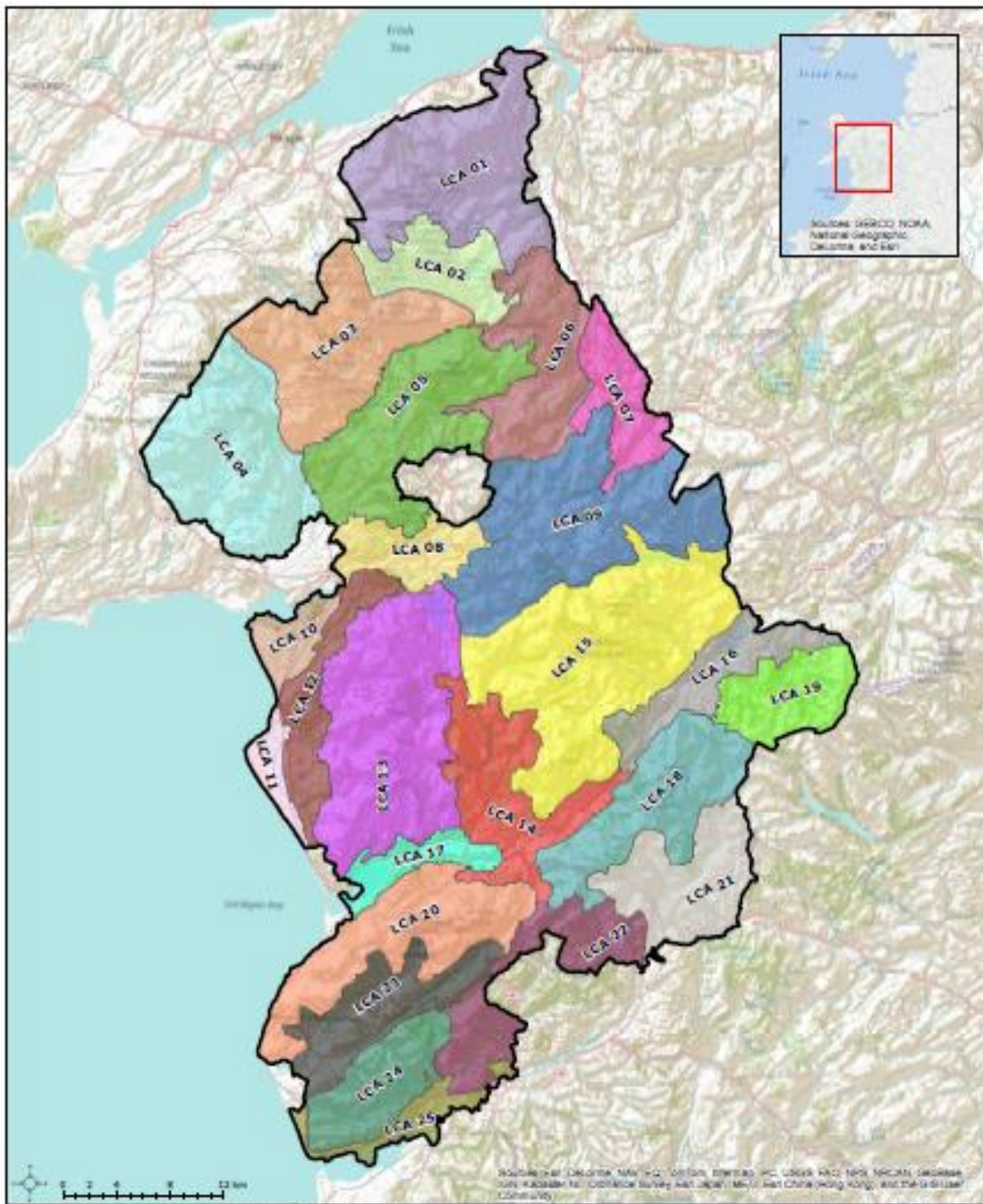


Figure A.1

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Criteria

- A.19 A key step in the study process was to identify and understand the aspects of the landscape which are more likely to be affected by the different types of development as it is these characteristics which ultimately define how much development could potentially be accommodated or not in a particular area.
- A.20 The criteria defined in Tables A.03 –A.07 are based on current good practice and were agreed with the Steering Group. They include criteria relating to landscape character and visual amenity as well as other aesthetic, perceptual and experiential aspects, for example scenic quality, remoteness and tranquillity. They also include criteria relating to the value of the landscape⁵³, as defined by the presence of any landscape designations and

⁵³ Although not strictly a sensitivity criterion, designated landscapes are typically highly vulnerable to change associated with renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism developments, therefore they were included in the assessment of sensitivity.

undesigned landscapes which have been evaluated by LANDMAP as Outstanding or High⁵⁴. It is important to emphasise that a landscape which is highly valued by society may still be able to accommodate some types of development in the right location - if it fits with the characteristics of the landscape and doesn't compromise the reason why value is attached to the landscape and in the case of designated landscapes, does not compromise the purpose for designation. Conversely a landscape that isn't designated may be highly sensitive to particular development types if it has particular characteristics which are very sensitive to those types of development.

- A21 The tables also identify the LANDMAP datasets (see Appendix 6) and other key data sources which were used to help assess the sensitivity of each criteria and how they have been used to indicate lower or higher sensitivity.
- A.22 The sensitivity of each LCA to the different types of development was systematically assessed against each of the sensitivity criteria. The sensitivity against each criterion was graded using a transitional three point sensitivity scale, higher, medium or lower as described in Table A.01 below.

Table A.01: Definition of Sensitivity Assessed against each Criterion

Sensitivity	Definition
Higher	Areas where the key landscape characteristics are vulnerable and likely to be adversely affected by the particular type of development being considered. The landscape would not be able to accommodate development without significant effects on its character.
Medium	Areas where a particular type of development may cause some adverse effects on key landscape characteristics. 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.
Lower	Landscapes which taking into account their character and general visibility are not very vulnerable to change and could accommodate a particular type of development without significant adverse effects.

- 2.23 The overall sensitivity assessment of each LCA was then evaluated and an overall sensitivity grade assigned using a more detailed six-point sensitivity scale, **low, low-medium, medium, medium-high, high and very high** as described in Table A.02.

Table A.02: Definition of Overall Sensitivity Assessment

Sensitivity	Definition
Very High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are very highly sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.
High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.

⁵⁴ TAN 8 states that to identify the landscape value of an area, existing information on landscape value derived from LANDMAP should be mapped. A concentration of Outstanding and High evaluation scores in a given area can be significant. However it does not mean a blanket ban on development; it is the underlying information from which the evaluations are derived that must be judged in order to arrive at an assessment of sensitivity based on value.

Medium-High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.
Medium	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.
Low-Medium	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 less likely to be adversely affected by the type and scale of development being assessed.

2.24 This process required a balanced approach, considering all the assessed criteria and focussing particularly on the susceptibility of the key landscape characteristics of each LCA to the particular type of development. All of the evaluations represent the judgement of two qualified and experienced chartered landscape architects, based on both desk top studies and field surveys. The overall evaluations of sensitivity are not based on any mathematical formula (for example – assigning scores and adding up the lower, moderate and higher scores and averaging them out). **It should also be emphasised** that sensitivity does vary locally within the LCAs and that the overall evaluation represents the general sensitivity across the LCA to reflect the strategic nature of this study.

2.25 Finally, it is important to note that the landscape sensitivities identified in this study are purely relative to the landscape of North Wales. It may be that a landscape classed as having medium sensitive in this particular study may be classed as of higher or lower sensitivity in other parts of the UK.

Table A.03: Criteria for Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to [Wind Energy Development](#)

Landscape Criteria			
Scale	<p>This is one of the most important characteristics affecting where wind turbines may be more readily accommodated and also in influencing the scale of development that may be appropriate. A large scale expansive landscape is typically less sensitive to large wind energy developments than a small scale intimate landscape. Care has to be taken to ensure that the apparent scale of the landform is not diminished by the size of the turbines. It must be borne in mind that such landscapes, particularly in designated areas such areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, may contain important aspects of natural beauty such as tranquillity, wildness and freedom of view. Scale by itself is not an overriding factor.</p>		
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS8: Scale / LCA descriptions / OS data / Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits</p>		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast or large scale landscapes </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate and small scale landscapes • Small scale field systems </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast or large scale landscapes 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate and small scale landscapes • Small scale field systems
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast or large scale landscapes 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate and small scale landscapes • Small scale field systems 		

Landform	<p>Landforms that are smooth, regular and convex, or flat and uniform are likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development than complex varied landforms with distinctive landmarks where visible wind turbines may have a detrimental effect on the appearance of the landform. Complex landforms may provide some screening opportunities for turbines but care has to be taken to ensure that turbines do not dominate intricate landforms.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS Level 2: Landform & VS4: Topographic Form / LCA descriptions / OS data / Topographic Data / Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Convex landform • Plateaux • Flat and uniform landform 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged hills • Irregular or complex landform • Narrow valleys and ridges • Distinctive landform features
Landcover	<p>This criterion is not concerned with the particular material sensitivity of a type of landcover, but with the impression of landcover pattern. Simple uncluttered landscapes with sweeping lines and a consistent groundcover are likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development. Areas of commercial forestry and intensive farming may also indicate lower sensitivity. Complex landscapes comprising a variety or mosaic of characteristic or sensitive landscape features such as trees and woodlands, irregular field patterns and hedgerows are typically more vulnerable to change arising from wind energy development. Tree and woodland cover offers the potential to screen small scale turbines in certain situations (particularly in combination with undulating landform) although care must be taken not to allow turbines to detract from or dominate locally distinctive features such as tree knolls, veteran trees or avenue trees.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS Level 3: Land Cover & VS5: Land Cover Pattern / LCA descriptions / OS data / Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple, regular or uniform landscape • Developed land, derelict or waste ground • Open upland pasture • Upland moorland • Forestry • Lowland farmland 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex or irregular landscape • Rocky uplands • Open hillsides • Field pattern/mosaic • Valleys • Water
Man-made Influences	<p>This criterion is concerned with the amount of built structures and human intervention present in the landscape. The presence of modern structures such as wind turbines, transport, utility or communications infrastructure or industrial development may reduce landscape sensitivity to wind energy development, as may the visible influences of quarrying or landfill. The frequency of built form and man-made influences in more contemporary densely settled areas may also indicate a</p>	

	<p>reduced sensitivity to the introduction of wind turbines. However, in all of these cases care must be taken to avoid further visual conflict and cumulative change through the introduction of additional vertical structures. In settled areas there is a balance to be struck between visual effects and effects on landscape character. Areas which are more sparsely settled and/or characterised by a more established, traditional or historic built character, including historic structures are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development. Commercial forestry may also introduce a temporary man-made influence to upland landscapes that would otherwise seem natural and wild.</p>		
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS6: Settlement & VS27: Condition / LCA descriptions / OS data / Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data /Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits</p>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="421 685 938 1066"> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major infrastructure (transport/communications/utility infrastructure/wind turbines) • Modern day industrial development • Large/concentrated urban/modern settlements • Commercial forestry </td> <td data-bbox="938 685 1425 1066"> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrequent/no residential built form • Dispersed settlement/sparsely settled/unpopulated areas • Presence of historic buildings/structures or settlement </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major infrastructure (transport/communications/utility infrastructure/wind turbines) • Modern day industrial development • Large/concentrated urban/modern settlements • Commercial forestry 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrequent/no residential built form • Dispersed settlement/sparsely settled/unpopulated areas • Presence of historic buildings/structures or settlement
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major infrastructure (transport/communications/utility infrastructure/wind turbines) • Modern day industrial development • Large/concentrated urban/modern settlements • Commercial forestry 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrequent/no residential built form • Dispersed settlement/sparsely settled/unpopulated areas • Presence of historic buildings/structures or settlement 		
<p>Visual Criteria</p>			
<p>Skylines and Settings</p>	<p>Landscapes with distinctive ridges or skylines are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development than skylines that are less prominent or have been affected by existing contemporary structures such as electricity or communications infrastructure. The presence of distinctive or historic landscape features such as hilltop monuments, church spires or vernacular villages' increases sensitivity.</p> <p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LCA descriptions/OS data/ Aerial Imagery (Google Earth)/Site Visits</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="421 1547 938 1928"> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less prominent skylines • Existing vertical features (modern development) • Existing built development </td> <td data-bbox="938 1547 1425 1928"> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent skylines • Distinctive skylines • Uninterrupted/undeveloped skylines • Presence of distinctive/sensitive landscape features such as historic landmarks </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less prominent skylines • Existing vertical features (modern development) • Existing built development 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent skylines • Distinctive skylines • Uninterrupted/undeveloped skylines • Presence of distinctive/sensitive landscape features such as historic landmarks
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less prominent skylines • Existing vertical features (modern development) • Existing built development 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent skylines • Distinctive skylines • Uninterrupted/undeveloped skylines • Presence of distinctive/sensitive landscape features such as historic landmarks 		
<p>Movement</p>	<p>Turbines can draw the eye by introducing movement into the landscape. Landscapes that are already affected by movement are therefore likely to be less</p>		

	sensitive, whilst landscapes which are valued for their tranquillity will be more sensitive.	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS18: Level of Human Access / Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant or frequent access • Busy 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare or infrequent access
<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each LCA)</p>	<p>This criterion is concerned with views and visual receptors which influence visual sensitivity. The likelihood of turbines being highly visible in the landscape depends on the scale of the development and landform in which it is sited and on the screening opportunities of landcover, especially buildings, trees and woodlands. Landscapes which are visually contained with limited inward and outward views are likely to be less sensitive than open landscapes with extensive inward and outward views. The availability of views of these landscapes from neighbouring areas will also influence sensitivity. Landscapes which are experienced from tourist routes, national or regional trails and other recognised visitor locations are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development. Similarly, close proximity to settlement which increases the chance of adverse effects on visual amenity may increase an area's sensitivity.</p> <p>The numbers and types of people likely to experience a change in a view due to potential development influences visual sensitivity. The most sensitive receptors are likely to be residents, communities, people engaged in outdoor recreation where landscape is part of the experience, visitors to landscape focussed natural and built heritage assets, key amenity and recreational attractions and users of scenic routes. Each location brings with it certain expectations. Transport routes are generally considered less sensitive receptors, however single and sequential views from recognised scenic and tourist routes are important to the perception of the landscape.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS9: Enclosure/LCA descriptions/OS data/Aerial Imagery (Google Earth)/ Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes which are confined, contained or enclosed with few inward or outward views • Sparsely populated or inaccessible • Neighbouring landscapes of lower sensitivity • Contributes little to wider landscape • Large scale simple backdrops • Weak association with adjacent LCAs 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes which are open or exposed with far reaching views • Densely populated • Views from scenic routes, well-known landmarks, or views from visitor viewpoints • Views into or out, especially from high ground • Neighbouring landscapes of higher sensitivity, especially internationally and nationally designated landscapes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to wider landscape • Distinctive or complex backdrops • Landscapes important to the settings/approaches/ gateways to designated landscapes • Strong association with adjacent LCAs
Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each LCA)	Landscapes which are important to the views in and out and setting of <u>key</u> designated landscape and cultural heritage areas / focal features (such as AONBs, National Parks, World Heritage Sites, Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Areas of Outstanding Beauty, National Trails and Cycle Networks, prominent natural features and key/focal designated visitor attractions such as historic hillforts/castles/church spires) are likely to be more sensitive. The setting of designated landscapes may be more sensitive where the setting contributes to the overall scenic quality of the designated landscape. For the purpose of this study Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are considered only of value as a key visitor attraction or focal point.	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figures 4.1 & 4.2)/LCA descriptions/Site Visits	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak association with landscape • Little intervisibility between sites 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong association with landscape • Intervisibility between sites
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential Criteria		
Scenic Quality and Character	Areas of attractive scenery, character, quality, integrity, strong sense of place and local distinctiveness will typically be more sensitive to wind energy development than less scenic areas. This includes landscapes designated for their natural beauty (such as such as a Heritage Coast or designated AONB) but also areas of undesignated landscape, including areas which are locally distinctive or have strong character.	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> LANDMAP VS25 Sense of Place, VS46: Scenic Quality, VS47: Integrity & VS48: Character / Site Visits	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation • Low scenic quality (ie. industrial areas) • Weak sense of place 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation • High scenic quality (ie. and AONB / Heritage Coast) • Strong sense of place

Remoteness/Tranquillity	Areas which are relatively remote and have a wild and/or tranquil character and lack built development increase the sensitivity of the landscape to wind energy development. Turbine development adjacent to such areas can undermine the special qualities and setting of such areas, although if this is associated with and in scale with other forms of development such as farms, the effects may be lessened.	
	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion LANDMAP VS24: Perceptual and Sensory Qualities / Wales Tranquil Areas Map / Site Visits	
	Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatening; unattractive; noisy; settled Close to visible signs of human activity and development 	Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote; tranquil; wild; spiritual; attractive; peaceful Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil
Value Criteria		
Landscape Value	Areas where there is a concentration of Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluations are likely to be more highly sensitive to wind energy development. In addition, landscapes that are formally designated for their scenic, designed or recreational value are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development than undesignated areas. The degree of sensitivity depends on the nature of the proposal and the landscape qualities which are valued by the designation. The hierarchy of the designation has a bearing on sensitivity of a landscape. Internationally and nationally designated landscapes such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites and AONBs are considered to be very sensitive, followed by regional and local designations such as AOBs and SLAs. Landscape value is formally recognised by designation, but value can also be informed by published documentation such as tourist leaflets; art and literature. Heritage Coasts are not formal designations but are notified and recognised as being of national value and represent outstanding undeveloped coastal areas.	
	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion LANDMAP VS50: Overall Evaluation, VS49: Rarity, LH45: Overall Evaluation, LH42: Connectivity/Cohesion, GL31: Rarity/Uniqueness & GL33: Overall Evaluation/Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figure 4.1)	
	Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No designated sites Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast, AOB, SLA Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation Popular locations with an iconic status (e.g. Snowdon summit)
Historic Value	Areas which are predominantly recognised by Outstanding or High Historical or Cultural LANDMAP evaluations are likely to be more highly sensitive to wind energy development. Areas designated for their international, national or regional historic or cultural heritage value such as World Heritage Sites are likely to be more	

<p>sensitive to wind energy development especially if the character or perception of the landscape in which they are located is likely to be significantly altered by the proposed development. Registered Historic Landscapes and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens are not protected by designation but are considered by many to be of national value.</p>	
<p>Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP HL38: Rarity, HL35: Integrity & HL40: Overall Evaluation/Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figure 4.2)</p>	
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Site, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, visually prominent SAMs such as hillforts and castles which are also visitor attractions. • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation

Table 2.04: Criteria for Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Mobile Mast Development

Landscape Criteria		
Landform	<p>Landforms that are smooth, regular and convex, or flat and uniform are likely to be less sensitive to mobile mast development than dramatic or rugged upland landform. This is because the latter are more prominent and distinctive in character. Complex landforms may provide some screening opportunities but care has to be taken not to dominate intricate landforms. Valleys and low rolling hills have greater potential to provide backclothing and limit the perceptibility of mobile masts and therefore are considered less sensitive.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS Level 2: Landform & VS4: Topographic Form/LCA descriptions/OS data /Topographic Data /Site Visits</p>	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Convex landform • Flat and uniform landform • Valleys and low rolling hills </td> <td> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic/rugged hills/upland • Irregular or complex landform • Distinctive landform features </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Convex landform • Flat and uniform landform • Valleys and low rolling hills
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Convex landform • Flat and uniform landform • Valleys and low rolling hills 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic/rugged hills/upland • Irregular or complex landform • Distinctive landform features 	

Landcover	<p>This criterion is not concerned with the particular material sensitivity of a type of landcover, but with the impression of landcover pattern.</p> <p>Rural lowland landscapes with medium to large scale field patterns and frequent tree cover are less likely to be sensitive to mobile mast developments. Areas of commercial forestry, intensive farming and brownfield or commercial/urban land may also indicate lower sensitivity.</p> <p>More complex and intimate landscapes comprising a variety or mosaic of characteristic or sensitive landscape features including historic or irregular field patterns are typically more vulnerable to change arising from this type of development.</p> <p>Tree and woodland cover may offer the potential to screen developments in certain situations (particularly in combination with undulating landform) although care must be taken not to allow development to detract from or dominate locally distinctive features such as tree knolls, veteran or avenue trees. The least sensitive landscapes are those containing some woodlands or tree belts, which may provide screening opportunities without much tree loss.</p> <p>Landcover such as open, barren rocky uplands and waterbodies such as lakes, streams or ponds can also be highly sensitive and valuable features particularly</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS Level 3: Land Cover & VS5: Land Cover Pattern/LCA descriptions/OS data/Aerial Imagery (Google Earth)/Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medium scale field pattern of rural landcover ● Developed land, derelict or waste ground ● Commercial forestry ● Lowland farmland ● Frequent woodland / tree belts 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small scale field pattern/mosaic ● Complex, irregular or intimate landscape ● Barren/rocky upland ● Water/intertidal / dunes/ dune slack/coastal land
	<p>Man-made Influences</p> <p>This criterion is concerned with the amount of built structures and human intervention present in the landscape. The presence of modern structures such as wind turbines, transport, utility or communications infrastructure or industrial development may reduce landscape sensitivity to mobile mast development, as may the visible influences of quarrying or landfill. The frequency of built form and human intervention in more contemporary densely settled areas may also indicate a reduced sensitivity to the introduction of mobile masts. However, in all of these cases care must be taken to avoid further visual conflict and cumulative change through the introduction of additional vertical structures also in settled areas there is a balance to be struck between visual effects and effects on landscape character. Areas which are more sparsely settled and/or characterised by a more established, traditional or historic built character, including historic structures are likely to be more sensitive to this type of development. Commercial forestry may also introduce a temporary man-made influence to upland landscapes that would otherwise seem natural and wild.</p>	

	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS6: Settlement & VS27: Condition/LCA descriptions/OS data/Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data/ Aerial Imagery (Google Earth /Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major infrastructure (transport / communications/utility infrastructure / wind turbines) • Modern day industrial development • Large/concentrated urban/modern settlements • Commercial forestry 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrequent /no residential built form • Dispersed settlement / sparsely settled/ n-populated areas • Presence of historic buildings/structures or settlement
<p>Visual Criteria</p>		
<p>Skylines and Settings</p>	<p>Landscapes with distinctive ridges or skylines are likely to be more sensitive to mobile mast development than skylines that are less prominent or have been affected by existing contemporary structures such as electricity or communications infrastructure. The presence of distinctive or historic landscape features such as hilltop monuments, church spires or historic villages' increases sensitivity.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LCA descriptions/ OS data/Aerial Imagery (Google Earth)/Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less prominent skylines • Existing vertical features (modern development) • Existing built development 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent skylines • Distinctive skylines / backdrops • Uninterrupted/undeveloped skylines • Presence of distinctive / sensitive landscape features such as historic

<p>Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each Landscape Character Area)</p>	<p>The probability of mobile masts being highly visible in a particular landscape is a function of the landform and the presence of potentially screening landcover, especially trees and woodlands. It is also a function of the number of people of different types who are likely to perceive the landscape and any change within it (e.g. residents, workers, visitors).</p> <p>The numbers and types of people likely to experience a change in a view due to potential development influences visual sensitivity. The most sensitive receptors are likely to be residents, communities, people engaged in outdoor recreation where landscape is part of the experience, visitors to landscape focussed natural and built heritage assets, key amenity and recreational attractions and users of scenic routes. Each location brings with it certain expectations. Transport routes are generally considered less sensitive receptors, however single and sequential views from recognised scenic tourist routes are important to the perception of the landscape.</p> <p>Topography or vegetation can provide a sense of enclosure, which may help reduce the visibility of mobile masts and hence indicate lower landscape sensitivity. Open landscapes are potentially more visible, particularly when they are overlooked. They may also be visible from adjoining landscapes.</p> <p>Landscapes that have limited inward and outward views may be less sensitive to mobile mast developments than areas with less contained views. Extensive close or middle range views from scenic routes, well-known vistas or tourist viewpoints may also increase a landscape’s sensitivity to this type of development, as may close proximity to settlement.</p>
<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS9: Enclosure / LCA descriptions / OS data / Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits</p>	
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes which are confined, contained or enclosed with few inward or outward views • Sparsely populated or inaccessible • Neighbouring landscapes of lower sensitivity • Contributes little to wider landscape • Large scale simple backdrops • Weak association with adjacent LCAs 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes which are open or exposed with far reaching views • Densely populated • Views from scenic routes, well-known landmarks, or views from visitor viewpoints • Views into or out, especially from high ground • Neighbouring landscapes of higher sensitivity, especially internationally and nationally designated landscapes • Contributes to wider landscape • Distinctive or complex backdrops • Landscapes important to the settings/approaches/ gateways to designated landscapes • Strong association with adjacent LCAs

Views to and from Important Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features (both within and outside of each LCA)	Landscapes which are important to the views in and out and setting of <u>key</u> designated landscape and cultural heritage areas / focal features (such as AONBs, National Parks, World Heritage Sites, Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Areas of Outstanding Beauty, National Trails and Cycle Networks and key/focal designated visitor attractions such as historic hillforts/castles/church spires) are likely to be more sensitive. The setting of designated landscapes may be more sensitive where it contributes to the overall scenic quality of the designated landscape. For the purpose of this study Listed Buildings and SAMs are considered only of value as a key visitor attraction or focal	
	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figures 4.1 & 4.2) / LCA descriptions / Site Visits	
	Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity	Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak association with landscape • Little intervisibility between sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong association with landscape • Intervisibility between sites
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential Criteria		
Scenic Quality and Character	Areas of attractive scenery, character, quality, integrity, strong sense of place and local distinctiveness will typically be more sensitive to mobile mast development than less scenic areas. This includes landscapes designated for their natural beauty (such as such as a Heritage Coast or designated AONB) but also areas of undesignated landscape, including areas which are locally distinctive or have strong	
	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion LANDMAP VS25 Sense of Place, VS46: Scenic Quality, VS47: Integrity & VS48: Character / Site Visits	
	Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity	Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation • Low scenic quality (i.e. industrial areas) • Weak sense of place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation • High scenic quality (ie. and AONB / Heritage Coast) • Strong sense of place
Remoteness /Tranquillity	Landscapes which are relatively remote and have a wild and/or tranquil character and little or no built development increase the sensitivity of the landscape to mobile mast development. This type of development can undermine the special qualities and setting of such areas. The introduction of mobile masts may alter perceptions of wildness and tranquillity by bringing a more industrial character to the affected landscapes.	
	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion LANDMAP VS24: Perceptual and Sensory Qualities / Wales Tranquil Areas Map / Site Visits	

	<p><i>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatening; unattractive; noisy; settled • Close to visible signs of human activity and development 	<p><i>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote; tranquil; wild; spiritual; attractive; peaceful • Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil
Value Criteria		
Landscape Value	<p>Areas which are predominantly recognised by Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluations are likely to be more highly sensitive to mobile mast developments. In addition, landscapes that are formally designated for their scenic, designed or recreational value are likely to be more sensitive than undesignated areas. The degree of sensitivity depends on the nature of the proposal and the landscape qualities which are valued by the designation. The hierarchy of the designation has a bearing on sensitivity of a landscape. Internationally and nationally designated landscapes such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites and AONBs are considered to be very sensitive, followed by regional and local designations such as AOBs and SLAs. Landscape value is formally recognised by designation, but value can also be informed by published documentation such as tourist leaflets; art and literature. Heritage Coasts are not protected by designation but are considered to be of national value.</p>	
	<p><i>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</i></p> <p>LANDMAP VS50: Overall Evaluation, VS49: Rarity, LH45: Overall Evaluation, LH42: Connectivity / Cohesion, GL31: Rarity / Uniqueness & GL33: Overall Evaluation / Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figure 4.1)</p>	
	<p><i>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	<p><i>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast, AOB, SLA • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation
Historic Value	<p>Areas which are predominantly recognised by Outstanding or High Historic or Cultural LANDMAP evaluations are likely to be more highly sensitive to mobile mast developments. Areas designated for their international, national or regional historic or cultural heritage value such as World Heritage Sites are likely to be more sensitive especially if the character or perception of the landscape in which they are located is likely to be significantly altered by the proposed development. Registered Historic Landscapes and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens are not protected by designation but are considered by many to be of national value.</p>	
	<p><i>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</i></p> <p>LANDMAP HL38: Rarity, HL35: Integrity & HL40: Overall Evaluation / Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figure 4.2)</p>	
	<p><i>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</i></p>	<p><i>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Site, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, visually prominent SAMs such as hillforts and castles frequently visited by tourists • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation
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Table A.05: Criteria for Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Static Caravan / Chalet Parks and Extensions

Landscape Criteria		
Landform	<p>Prominent and rolling landforms or landforms with steeper slopes are more sensitive to static caravan / chalet park and extension developments because they are strong landscape features which tend to be obscured by development and require more extensive modification in the course of the construction. Flatter, simpler landscapes or those with gently undulating slopes are considered to be less sensitive to static caravan /chalet park developments and extensions. However in the Snowdonia National Park these types of landscape are typically found along the coast, where tree cover is particularly sparse, and existing large static caravan a chalet sites are prominent in long views.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS Level 2 Landform & VS4: Topographic Form / LCA descriptions / OS data / Topographic Data / Site Visits</p>	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Flatter and more uniform landform </td> <td> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged hills • Irregular or complex landform • Narrow valleys and ridges • Distinctive landform features </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Flatter and more uniform landform
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple featureless landform • Flatter and more uniform landform 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged hills • Irregular or complex landform • Narrow valleys and ridges • Distinctive landform features 	

Landcover	<p>This criterion is concerned with both the material sensitivity of the type of landcover and also the impression of landcover pattern and how development can impact on it.</p> <p>Rural lowland landscapes with medium to large scale field pattern are less likely to be sensitive to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions. Areas of commercial forestry, brownfield or commercial/urban land and areas of intensive farming may also indicate lower sensitivity.</p> <p>Complex, smaller scale and more intimate landscapes comprising a variety or mosaic of characteristic or sensitive landscape features such as veteran trees and ancient woodlands (which are not re-creatable in the short term), irregular field patterns and hedgerows are typically more vulnerable to change arising from this type of development.</p> <p>Tree and woodland cover offers the potential to screen developments in certain situations (particularly in combination with undulating landform) although care must be taken not to allow development to detract from or dominate locally distinctive features such as tree knolls, veteran or avenue trees.</p> <p>Landcover such as open upland moorland and unenclosed upland grazing and waterbodies such as lakes, streams or ponds can also be highly sensitive and valuable features particularly vulnerable to development. Similarly open coastal</p>
<i>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</i>	
<p>LANDMAP VS Level 3: Land Cover & VS5: Land Cover Pattern / LCA descriptions / OS data / Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits</p>	
<i>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</i>	<i>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium scale field pattern of rural landcover • Developed land, derelict or waste ground / brownfield land • Commercial forestry • Lowland farmland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small / intimate scale field pattern / mosaic • Complex / irregular / diverse landscapes • Strong pattern / texture • Intact landscape • Ancient woodland • Upland moorland • Upland grazing • Barren/rocky upland • Water / intertidal / dunes/dune slack / coastal land
Man-made Influences	<p>This criterion is concerned with the amount of human intervention present in the landscape. Man-made landscapes and/or landscapes that contain signs of human activity and development such as large and sprawling settlements, transport, utility or communications infrastructure or industrial development may reduce landscape sensitivity to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions, as may the visible influences of quarrying or landfill and the frequency of built form and human intervention in more contemporary densely settled areas. On the contrary, areas which are more sparsely settled and free from human activity and disturbance are considered more sensitive to this type of development, due to their perceived naturalness. Areas which are characterised by a more established, traditional or historic built character, including historic structures are likely to be more sensitive to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions.</p>

	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion	
	LANDMAP VS6: Settlement & VS27: Condition / LCA descriptions / OS data / Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data /Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits	
	Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity	Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity
Visual Criteria		
Visibility, Key Views, Vistas and Typical Receptors (both within and outside of each LCA)	<p>The probability of static caravan/chalet park developments and/or extension being highly visible in a particular landscape is a function of the landform and the presence of potentially screening landcover, especially trees and woodlands. It is also a function of the number of people of different types who are likely to perceive the landscape and any change within it (e.g. residents, workers, visitors).</p> <p>Landscapes that have limited inward and outward views may be less sensitive to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions than areas with less contained views.</p> <p>Topography and/or vegetation can provide a sense of enclosure, which may help reduce the visibility of the development and hence indicate lower sensitivity.⁵⁵ Open landscapes, particularly open coastlines are potentially more visible and therefore more susceptible to these types of development; particularly when they are overlooked.</p> <p>Key views are those views from publicly accessible places (which are used regularly or to enjoy scenic quality) towards features of interest. Generally, these are sensitive to change and development. Extensive close or middle range views from</p>	
	Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion	
	LANDMAP VS9: Enclosure / LCA descriptions / OS data / Aerial Imagery (Google Earth) / Site Visits	
	Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity	Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape with a strong sense of enclosure • Landscapes which are contained and strongly visually filtered. • Very little or no intervisibility from designated viewpoints in protected landscapes • No prominent landmarks or topographic features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very open, exposed landscapes • Landscapes with extensive intervisibility and little screening or filtering of views • Landscapes which are visible from designated viewpoints in protected landscapes • Prominent visual landmarks and/or topographic features such as distinct elevated ridge lines
Aesthetic, Perceptual and Experiential Criteria		

⁵⁵ Woodlands and forestry should be a long term feature if their screening effects are to be relied upon.

Scenic Quality and Character	<p>Areas of attractive scenery, character, quality, integrity, strong sense of place and local distinctiveness will typically be more sensitive to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions than less scenic areas. This includes landscapes designated for their natural beauty (such as a Heritage Coast or designated AONB) but also areas of undesignated landscape, including areas which are locally distinctive or have strong character whose special scenic qualities are likely to be affected by this type of development.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS25 Sense of Place, VS46: Scenic Quality, VS47: Integrity & VS48: Character / Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation • Low scenic quality (.e. industrial areas) • Weak sense of place 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation • High scenic quality (ie. and AONB / Heritage Coast) • Strong sense of place
Remoteness/Tranquillity	<p>Areas which are relatively remote and have a wild and/or tranquil character and lack built development increase the sensitivity of the landscape to static caravan/chalet park developments and extensions. Development adjacent to such areas can undermine the special qualities and setting of such areas.</p>	
	<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS24: Perceptual and Sensory Qualities / Wales Tranquil Areas Map / Site Visits</p>	
	<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatening; unattractive; noisy; settled • Extensive visual and auditory intrusions • Notable presence of modern/large scale development and infrastructure (industrial areas, large modern urban settlements etc.) 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote; tranquil; wild; spiritual; attractive; peaceful • Few obvious man-made features
Value Criteria		

<p>Landscape Value</p>	<p>Areas where there is a concentration of Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluations are likely to be more highly sensitive to static caravan / chalet park developments and extensions. In addition, landscapes that are formally designated for their scenic, designed or recreational value are likely to be more sensitive to this type of development than undesignated areas. The degree of sensitivity depends on the nature of the proposal and the landscape qualities which are valued by the designation. The hierarchy of the designation has a bearing on sensitivity of a landscape. Internationally and nationally designated landscapes such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites and AONBs are considered to be very sensitive, closely followed by regional and local designations such as AOBs and SLAs. Landscape value is formally recognised by designation, but value can also be informed by published documentation such as tourist leaflets; art and literature. Heritage Coasts are not protected by designation but are considered to be of national value.</p>		
<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP VS50: Overall Evaluation, VS49: Rarity, LH45: Overall Evaluation, LH42: Connectivity / Cohesion, GL31: Rarity / Uniqueness & GL33: Overall Evaluation / Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figure 4.1)</p>			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="421 824 938 1055"> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation </td> <td data-bbox="938 824 1434 1055"> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast, AOB, SLA • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast, AOB, SLA • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation
<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park, AONB, Heritage Coast, AOB, SLA • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation 		
<p>Historic Value</p>	<p>Areas which are predominantly recognised by Outstanding or High Historic or Cultural LANDMAP evaluations are likely to be more highly sensitive to the development of static caravan/chalet parks and extensions. Areas designated for their international, national or regional historic or cultural heritage value such as World Heritage Sites are likely to be more sensitive to this type of development especially if the character or perception of the landscape in which they are located is likely to be significantly altered. Registered Historic Landscapes and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens are not protected by designation but are considered by</p>		
<p>Key Sources of Data Relevant to the Sensitivity Criterion</p> <p>LANDMAP HL38: Rarity, HL35: Integrity & HL40: Overall Evaluation / Environmental Designations Mapping Data (Figure 4.2)</p>			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="421 1541 938 1865"> <p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation </td> <td data-bbox="938 1541 1434 1865"> <p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Site, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, visually prominent SAMs such as hillforts and castles frequently visited by tourists • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Some Indicators of Lower Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated sites • Low to Moderate LANDMAP evaluation 	<p>Some Indicators of Higher Sensitivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Site, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, visually prominent SAMs such as hillforts and castles frequently visited by tourists • Outstanding or High LANDMAP evaluation
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Stage Two – Assessing Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

A.26 This part of the study involved desk based studies and field surveys, the latter being undertaken both in the early stages of the study (familiarisation) and later to help verify and refine the desk based sensitivity assessments.

Baseline Assessment

A.27 The first step in the process was to:

- Identify and evaluate the existing landscape of the study area, including its distinctive characteristics, existing landscape designations and effects of the following types of development: wind energy; mobile masts and static caravan/chalet parks.
- Identify and evaluate the existing views and visual amenity of the study area.

A.28 The following information was reviewed as a desk exercise:

- Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography.
- Designated and nationally/regionally valued landscapes, including Snowdonia National Park, Areas of Natural Beauty and Undeveloped Coast (as identified within the ELDP), the Isle of Anglesey AONB, the Llŷn AONB, SLAs and Heritage Coasts.
- Information from LANDMAP datasets (all five Aspect Areas).
- Natural and built heritage GIS mapping data.
- Existing landscape character assessments.
- The Wales Tranquil Areas Map.
- Registered Historic Landscapes, the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site(s), Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and visually prominent SAMs.
- Existing developments within the study area (including wind energy, mobile masts, static caravan/chalet parks and also hydro energy).

A.29 The findings of the desk survey, which were subsequently refined following field survey work, are presented in Section 3. They include an overview of the key landscape characteristics of the study area, a description of existing and consented developments (relative to those being considered in this study) and their effect on the landscape together with brief comments on any issues of existing and potential cumulative effects.

Assessing the Sensitivity of LCAs

A.30 This part of the study required the preparation of sensitivity assessment sheets for each LCA, as presented in Section 4.

A.31 The key features of each LCA are described before being evaluated against the sensitivity criteria described in Tables A.03 –A.07, using a three point grading: higher, medium or lower (as described in TableA.01). Finally a judgement on the overall sensitivity of each LCA to change associated with the various development types is made, based on a more detailed six point sensitivity scale: low; low-medium; medium; medium-high, high and very high.

2.32 Data taken from LANDMAP was overlaid onto the study area (as listed in Tables 2.03 – 2.07). This information was used to make initial judgements on sensitivity which was then backed up and or moderated following further desk top studies and the site visits.

Field Survey

A.33 On completion of the draft assessment, field surveys were undertaken to help test and refine the findings and provide the following information:

- Better understanding of the general characteristics of the landscape including the effects of existing comparable developments and any forces for change which it may be experiencing.
- Analysis of the landscape, in terms of the characteristics and qualities which affect its sensitivity to the different types of development, including the special qualities of any designations which apply.
- Appreciation of the variations within individual LCAs and more detailed understanding of scenic quality and landscape condition.

- Appreciation of the nature of any visual amenity issues.
- Understanding of the degree of intervisibility, both between LCAs within the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park and with landscapes in neighbouring authority areas.
- Important views to and from each LCA were recorded, identifying distinctive features such as iconic viewpoints, views to and from designated landscapes, skylines or uninterrupted horizons (both land and sea). It was important to understand how the landscape is experienced both from fixed viewpoints and sequentially as people travel through an area.
- Understanding of how individual characteristics either alone or in combination make one landscape more sensitive than another. This helped identify any specific strategic sensitivity/capacity constraints which may reduce the potential of particular landscape areas to accommodate the different types of development.

A.34 The fieldwork also briefly considered the likely implications of the different development typologies/scales in relation to different aspects of the landscape. The acceptability of the different development typologies/scales varies across all LCAs. In small scale sheltered valleys for example, there are clear technical constraints to large and medium wind energy development typologies. Similarly, it is recognised that areas with significant landscape sensitivity to large scale wind energy development such as Snowdonia National Park and the AONBs, may only be suitable for single very small turbines.

A.35 Based on the results of the field surveys, the draft evaluations of LCA sensitivity were refined and the final sensitivity assessment and accompanying summary tables for each LCA prepared.

Stage Three – Assigning Landscape Strategies and Developing Siting and Design Guidance

A.36 The Councils and the Park Authority recognise the need to balance opportunities for energy generation and connection, telecommunications networks and tourism with the need to ensure that the important characteristics of the landscape are not unacceptably harmed. A landscape strategy for each LCA has therefore been developed based on the following considerations:

- Avoid significant harm to the key characteristics of the LCA whilst accepting that some change might be required in some locations.
- Based on the preceding landscape sensitivity assessment, respond to locations where new renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and tourism developments is best accommodated and locations where the important characteristics including the special qualities of any designated landscape make these types of development less suitable.
- Protect sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development.
- Ensure that the location and design of development responds to the landscape character of each LCA.
- Ensure that any development does not impinge on surrounding landscapes beyond the boundary of the study area.
- Ensure that different types of development do not conflict either within or between LCAs.

A.36 This stage in the study applied professional judgement to determine the most appropriate landscape objective(s) and the relative capacity of each of the LCAs by combining the landscape and visual sensitivity evaluation with issues of intervisibility and potential cumulative effects that may arise should further development take place.

Development Typologies

A.38 The following typology tables have been produced in order to categorise the various scales of wind energy, field-scale solar PV energy, mobile masts and static caravan/chalet park development. These help understand the nature and varying scales of the different types of development being considered. The typology references are used throughout this report, particularly in the development of landscape strategies and consideration of indicative capacity. There is no typology table in relation to a 400 kV overhead line as the study assumes typical steel lattice towers of circa 46 m in height.

Wind Energy Development Typologies

- A.39 Landscape capacity for wind energy development reflects not only the presence of different landscape characteristics and values, but also the grouping and height of the turbines in relation to the scale of the landscape. To help evaluate this, a series of generic wind energy development typologies was identified based on past wind energy development applications within the study area together with anticipated future trends. These typologies also link in with the typologies considered in the 2013 Conwy and Denbighshire Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy Development which considers the sensitivity of landscapes to wind energy developments in adjacent Authority areas.
- 2.40 The six categories (domestic, micro, small, medium, large, and very large) are presented in Table A.08 below and illustrated in Figure A.1 in comparison to other well-known landmarks in north Wales to provide a sense of scale.
- A.41 A proposal will normally be considered as falling within the category that represents the biggest type for which it qualifies.

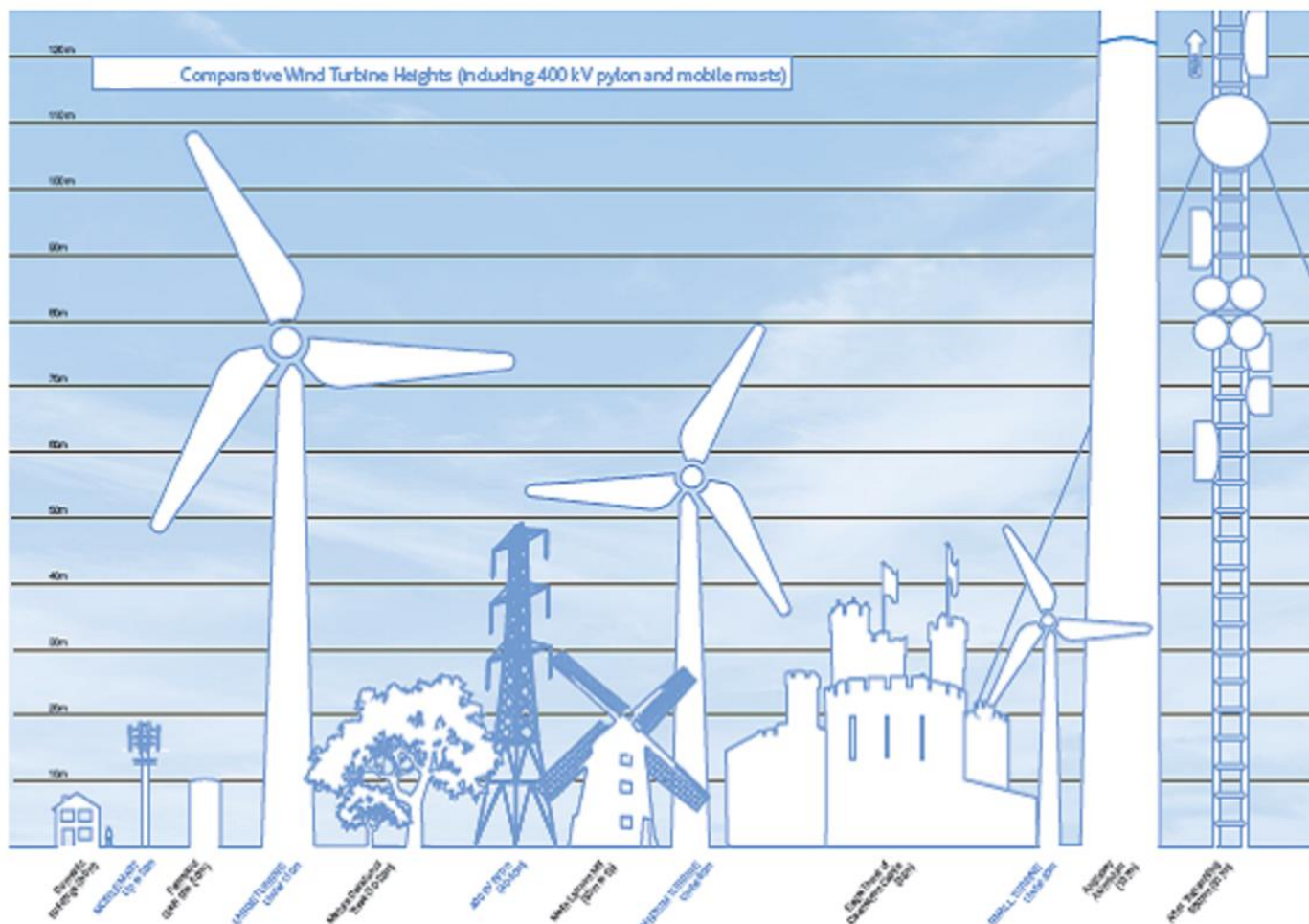


Figure A.2

Table A.08: Wind Energy Development Typologies

Wind Energy Typology	Criteria (meets one or more of the criteria) (determines whether this or a larger typology applies)
DOMESTIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single turbine applications • Turbine up to 15m to blade tip • Turbine may be roof-mounted or pole-mounted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically under 10kw
MICRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single or twin turbine applications • Turbine up to 20m to blade tip • Typically under 50kw
SMALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines up to 3 in number • Turbines up to 50m to blade tip • Viewed as a small group • Typically under 5MW
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines up to 9 in number • Turbines up to 80 metres to blade tip • Viewed as a large group • Typically over 5MW and up to 25MW
LARGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines over and including 10 in number • Turbines up to 110 metres to blade tip • Viewed as a large scale wind farm • Typically over 25MW
VERY LARGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines over and including 10 in number • Turbines over 110 metres to blade tip • Viewed as a very large scale wind farm • Typically over 25MW

A.42 Turbine height (rather than just the number of turbines) and how this relates to landscape scale and landform, is a key consideration as well as localised issues including settlement separation, views from settlement edges and routes.

A.43 Applications and enquiries for large and very large scale wind farm developments are most commonly associated with TAN 8 Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), all of which lie outside the study area. The large and very large typologies have been included within Table A.08 above for reference as these typologies relate to some operational/consented developments within the study and buffer area; however, developments of this scale are not considered to be appropriate outside the TAN 8 SSAs and are therefore have not been considered within this study.

A.44 Whilst output is sometimes used to define different scales of wind energy development, there are a number of specific conditions (in relation to height, rotor diameter or number of turbines), which influence the landscape and visual effect of a proposal and which can therefore change the categorisation of a proposal regardless of output. Indicative outputs are presented in Table 2.08 for reference; however, this information should not be used to determine which typology applies to proposed wind energy developments.

Mobile Mast Development Typologies

A.45 Landscape capacity for mobile mast development reflects not only the presence of different landscape characteristics and values, but also the style and height of the masts in relation to the scale of the landscape. To help evaluate this, a series of generic mobile mast development typologies has been identified based on past development applications within the study area together with anticipated future trends.

A.46 The three categories (lattice, monopole and camouflaged) are presented in TableA.10 below and the monopole is illustrated in Figure 2 in comparison to other well-known local features to provide a sense of scale.

TableA.10: Mobile Mast Development Typologies

Mobile Mast Typology	Description
LATTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More complicated steel frame structure of which a number of design types are available, typically up to 20 m in height
MONOPOLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple, relatively featureless, columnar design, typically up to 15–20 m in height
CAMOUFLAGED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masts disguised, for instance as telegraph poles, rocks and trees to minimise the visual impact, can include building mounted masts (various heights up to 15-20 m)

Static Caravan/Chalet Park Development Typologies

A.47 Landscape capacity for static caravan/chalet park development reflects not only the presence of different landscape characteristics and values, but also the footprint/mass of the development in relation to the scale of the landscape. To help evaluate this, a series of development typologies has been identified; based on the spread of scales of development within the study area. It should be noted that a well landscaped site which resembles a woodland with open spaces will have a very different effect to a site where units laid out in uniform rows resembling a lorry park.

A.48 The five categories (very small, small, medium, large and very large) are presented in Table A.11 below and illustrated in Figure A.3 to provide a sense of scale.

Table A.11: Static Caravan/Chalet Park Development Typologies

Static Caravan/Chalet Park Typology	Indicative Criteria
VERY SMALL	Up to 10 units (typically below 1 hectare in area)
SMALL	11-25 units (typically below 2 hectares in area)
MEDIUM	26-75 units (typically below 10 hectares in area)
LARGE	76-200 units (typically below 15 hectares in area)
VERY LARGE	Over 200 units (typically over 15 hectares in area)

Figure 5.3: Comparative Static Caravan/Chalet Parks Development and Extensions



Figure A.3

Landscape Strategies

- A.49 The Design Commission for Wales (DCfW) in its 2012 document, *Designing Wind Farms in Wales*, applied Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance to the development of its own Guidance specifically relating to the development of wind farms. In this document three landscape objectives are discussed:
- **Landscape Protection:** a 'landscape with no wind farms or infrequent wind farms'.
 - **Landscape Accommodation:** a 'landscape with occasional wind farms'.
 - **Landscape Change:** a 'landscape with wind farms'.
- A.50 The study in relation to the Snowdonia National Park was commissioned to identify the sensitivity of landscapes specifically in relation to three different development types of development. Although the DCfW Guidance only considers wind farms it is useful as a guide to developing landscape objectives and has been utilised and modified to reflect the variety of developments which are being addressed in this report. It is important to note that these should not be seen as rigidly prescriptive objectives.
- A.51 Each LCA is assigned one (or more) of the four broad landscape objectives as defined below. These may differ depending on the type of development being considered but will ultimately assist the Councils' and Park Authority's decision making on new applications as the landscape objectives then form the basis for recommendations on the type and scale of development which may/may not be appropriate in each of the LCAs.

Objective 1

Landscape Protection	<i>Typically no development or very infrequent smaller scale renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.</i>
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Landscape protection is applicable to landscapes where the conservation of resource and visual experience of the landscape has been assessed to be of very high importance. It aims to retain or reinforce the present character, quality and integrity of the landscape and to avoid significant harm to its key characteristic.

Whilst smaller scale development may be appropriate in certain circumstances within areas where landscape protection is the primary objective, such opportunities are likely to be very limited due to the landscape and visual sensitivities of these areas and is dependent on how well the scale and design of development relates to the existing landscape and visual constraints.

The presence of statutorily protected landscapes substantially reduces the degree to which development can be accommodated and it will be important to understand how the different types of development could affect the special qualities for which it is designated. PPW (Edition 5, 2012) aims to maintain the integrity and quality of the landscape within the National Parks, AONBs, Natura 2000 Habitat Directive Sites, National Nature Reserves and World Heritage Sites. In these areas, landscape protection will be the most appropriate landscape objective, reflecting the high degree of protection afforded these designated areas.

Particularly with tall structures such as turbines, mobile masts intervisibility between LCAs must be carefully considered to avoid adverse cumulative landscape and visual effects arising from multiple developments. There may, however, be distant views of developments located in nearby LCAs, which may be perceptible under conditions of good visibility.

Objective 2

Landscape Accommodation	<i>Typically a landscape with occasional renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.</i>
<p>Landscape accommodation is typically applicable to landscapes where the conservation of landscape character and views has been assessed to be of moderate to high importance.</p> <p>This objective aims to retain the overall character, quality and integrity of the landscape, whilst accepting that occasional small to medium scale developments may be allowed. Such development may affect the perception of the landscape in close proximity, but should not have a widespread influence on the overall experience of the landscape of the LCA, or bring about large scale changes in character and conflict with or alter its defining characteristics.</p>	

Objective 3	
Landscape Change	<i>Typically a landscape with relatively frequent renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.</i>
<p>Landscape change is applicable to landscapes where it is accepted that the landscape character can accommodate some change as a result of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.</p> <p>The landscape change objective accepts that several developments may be located within the LCA and that these may have an effect both locally and across a wider area and therefore become a defining characteristic of the landscape. In such areas it will still be important to ensure that developments fit with the scale and character of the landscape. It should be possible to appreciate the character of the landscape without developments dominating every view. To that end mitigation and enhancement measures must be included as part of the development proposals.</p>	

Objective 4	
New Landscape	<i>Typically a landscape with a notable amount of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.</i>
<p>The implicit objective in these landscapes is to accept a significant change in landscape character. All other landscape features are seen in the context of extensive renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development. Where it is accepted that the area is one whose landscape character may be allowed to change, good landscape design principles still need to be followed to ensure that the development is appropriate to the scale and character of the landscape. To that end mitigation and enhancement measures must be included as part of the development proposals.</p>	

A.52 The relationship or thresholds of landscape change that may arise from development vary depending on the landscape and the nature of the potential development. It is assumed however that there is typically higher capacity for development in areas of lower sensitivity where landscape change is considered more acceptable. Conversely areas of higher sensitivity, particularly those which are designated, are likely to have very limited

capacity. In addition, larger landscape character areas may be able to accommodate a greater number of developments.

Indicative Landscape Capacity

A.53 An overall indicative landscape capacity for the different types of development has been derived for each LCA area by considering the following:

- Overall landscape and visual sensitivity to each type of development which is considered in the determination of the objective(s) for the area.
- How the landscapes of the area are perceived and experienced and contribute to strategic and local issues.
- Operational and consented renewable energy and/or tourism developments within and adjacent to each LCA.
- The size of each LCA. There may be scope for a greater number of developments within large LCAs before a capacity threshold is reached.

A.54 Whilst the indicative landscape capacity helps to identify the type of developments which could be potentially accommodated, this does not in itself suggest that planning applications for development in these areas will be appropriate. Other variables such as environmental designations and technical constraints, the site specific siting, layout and design and need for the development are beyond the scope of this assessment and will need to be considered on a case by case basis.

A.55 The general relationship between landscape sensitivity, landscape objectives and capacity is illustrated below.

Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Objective	Landscape Capacity	Threshold
Higher Sensitivity	Landscape Protection	Limited Capacity	<i>Typically no development or very infrequent smaller scale renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development</i>
	Landscape Accommodation		<i>Typically a landscape with occasional renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development</i>
	Landscape Change		<i>Typically a landscape with relatively frequent renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development</i>
Lower Sensitivity	New Landscape	Highest Capacity	<i>Typically a landscape with a notable amount of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development</i>

Siting and Design Guidance in Relation to Potential Landscape and Visual Impacts of Renewable Energy, Transmission Infrastructure and/or Tourism Development

- A.56 Specific Guidance notes have been formulated for each type of development to help direct any proposed development to the most appropriate locations in landscape and visual terms within each LCA. This Guidance broadly indicates what type(s) of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development (if any) may be considered appropriate and highlights specific design and siting issues. Any specific constraints which may reduce the potential of particular areas to accommodate the different types of development are noted as are any potential cumulative and cross boundary effects.
- A.57 Generic siting and design Guidance notes are included in Section 4, together with links to other relevant sources of information which can be used to inform sensitive design and siting. These notes should be read alongside the specific design and siting Guidance which is included in the strategies for each LCA.