

Wylfa Newydd Project

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- Published sources of landscape character**

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F10-1 Published sources of landscape character

F10-1.1 Introduction

F10-1.1.1 Extracts of relevant published sources of landscape character are set out in this appendix in order to provide the full version of source text (verbatim), which is summarised in chapter F10 (landscape and visual) (Application Reference Number: 6.6.10) of this Environmental Statement. Extracts are set out below under the title of the relevant documents, and should be read in conjunction with figure F10-4 in chapter F10 (Application Reference Number: 6.6.10).

F10-1.1.2 The extracts include descriptions of published Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the overarching study area defined for the landscape and visual assessment. This is based on a 6km offset from the centre of the site used to model the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Park and Ride, shown on figure F10-1 (Application Reference Number: 6.6.10) of this Environmental Statement, since there is potential for landscape effects within this area.

F10-1.1.3 Extracts are also included from published *LANDMAP* [RD7] aspect areas within the detailed study area, which extends up to 6km from the assessment point. This is the area where theoretical intervisibility is principally concentrated and where there is greater potential for significant landscape effects.

F10-1.2 National Landscape Character Areas

F10-1.2.4 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) are defined by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The following document describes the landscape character within the overarching study area for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment as set out in chapter F10 (Application Reference Number: 6.6.10):

- *National Landscape Character, NLCA02: Central Anglesey* [RD1].

NLCA02: Central Anglesey

F10-1.2.5 The relevant key characteristics listed below for NLCA02: Central Anglesey have been extracted from the character profile:

“The land-locked central part of Anglesey - part of the largest island in Wales (720km²).”

“Rock outcrops and a distinct geological grain - the gentle topography, low lying and near flat in places, follows a northeast to southwest ‘grain’ imposed by major faults ... In various places there are many craggy rock outcrops.”

“Extensive drumlin fields - thick layers of glacial boulder clays, especially in northwest Anglesey, result in a classic ‘basket of eggs’ rolling drumlin landscape.”

“Lowland pastures and mixed field patterns - silty and peat soils underlie lowland pastoral grazing land bounded by a strongly geometric pattern of medium to large scale and, more occasionally, small scale fields.”

“Minor rivers and fens - A number of minor rivers and streams cross the landscape, whose alignment is influenced by the northeast to southwest trend.

There are many shallow hollows and fens with wetland features including rush pasture and valley mires..."

Hedgerows and cloddiau - This is generally a rolling, open landscape with a well-established pattern of field boundaries, predominantly of hedgerows but with cloddiau in some areas."

Few woodlands - Woodlands larger than a small copse are an exception, [including] ...estate woodlands at Presaddfed (Bodedern). Except in sheltered areas, individual trees are few."

Generally rural settlement patterns - The only urban settlement is the county town of Llangefni, in the centre of the island. It's nucleated historic core contrasts with modern peripheral housing and expanding light industrial and business park developments. There are only a few villages, but numerous scattered hamlets and farms throughout the area..."

Prehistoric and funerary sites - ritual and funerary monuments including cairns and round barrows, Iron Age hill forts and Early Christian churches, burial grounds and inscribed stones."

Historic windmill towers - including some restored examples, form local features."

Modern wind farms - generally limited to an area north of Llanddeusant, but are seen in longer distance views from a much wider area."

Llyn Alaw - a large reservoir, nearly 3 miles long and a notable visual feature, providing significant over wintering habitat for wildfowl..." (RD1)

F10-1.3 Special Landscape Areas (SLA)s

F10-1.3.6 There are no SLAs located within the overarching study area for the Park and Ride Facility at Dalar Hir.

F10-1.4 Anglesey Landscape Strategy, Update 2011

F10-1.4.7 At county level, there are four LCAs identified in the *Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011* [RD6], within the study area for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

F10-1.4.8 Although there is theoretical intervisibility with the Park and Ride from LCA 18: Valley Airfield Environs and LCA 3: Inland Sea, as shown on figure F10-1 (Application Reference Number: 6.6.10), site surveys have determined that actual visibility is minimal. As such, LCA 3 and LCA 18 have been scoped out of the assessment, since it is not considered likely that there would any significant effect on these LCAs.

F10-1.4.9 There is, however, intervisibility with the Park and Ride from the other two LCAs within the overarching study area and therefore the potential for landscape effects on LCA5 and LCA 17. The key characteristics for these LCAs are set out below.

LCA 5: North West Anglesey

F10-1.4.10 The relevant key characteristics for LCA 5: North West Anglesey are described as follows:

"...It covers the north west of the island from Amlwch down to the A5/A55 corridor between Valley and Caergeiliog. The key feature of its character is the extensive drumlin field. This has resulted in the classic 'basket of eggs' description for the

landscape. The extent of this deposit is important in the Welsh context. The hillocks trend in a southwest to northeast direction and closely abut LCA 4 on the coast. In places, they even run right down to the coastal edge... Interspersed with this landform are a number of hard rocky features such as Mynydd y Garn and Mynydd Mechell.

The majority of the landscape is characterised by improved grassland, especially in the drumlin field. However, there are a number of marshy grasslands amongst the drumlins as well as small scattered areas of scrub. There are also extensive areas of scattered rocky outcrops ... Here dry ericaceous heath and acid grasslands are found, interspersed with low lying marshy areas...

... Another, more distinctive feature of the landscape is the development of wind farms, particularly to the north of Llyn Alaw. Ironically windmills have long been found on Anglesey and this interrelationship with wind energy continues." [RD6].

F10-1.4.11 Key issues relevant to the assessment of landscape effects for the Park and Ride comprise the following.

Coastal landscapes

"Abutting LCA 4, any development or management proposals should:-

- Have regard to the AONB Management Plan." [RD2].

Energy landscapes

"The area is characterised by a number of windfarms. In considering any further developments particular emphasis should be given to cumulative effects upon the landscape character." [RD6]

LCA 17: West Central Anglesey

F10-1.4.12 The relevant key characteristics for LCA 17: West Central Anglesey are described as follows:

"An expansive LCA which includes a large area of the rural heartland of Anglesey...

The topography of the LCA forms a gently undulating pattern, which largely reflects the influences of the underlying geology, especially the Coedana granite. This results in the very typical small rocky outcrops that are scattered around this part of the island. These are mirrored by the complex of small areas of semi-natural habitat – mires, trees, hedgerows and hedgebanks, which are found throughout the area within a larger matrix of improved agricultural grassland. These form an important landscape resource and contribute markedly to the character of the area, breaking up areas of uniformity within the wider landscape.

F10-1.4.13 Key issues relevant to the assessment of landscape effects for the Park and Ride comprise the following.

Transportation Corridors

F10-1.4.14 The A5/A55 corridor passes through the LCA. It is important any new development or management proposals ensure that:-

- Visual impacts from and to these principal transport corridors are properly considered.
- Mitigation measures reflect the wider landscape structure and sites are not considered in isolation.

F10-1.5 LANDMAP, Level 3

F10-1.5.15 *LANDMAP* is a data source for landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape, published by NRW [RD7]. A number of aspect layers are categorised, including the *LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect, Level 3*, which provides the primary appraisal relevant to informing landscape character assessments. However, the other aspect areas provide other relevant information about the geology, habitats, historic and cultural influences on the landscape, which are also relevant in relation to landscape characterisation.

F10-1.5.16 Extracts of summary descriptions from the 'collector surveys' for the different *LANDMAP* aspect areas, are quoted in table F10-1 below. The summary descriptions for the visual and sensory aspect areas include all aspect areas located within the detailed study area, from which there is theoretical visibility of the Park and Ride.

Table 1-1Summary description of *LANDMAP* Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas

<i>LANDMAP</i> Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas	<i>LANDMAP</i> collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013d)
North-west drumlins	"This extensive area, covering most of the eastern part of north Anglesey, stretches from Cemaes and Llyn Alaw in the east to the northwest coast and the A55 in the west. The 'basket of eggs' glacial landscape of smooth oval hillocks and damp hollows is typically covered with regular medium-sized fields with hedges, mainly pasture for sheep and cattle, with some arable land. There are numerous small villages, hamlets and scattered farms, linked with small roads, giving a settled character to this quiet, unremarkable but pleasant landscape..."
Caergeiliog craggy lowlands	"Generally pleasant rural landscape with more variety of craggy features than much of Anglesey, marred by proximity to RAF Valley and A55... ...the small scale of the fields and twisting lanes is in contrast to the A55 and to RAF Valley"
A55 Corridor	The A55 dual-carriageway crosses Anglesey diagonally and has six interchanges, with intrusive raised roundabouts, signs and lighting. Overall, the corridor fits well into the gently undulating topography and is not particularly conspicuous. It has shallow cuttings and embankments, with mainly hedges alongside. From the road, there are views across the pleasant countryside and more dramatic views

<i>LANDMAP Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas</i>	<i>LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013d)</i>
	of the coast towards Holyhead.
Llanfihangel-yn-Nhywyn	This village is spread out along the B road between the A55 and RAF Valley. The southern part, nearer the airfield, is a typical RAF base with forces housing and expanses of neat mown grass. The northern part is mainly housing estates, with a few shops. Adjacent natural lakes help bring some character to this otherwise very ordinary settlement. Noise from jets is very intrusive in this area during weekdays. Small areas of agricultural and/or wild land are included where they form an important part of the setting of the settlement.
Bodedern	This is a medium sized village in the centre of northern Anglesey, two miles north of the A55. It has a small older core but is mainly unattractive late twentieth century housing estates, plus a large school on the outskirts. It is generally a compact village with little sense of place. Noise from jets is intrusive in this area during weekdays. Small areas of agricultural and/or wild land are included where they form an important part of the setting of the settlement

Table 1-2 References

ID	Reference
RD1	NRW. 2014. <i>National Landscape Character, NLCA02: Central Anglesey</i> . Available by request from NRW, Maes y Ffynnon, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW, contact: John.briggs@cyfoethnaturiol.cymru
RD2	IACC. 2015. <i>The Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan Review 2015–2020</i> . [Online] [Accessed: 20 February 2017] Available from: http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/w/x/m/Anglesey-AONB-Management-Plan-2015_20.pdf
RD3	United Nations. 1992. Convention on Biological Diversity.
RD4	Land Use Consultants. 2012. <i>Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey</i> . (Document No. DC.008). [Online] [Accessed: 20 February 2017] Available from: https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Review-of-SLAs-in-Gwynedd-and-Anglesey-(DC.008).pdf
RD5	IACC and Gwynedd Council. 2015. <i>Joint Local Development Plan Anglesey and Gwynedd 2011–2026 Deposit Plan (2015) Written Statement</i> . [Online] [Accessed: May 2016] Available from: http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/2015/02/13/r/v/e/Deposit-Plan-2015.pdf
RD6	IACC and TACP. 2011. <i>Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update (Document No. DC.011)</i> . [Online] [Accessed: 20 February 2017] Available from: https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Angesey-Landscape-Strategy---Update-2011-(DC.011).pdf
RD7	NRW. 2013. <i>LANDMAP. Visual and Sensory dataset</i> . [Online] [Accessed: 09 May 2017] Available from: http://landmap-maps.naturalresources.wales/