

Wylfa Newydd Project

**6.7.33 ES Volume G - A5025 Off-line
Highway Improvements App G10-1 -
Landscape baseline**

PINS Reference Number: EN010007

Application Reference Number: 6.7.33

June 2018

Revision 1.0

Regulation Number: 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

[This page is intentionally blank]

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Landscape elements	2
2.1	Introduction	2
2.2	Topography	2
2.3	Surface waters	2
2.4	Landscape pattern	3
2.5	Land cover	3
2.6	Boundary features	4
2.7	Historic and cultural features	4
3	Landscape character	6
3.1	Introduction	6
3.2	National LCAs	7
3.3	LANDMAP	8
3.4	Isle of Anglesey County Council Landscape Strategy	12
3.5	Landscape designations	12
	<i>Landscape character of the AONB</i>	13
	<i>Landscape character of Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA</i>	14
	<i>Essential Setting of Carreglwyd Registered Park and Garden</i>	14
3.6	Non-designated wider landscape	15
3.7	Detailed landscape character assessment	15
	<i>LLCA1 Caergeiliog craggy lowlands</i>	16
	<i>LLCA2 A55 corridor</i>	17
	<i>LLCA3 Valley and Newlands</i>	18
	<i>LLCA4 Valley farmland</i>	18
	<i>LLCA5 AONB drumlins</i>	19
	<i>LLCA6 Afon Alaw estuary</i>	19
	<i>LLCA7 Afon Alaw</i>	20
	<i>LLCA8 Llanfachraeth</i>	20
	<i>LLCA9 North-west coast</i>	21
	<i>LLCA10 Central Anglesey low-lying</i>	21
	<i>LLCA11 Central Anglesey higher ground</i>	22
	<i>LLCA12 Llanfaethlu small fields</i>	22
	<i>LLCA13 Carreglwyd</i>	23
	<i>LLCA14 Drumlins with windfarms</i>	23
	<i>LLCA15 Llanrhuddlad small fields</i>	23
	<i>LLCA16 Mynydd Mechell</i>	24
	<i>LLCA17 Llyn Llygeirian</i>	24
	<i>LLCA18 Llanrhuddlad ridge</i>	25
	<i>LLCA19 Cefn Coch low-lying</i>	25
	<i>LLCA20 Mynydd Mechell</i>	26
	<i>LLCA21 A5025 farmland</i>	26
	<i>LLCA22 Llanfechell farmland</i>	26
	<i>LLCA23 North drumlins</i>	27

<i>LLCA24 Tregеле.....</i>	27
3.8 References	28

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This appendix provides a detailed description of the landscape and visual baseline within the overarching 3km and 1km detailed study areas defined in chapters B10 (landscape and visual) (Application Reference Number: 6.2.10) and G10 (landscape and visual) (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10). This detailed description supports the baseline summary presented in chapter G10 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10). Figures are referred to in this appendix which can be found in volume G of this Environmental Statement (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48).

2 Landscape elements

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Landscape elements (individual parts that make up the landscape) within the 3km study area are described in this section and are shown in figures G10-1 to G10-8 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 Topography, or landform, is the shape and form of the land surface. The topography of the study area is dominated by rolling drumlin features (oval-shaped hills), which create a varied, undulating landscape of enclosed, sheltered areas and more exposed areas with open views. Topography ranges in height from 0m to 10m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in coastal areas such as Cemlyn Bay, Trefadog, Penrhyn and Valley, to 170m AOD at Mynydd y Garn in the north-west, which forms a prominent landmark. Generally, the topography along the A5025 is lower in the south between Valley and Llanfachraeth and in the far north between Cefn Coch and Cemaes. The topography rises between Llanfachraeth and Llanrhuddlad culminating in a ridgeline just north of Llanrhuddlad, before descending towards Cefn Coch. Man-made earthwork features are not prominent in the landscape except along the A55 and railway line near Valley.

2.2.2 The topography at Valley is relatively flat and low-lying, with drumlin features present to the east near Valley Cemetery and to the north near Cleifiog Fawr. The land gradually rises towards the coast in the north-west before falling again towards the water's edge. The topography at Llanfachraeth is also relatively flat, although slightly more undulating than at Valley. Large drumlin features rise out of the landscape to the west within the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and to the east near Llanfigael.

2.2.3 The village of Llanfaethlu is situated on an area of raised topography visible from the surrounding area. The land falls away sharply from the village to the east and south and the existing A5025 sweeps up the hillside. The topography at Cefn Coch is relatively low-lying compared to the nearby ridge at Llanrhuddlad but is undulating in nature, with a small stream valley running close to the A5025. A large drumlin feature is present to the east of Cefn Coch close to Llyn Llygeirian.

2.3 Surface waters

2.3.1 There are several large water bodies in the study area, of which the closest to the A5025 is Llyn Llygeirian near Mynydd Mechell. Other water bodies include Llyn Dinam, Llyn Penrhyn and Llyn Traffwll to the south-east of Valley, Llyn Garreg-lwyd at Carreglwyd, Llyn Llywenan to the north-east of Bodedern and the lagoon at Cemlyn Bay. The Holy Island Strait between Holy Island and Anglesey has the characteristics of an 'inland sea'. The largest watercourse in the study area is Afon Alaw near Llanfachraeth,

which opens out into the Afon Alaw estuary to the south-west of the village. Smaller ponds are scattered infrequently throughout the farmland adjacent to the A5025 and several other smaller streams and ditches are also present.

2.4 Landscape pattern

2.4.1 The majority of the study area consists of pastoral grazing fields of varying size and shape with small, irregularly shaped fields often located around villages and larger, more regular fields elsewhere. Infrequent arable fields are found amongst the farmland as well as some larger vegetation blocks, rock outcrops or scrub areas, but the landscape is predominantly open.

2.4.2 The 3km study area encompasses the coastal areas along the west and north of Anglesey, which include areas of sand, mudflat, saltmarsh and rock outcrop. These coastal areas contain few buildings except for occasional caravan parks and campsites and the Existing Power Station which is prominent on the north coast. The coastline is remote and tranquil but exposed to the elements and wild in character.

2.4.3 The A5025 forms a man-made linear feature across the farmland emphasised by areas of residential development at villages such as Llanfachraeth, Llanfaethlu and Llanrhuddlad. Away from the villages settlement is limited to farmsteads and houses scattered within the farmland and there is a rural, tranquil quality to the landscape. This rural quality is reduced slightly in central Anglesey along the eastern edge of the 3km study area, as it contains numerous visually prominent wind turbines. The area around Valley is more urban in nature due to the proximity of transport routes including a railway, the A5, A55 and A5025 and overhead transmission lines.

2.4.4 Several Public Rights of Way cross the farmland in the study area although some were found to be inaccessible when surveyed due to overgrown vegetation or fences. The major recreational routes in the area are the Wales Coast Path and three National Cycle Network routes (566, 5 and 8). The Copper Trail also runs along National Cycle Network routes 566 and 5 in a loop around the north of Anglesey.

2.5 Land cover

2.5.1 Land cover refers to the surface cover of the land. Larger vegetation blocks are found around the Existing Power Station, close to the A5025 at Cefn Coch, east of Llanrhuddlad, north-west of Llanfaethlu at Carreglywd Registered Park and Garden, east of the A5025 at Gronant and Llynion Hall and around Llanfachraeth. Some of these blocks are classed as Ancient Woodland (areas that have existed as woodland continuously since the year 1600), for example at Cefn Coch, Carreglywd and Llynion Hall. Ancient Woodland is shown in ecology figures G9-1 to G9-4 of this Environmental Statement (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48). There is one woodland Tree Preservation Order east of The Rectory in Llanfachraeth and an area, group and three individual Tree Preservation Orders to the south of Valley

crossroads, none of which would be affected. In addition to the larger vegetation blocks, many residential properties and farms have shelterbelts planted adjacent to their boundaries.

2.6 Boundary features

2.6.1 The dominant woody vegetation type in the study area is native hedgerow along field boundaries and roads. There are varying degrees of hedgerow management evident resulting in some overgrown or gappy hedgerows. Some hedgerows have been left to grow taller and now provide additional shelter in an otherwise open and exposed landscape where larger groups of trees and woodland blocks are infrequent. There are several hedgerows considered ‘important’ under the *Hedgerows Regulations 1997* along the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements corridor. Hedgerows identified for ecological criteria are described in chapter G9 (terrestrial and freshwater ecology) (Application Reference Number: 6.7.9) of this Environmental Statement, and those identified for heritage criteria in chapter G11 (cultural heritage) (Application Reference Number: 6.7.11). Where hedgerows are not used as field boundaries, drystone walls and fences are common with occasional isolated cloddiau (stone-faced earth banks).

2.7 Historic and cultural features

2.7.1 Historic and cultural features are described in terms of their influence on the landscape. Further information on historic and cultural features can be found within chapter G11 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.11) of this Environmental Statement.

2.7.2 Anglesey has a strong connection with agriculture and the existing field pattern provides historic evidence from when Anglesey provided grain and livestock for the mountainous mainland. The island also once housed numerous windmills to grind the grain, with only a few such as Llynnon Mill surviving.

2.7.3 There are several Listed Buildings within the villages along the A5025, such as the Church of St Maethlu in Llanfaethlu, which provide landmarks in the landscape. There are also some Scheduled Monuments, the majority of which are standing stones noticeable as tall figures within pasture fields. The many standing stones on Anglesey provide a link with the prehistoric times in which they were erected. Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments are shown in cultural heritage figures G11-2 to G11-6 of this Environmental Statement (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48).

2.7.4 There are two Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area, at Carreglwyd and Cestyll, which are distinctive in the landscape due to their associated woodland or shelterbelt vegetation. Carreglwyd contains a large house focused on an informal lake within a wooded parkland setting. The landscape character of Carreglwyd’s Essential Setting (defined by Cadw to safeguard areas adjacent to the Registered Park and Gardens) is discussed in section 3.5 below. Cestyll is an early 20th-century garden within a stream valley informally planted with shrubs and perennials.

- 2.7.5 There are three Conservation Areas within 3km of the existing A5025 at Bodedern, Llanfachell and Cemaes, designated for their relatively unchanged and uniform character and the special character of the harbour at Cemaes. Bodedern and Llanfachell are distinctive rural villages within farmland, whereas Cemaes has strong ties with the northern coast.
- 2.7.6 The A5 corridor, in connection with the newer A55 corridor, is a key feature in the historic and cultural development of the island. The road was built to improve connections with Ireland, which in turn converted Holyhead into a major port and resulted in the development of small rural settlements such as Valley along its route.

3 Landscape character

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A review of published landscape character information has been carried out in order to gain an understanding of the nature and value of the landscape character within the overarching 3km study area. This information is available at a national- and county-level as described in the paragraphs below.

3.1.2 National Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) have been defined by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) with two LCAs covering the 3km study area. These LCAs are described in section 3.2. National-level landscape character information is also available from the Landscape Assessment and Decision-Making Process (LANDMAP) [RD1], which records and evaluates the landscape of Wales and describes landscape characteristics, qualities and influences. Five LANDMAP [RD1] categories or layers exist; geological landscape, landscape habitats, visual and sensory, historic landscape and cultural landscape. Each of these five layers is subdivided into geographical units referred to as aspect areas. The Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs) are of most relevance to the landscape and visual assessment (LVIA) and have been described in table 3-1.

3.1.3 The Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 [RD2] is a county-level landscape character assessment that divides Anglesey into discrete LCAs. It has used the different LANDMAP [RD1] aspect areas to inform the identification of individual LCAs. LCAs applicable to the 3km study area are described in section 3.4.

3.1.4 The national- and county-level landscape character information has not been assessed within the LVIA in chapter G10 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10, refer to paragraph below on the detailed landscape character assessment). However, the county-level landscape character assessment has been used to help describe the character of the AONB and the Essential Setting at Carreglwyd Registered Park and Garden, as well as the character of the non-designated wider landscape. The character of the landscape designations is described in section 3.5 below, with the character of the non-designated wider landscape described in section 3.6. The landscape character of the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds Special Landscape Area (SLA) is described in the Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey [RD3]. Relevant extracts are contained in section 3.5 below. The landscape character of these designated and non-designated areas has been assessed within the LVIA in chapter G10 of this Environmental Statement (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10).

3.1.5 A more in-depth development-level landscape character assessment has been undertaken for the 1km detailed study area, which has been informed by LANDMAP [RD1], county-level landscape character information and site survey work (see section 3.7 for methodology). The Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) are at a smaller scale and the key characteristics

(combinations of elements important to the current character of the landscape) are of greater relevance to the 1km detailed study area. These LLCAs have been described in section 3.7 and assessed within the LVIA in chapter G10 of this Environmental Statement (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10).

3.2 National LCAs

3.2.1 The key characteristics listed below have been summarised from National Landscape Character, NLCA01: Anglesey Coast [RD4].

- Coastal zone of Anglesey within which much of the highest land on the island falls.
- South-west to north-east geological orientation leading to corrugated topography and rocky headlands and sandy bays along the coast.
- Variety of coastal types from rocky headlands to low-lying dunes.
- Contrast between striking, windswept, heathland landscapes and gentler, green, pastoral landscapes inland.
- Cloddiau or earth bank field boundaries are common with stone walls and hedgerows also present.
- Coastal settlement is often related to former industry, with more recent development relating to tourism and retirement property.
- Prominent man-made landmarks include the Existing Power Station and Parys Mountain.

3.2.2 The key characteristics listed below have been summarised from National Landscape Character, NLCA02: Central Anglesey [RD5].

- Land-locked central part of Anglesey where topography follows a north-east to south-west alignment and where craggy rock outcrops are common.
- Extensive drumlin fields resulting in a “classic ‘basket of eggs’ *rolling drumlin landscape*”.
- Medium- to large-scale and some small-scale pastoral grazing fields in a geometric pattern often bordered by hedgerows with some cloddiau.
- Limited large vegetation blocks and individual trees.
- Rivers and streams cross the landscape and there are wetland features such as rush within hollows and fens.
- Scattered rural settlement with few villages.
- Historic windmills mixed with more modern wind farms.
- Predominance of prehistoric and funerary sites such as standing stones and cairns.

3.3 LANDMAP

3.3.1 Table 3-1 provides summaries of the descriptive reports for the LANDMAP [RD1] VSAs covering the study area. LANDMAP [RD1] VSAs are shown in figures G10-9 to G10-12 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48).

Table 3-1 LANDMAP VSAs

Area name	Area description
Visual and sensory: North-west drumlins	'Basket of eggs' glacial landscape of smooth oval hillocks with damp hollows. Land cover of medium-sized, rolling to undulating, pasture fields with hedgerow boundaries. Small villages, hamlets and scattered farms linked by small roads. Settled character in an unremarkable but tranquil, pleasant landscape.
Visual and sensory: Caergeiliog craggy lowlands	This area of low-lying land is south of the A55, east of Four Mile Bridge. The small scale of the fields and twisting lanes is in contrast to the A55 and to RAF Valley, both of which substantially intrude on and detract from the overall landscape owing to movement and extreme noise.
Visual and sensory: 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 and is mainly bordered by hedges. From the road, there are views across the pleasant countryside and more dramatic views of the coast towards Holyhead.
Visual and sensory: Valley and Newlands	This consists of two areas, mainly of housing estates, near the main road and railway, just before they cross over to Holy Island. It is built on fairly flat land and is mundane and characterless. Only at the edge of Newlands are there good views out across to Penrhos and along the north-west coast. Noise from jets is very intrusive in this area during weekdays.
Visual and sensory: Alaw estuary	This lies immediately north of the Holy Island Strait where for the last mile of its length the west flowing Afon Alaw forms an estuary. It consists of sand dunes at the seaward end, saltmarshes at the edges and areas of shingle and mud at low tide. It is tucked away, hidden from view by low hills and dunes, with only the coastal footpath giving access to the northern side.
Visual and sensory: Mynydd y Garn	Area of upland on the north-west tip of Anglesey, rising to 170m. It is distinctly craggier than the adjacent lowland and has scattered outcrops of rocks, with gorse and stone walls, plus an area of forestry. Small winding roads give access to scattered farms and the small linear village of

Area name	Area description
	Llanfairyngornwy. From the high points, there are 360-degree views, including to the Skerries off Carmel Head. Its coastal location adds to its interest.
Visual and sensory: drumlins with windfarms	Groups of wind turbines dominate the landscape in the north part of Anglesey. The 'basket of eggs' landscape of smooth oval hillocks and damp hollows is typically covered with large regular fields with hedges, mainly pasture for sheep and cattle, with some arable land. There are scattered farms, linked by small roads, all within close sight of wind turbines which appear incongruous on this lowland farmland.
Visual and sensory: Mynydd Mechell	Rocky upland character with small irregular fields bounded by stone walls, areas of bare rock and gorse and numerous small ponds, which contrasts with the smooth surrounding lowland drumlins. There are small twisting lanes and scattered houses and farms, with the spread-out villages of Mynydd Mechell and Carreglefn. Views are mainly limited by the nearby rocky terrain. It is generally an attractive, varied small-scale rural landscape.
Visual and sensory: Cemlyn	On the northern coast, west of Cemaes, is a brackish lagoon, impounded by a crescent-shaped shingle beach. It is a nature reserve with seabird interest. It is a popular spot for bird-watching and is served by two car parks, one at either end.
Visual and sensory: north coast	This is a convoluted north-facing coastline, rocky with shingle beaches and one sandy beach at Cemaes. Headlands project from the coast, with low shallow cliffs behind or steep slopes up to higher land. The coastal footpath runs alongside with views of the wild rugged coast and out to the Skerries. Although much of it feels remote now, there are remains of past industry and the Existing Power Station is a conspicuous intrusion for several kilometres. At the eastern end of this stretch of coast is the lighthouse on Point Lynas, which forms an attractive landmark.
Visual and sensory: north coast hinterland	This is an intricate, small-scale, attractive landscape with winding lanes, glimpses of the coast, small craggy hillocks and damp valleys. There are scattered houses and small fields. Within the area is the settlement of Bull Bay, dominated by bungalows and holiday accommodation, and an adjacent golf course. These detract from the integrity of the nearby landscape, as do glimpses of the Existing Power Station.

Area name	Area description
Visual and sensory: north-west coast	West-facing coast consisting of sandy bays and coves interspersed with stretches of rocky coast and small headlands, backed by shallow low slopes. Along the northern third, where the land is higher, there are only rocks with steeply rising slopes behind, giving a wild feeling to this part. The coastal footpath has views of the quiet, unspoilt, rugged coastline and west to Holy Island.
Visual and sensory: the Existing Power Station	The Existing Power Station is made up of uncompromising buildings which loom on the skyline and are conspicuous against a backdrop of sea. Partially screened by woodland and bunds in closer range views. Unattractive, exposed, noisy, settled and threatening character.
Visual and sensory: Cemaes	Cemaes is located on an inlet on the north coast. Its waterfront is attractive, with a small harbour and sandy beach, but its outskirts are the usual mundane housing estates. There is an attractive small stream in an open valley leading through the settlement to the sea.
Visual and sensory: Llanfechell	Llanfechell is a medium-sized village, about three kilometres inland from the north coast. Its centre is quite attractive, with a curving main street, clock tower and curious white-painted church tower. Late 20 th -century housing estates on either side are unattractive.
Visual and sensory: Bodedern	Bodedern is a medium-sized village in the hinterland of Anglesey's west coast, two kilometres north of the A55. It has a small older core but is mainly unattractive late 20 th -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.
Visual and sensory: Penrhos Beach	This area of beach, rocks and wide sands lies on the north coast of Holy Island, adjacent to Penrhos Coastal Park, stretching from the South Pier of Holyhead Harbour eastward across the straits to Newlands. Being near Holyhead, much of the area is popular for walking, but the eastern part, beyond the straits, is not very accessible and provides a feeding ground for geese and waders at low tide. There are extensive very attractive views northwards along the north-west coast of Anglesey, but inland the aluminium works dominate.
Visual and sensory: Penrhos Coastal Park	This area lies immediately east of Holyhead, between the A5 and the sea. It is part of the former estate of the Stanleys and has a central farm complex and plantation woodlands. It is popular for walking and enjoying views along the coast. Its entrance is marked by the white-

Area name	Area description
	painted tollhouse on the A5.
Visual and sensory: inland sea/Stanley Embankment	This area is the wide part of the Holy Island Strait, impounded by the Stanley Embankment, originally built by Telford to carry the A5. This causeway, now widened to carry the railway and A55, brings movement and noise into the area. The tidal currents make the 'inland sea' popular for kayaking. There are no views out to sea beyond the embankment from here.
Visual and sensory: Holy Island Strait	The southern two-thirds of the straits that separate Holy Island from the main island of Anglesey are convoluted and in places narrow. This area is similar to an estuary and at low tide there are expanses of sand and mud, with the sea forming only a narrow channel. There is little access to the area except by foot, and when the jets from adjacent RAF Valley are not flying, the area is quiet and peaceful.
Visual and sensory: Holy Island	A low-lying area with a pattern of low craggy ridges and marshy bottoms. Small roads follow the sides of the ridges, serving the scattered houses and farms and giving access to the popular beaches of the west coast. There are small fields with stone walls and gorse hedges, and the few trees are wind-pruned. There is some tourist development but it remains unspoilt. There are good views to the coast and to Holyhead Mountain, and a feeling of coastal openness. The quiet atmosphere of this landscape is shattered during weekdays by jets from nearby RAF Valley.
Visual and sensory: Llanfihangel lakes and dunes	Inland from RAF Valley, towards the A55, this low-lying area on either side of Llanfihangel-yn-Nhywyn is a mosaic of former dunes, lakes and marshy areas, interspersed with rocky patches. There is open access on much of the grassy dunes, including a golf course. The lakes are used for fishing and have wildlife interest. The rest of the land is divided into small irregular fields. This area suffers from the extremely noisy jets of RAF Valley during weekdays.
Visual and Sensory: Llanfihangel-yn-Nhywyn	This village is spread out 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.

3.4 Isle of Anglesey County Council Landscape Strategy

3.4.1 The Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 [RD2] county-level landscape character assessment identifies the study area as being covered by *LCA3: Inland Sea; LCA4: North West Coast; LCA5: North West Anglesey; and LCA18: Valley Airfield Environs*. LCAs are shown in figures G10-9 to G10-12 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48).

3.4.2 The characteristics of these LCAs are listed below.

- *LCA3* is described as the Holy Island Strait crossed by the Stanley Embankment, which carries the A5, railway and A55. It is an area influenced by tidal currents popular for water sports, and has an estuarine character. At low tide, sandbanks are exposed to the south of the Stanley Embankment. To the north is a large sandy foreshore with rocky outcrops and the low tide channel of Afon Alaw.
- *LCA4* covers the coast of Anglesey between Afon Alaw estuary and Bull Bay. The western coast comprises sandy bays and coves separated by rocky cliffs and headlands. The northern coast is more rocky and convoluted but with a sandy beach and brackish lagoon at Cemlyn Bay. The area is quiet, but is crossed by the Wales Coast Path and contains evidence of man-made activity such as lime kilns.
- *LCA5* is described as having an extensive drumlin field resulting in a “classic ‘basket of eggs’ description for the landscape”. The hillocks run south-west to north-east and the majority have a land cover of improved grassland. There are also areas of marsh, scrub and rocky outcrops at Mynydd y Garn and Mynydd Mechell. Windfarms form a distinctive feature in the landscape.
- *LCA18* contains the Valley airfield and the adjacent settlement of Rhosneigr, the coastal landscape and wetlands and reserves. The nature and scale of buildings and the associated runways and hardstanding are visually intrusive in the area.

3.5 Landscape designations

3.5.1 The A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements would border the nationally designated Isle of Anglesey AONB at Llanfachraeth and Llanfaethlu. The A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements would also be located approximately 1km west of the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA and 250m east of the Essential Setting of Carreglywd Registered Park and Garden. Descriptions of landscape character have been informed by the Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 [RD2] and by the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 – 2020 [RD6]. The designated areas are shown in figures G10-5 to G10-8 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48).

Landscape character of the AONB

3.5.2 The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 – 2020 [RD6] describes the AONB at section 3, paragraph 3.1 (page 6) in the following terms: “*The coastline of Anglesey, many stretches of which are isolated, contributes much to the island’s appeal. Rugged cliffs, sandy bays, marshes, dunes... give great variety of scene.*”

3.5.3 The AONB is a predominantly coastal designation, although the “*essential backdrop to the coast*” [RD6] is also important. It is this backdrop that borders the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements at Llanyngchedl, Llanfachraeth and Llanfaethlu, the character of which has been influenced by centuries of farming. Agriculture is the main land use type (what the land is used for) in the AONB and elements such as hedgerows, walls and cloddiau are integral to the landscape.

3.5.4 The published landscape character source of relevance to the AONB within the 3km study area is the Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 [RD2] LCA 5: North West Anglesey. The AONB is strongly influenced by the drumlin fields and by the ridgeline incorporating Mynydd y Garn, and is rural and undeveloped in nature. On the whole, the landscape is of medium-sized pastoral fields bordered by hedgerows, walls and cloddiau, although rock outcrops and scrub occur within the farmland, particularly in proximity to Mynydd y Garn.

3.5.5 Table 4 in chapter 4 (Guiding Principles and Forces for Change) (page 13) [RD6] lists the features and special qualities of the AONB. The following is a list of the features and special qualities of the AONB of relevance to the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements:

- traditional agricultural landscape features;
- expansive views;
- peace and tranquillity;
- historic landscapes, parks and gardens;
- rural agricultural communities;
- Public Rights of Way network; and
- accessible land.

3.5.6 Policies within the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 – 2020 [RD6] relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual effects in relation to the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements are listed in chapter B10 (Application Reference Number: 6.2.10) and reviewed in chapter G10 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10). The overall aim of these policies is to conserve and enhance the “*...natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features ... for the benefit of present and future generations*”.

Landscape character of Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA

3.5.7 An extract from the Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey [RD3] is provided below, which describes the landscape character of the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA.

“The Mynydd Mechell SLA forms a very distinctive small-scale craggy and wild landscape which is clearly discernible from the smoother rolling landscape which surrounds it...

“The SLA is a distinctive landscape, characterised by a craggy, strongly undulating landform with small irregular rough pasture fields bounded by stone walls, rock outcrops and patches of gorse, with numerous ponds. Although the landscape only rises to a height of 92m AOD, it possesses a ‘wild’ and upland quality, which is easily discernible from the smoothly rolling, drumlin-formed landscape which surrounds the SLA. The SLA includes open rocky moorland and a varied patchwork of semi-natural habitats set within pastoral farmland. It evokes a strong rural quality, and is largely unspoilt with a general absence of modern development. Small twisting lanes follow the undulating topography and occasional houses, farms and hamlets scattered along them, with the main village serving the area being Carreglefn (located to the south east). The area has a strong cultural and historic significance, including evidence of settlement from prehistoric times...

“Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:

- The distinctive, small scale craggy landscape, with a wild upland and deeply rural character, contrasting with surrounding smoothly rolling, drumlin formed landscape.
- Its intricate network of small irregular fields, paths, tracks, winding roads and sparse settlement pattern.
- Unity of the landscape, with vernacular features such as dry stone walls and stone buildings.
- Historic and cultural significance of the landscape, with strong field patterns, evidence of past historic land use and settlement from prehistoric times.”

Essential Setting of Carreglwyd Registered Park and Garden

3.5.8 The Essential Setting of Carreglwyd is discussed further in chapter G11 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.11). The Essential Setting of Carreglwyd lies in close proximity to the A5025 at Llanfaethlu, although the Registered Park and Garden itself is 1km away and well screened by vegetation and topography.

3.5.9 The published landscape character source of relevance to the Essential Setting of Carreglwyd is the Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 [RD2] LCA 5: North West Anglesey. As for the AONB, the Essential Setting area is strongly influenced by the drumlin fields and is relatively rural and undeveloped in nature, although the A5025 and built-up edge of Llanfaethlu introduces a man-made presence. Land cover comprises predominantly medium-sized pastoral fields bordered by hedgerows, walls and cloddiau, although there are rocky outcrops and areas of scrub vegetation such as within the Llyn Garreg-Lwyd Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

3.6 Non-designated wider landscape

3.6.1 The published landscape character source of relevance to the non-designated wider landscape is the Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 [RD2] LCA 5: North West Anglesey, which is shown in figures G10-9 to G10-12 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48). The area is strongly influenced by the drumlin fields and by the ridge line incorporating Mynydd y Garn. It is also relatively rural and undeveloped in nature, although features such as the A5025, overhead transmission lines and wind turbines increase the man-made presence in certain areas. Land cover is predominantly medium-sized pastoral fields bordered by hedgerows, walls and cloddiau, although there are rocky outcrops and scrub areas in places.

3.7 Detailed landscape character assessment

3.7.1 A more detailed development-level landscape character assessment has been undertaken for the 1km detailed study area in order to supplement the published sources mentioned above. The aim was to identify and describe areas with distinct and recognisable patterns of landscape elements which occur consistently and contribute to identifiable LLCAs.

3.7.2 Guidance documents used to inform the process include the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition [RD7] and An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment [RD8].

3.7.3 The initial step was to carry out a desk study, which involved looking at LANDMAP [RD1] aspect areas and other published data to identify types and locations of landscape elements and potential LLCAs. This exercise comprised the steps listed below.

- In the first instance, LANDMAP [RD1] VSAs were identified within the 1km detailed study area. Most of the study area falls within the north-west drumlins VSAA which covers a large area. Further study was undertaken to divide this area into smaller LLCAs.
- LANDMAP [RD1] VSAs falling outside the north-west drumlins VSAA have formed LLCAs including Caergeiliog craggy lowlands, A55 corridor, Valley and Newlands, Alaw estuary, Mynydd y Garn, drumlins with windfarms and Mynydd Mechell.

- In order to divide north-west drumlins into smaller LLCAs, other LANDMAP [RD1] aspect areas were considered within the 1km detailed study area on the geological landscape, landscape habitats, historic landscape and cultural landscape layers. Definition of many of the LLCAs has been informed by the borders of these aspect areas including north-west coast, Valley farmland, Afon Alaw, Llanfachraeth, Carreglwyd and Llyn Llygeirian.
- Finally, landscape elements contributing to differences in landscape character were then identified. Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photographs, geological maps and landscape, cultural heritage and ecology designations have been used to help define the remaining LLCAs. For example, LLCA18 Llanrhuddlad ridge was defined by a topographic feature and geology, and LLCA15 Llanrhuddlad and LLCA12 Llanfaethlu small fields were defined by the distinctly smaller field pattern around the villages.

3.7.4 Where the 1km detailed study area for the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements overlaps with the 6km detailed study area described in landscape chapter D10 (landscape and visual) (Application Reference Number: 6.4.10) for the Wylfa Newydd Development Area, the classification of LLCAs is consistent between the projects, although the LLCA numbering is slightly different. LLCAs to which this applies are LLCA21 A5025 farmland (LLCA7 in chapter D10), LLCA22 Llanfechell farmland (LLCA5 in chapter D10), LLCA23 North drumlins (LLCA1 in chapter D10) and LLCA24 Tregele (LLCA6 in chapter D10).

3.7.5 Following the desk study, the identified LLCA boundaries were checked on site and landscape character information collected using site survey sheets. One or two site survey locations were used per LLCA depending on how much of the LLCA fell within the 1km detailed study area. The site survey sheets collected information on elements such as topography, vegetation, buildings, perceptual characteristics and value in order to inform the list of key characteristics listed below. The site survey sheets have been included in appendix G10-2 (local landscape character survey sheets) (Application Reference Number: 6.7.34) along with a photograph for each LLCA.

3.7.6 The following is a list of key characteristics for LLCAs 1 to 20, which were identified through desk study and field survey work and for LLCAs 21 to 24, which align with appendix D10-3 (local landscape and seascape character study) (Application Reference Number: 6.4.60). The locations of the LLCAs are shown in figures G10-9 to G10-12 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.48). The potential effects on LLCAs are discussed in chapter G10 (Application Reference Number: 6.7.10).

LLCA1 Caergeiliog craggy lowlands

- Undulating topography with rocky outcrops.
- There is a mosaic of different vegetation types with scrub, gorse, rough grassland, pasture, marsh and tree belts providing diversity. Gorse and

scrub areas are often found around rocky outcrops creating coarse texture against smoother, simpler pasture fields.

- Low-lying pasture fields are small to medium in size and predominantly bordered by managed hedgerows but also by stone walls, fences, unmanaged hedgerows and hedgerows with trees. Fields are semi-regular to irregular in shape.
- Scrub, marsh and rough grassland areas are wilder in appearance compared to the more managed pasture areas.
- Larger vegetation blocks form shelterbelts for houses and farms.
- Settlement is limited to the village of Caergeiliog and scattered farms and houses connected by relatively minor roads.
- Building materials include stone, slate, painted render and pebbledash.
- A National Cycle Network route and several footpaths run through the character area.
- The A55 is evident due to embankments and moving traffic, and the railway to Holyhead runs through the character area. Overhead transmission lines, telegraph poles and a substation form noticeable detractors.
- Tranquillity is high away from Caergeiliog, the A55 and local transport routes, although jet take-off at Valley Airfield is intermittently noisy.
- Views are mostly open with some available towards Holyhead Mountain and development in Holyhead.
- Much of the rural character area has high scenic quality away from the A55 and this is recognised by the AONB designation.

LLCA2 A55 corridor

- Busy dual carriageway road in cutting at the A5 junction and at the B4545 but on embankment or at grade elsewhere.
- Amenity grass verge along the roadside with rough grassland on embankments and scrub and woodland blocks for integration and screening.
- Managed hedgerows are often found along the highway boundary fence.
- Large signs are noticeable along the road corridor.
- Man-made feel with straight lines, busy traffic, low scenic quality, low recreation and conservation interests and simple character.
- Cutting slopes channel views whereas embankments allow elevated views over surrounding countryside. Holyhead Mountain and development in Holyhead are visible to the west.

LLCA3 Valley and Newlands

- The character area consists of the central village area bisected by the A5 and a more modern residential estate along the western coast. The built-up areas are relatively flat but surrounded by flat to rolling farmland.
- The village area contains a mix of land use types including residential, commercial and industrial. There are also community buildings such as shops, public houses and St Michael's Church. Materials range from more traditional pebbledash and stone to large metal industrial sheds. The mix of land use types and materials reduces balance and unity but provides diversity and colour.
- Housing in the village ranges from detached two-storey buildings to flats and bungalows, whereas the coastal estate is primarily bungalows. The coastal estate has more unity than the village due to similar building types, but different building materials including stone, slate, brick, concrete, painted render and pebbledash create discordance.
- Tranquillity in the village is low due to constant busy traffic on the A5 and A5025, whereas it is higher on the cul-de-sacs of the coastal estate. Similarly, scenic quality is higher in the coastal estate due to elevated views across the sea in the west and farmland in the east.
- Views east and south from both areas look towards overhead transmission lines and road infrastructure. Views west from the coastal area look out towards Holyhead.
- Recreation and conservation interests are present in the coastal village, which is located within the AONB and is adjacent to the Wales Coast Path.

LLCA4 Valley farmland

- Flat to rolling, low-lying, medium to large pasture fields bordered by a mixture of elements including managed hedgerows, overgrown hedgerows, fences and stone walls. Overgrown hedgerows contain gorse.
- Rounded drumlin features are noticeable but contrast with flatter areas along the A5025 corridor.
- Some rocky outcrops are present within fields particularly to the west of the A5025, often associated with scrub vegetation. Marsh is present in lower-lying areas and shelterbelts are visible next to farms and at Llanyngchedl. The stream at Llanyngchedl also has denser vegetation along it.

- Settlement is limited except for scattered farms connected by minor roads and a cluster of houses at Llanyngchedl. The A5025 is a busy main road through the character area.
- Building materials include stone, slate, painted render and pebbledash as well as corrugated metal on farm sheds.
- Numerous overhead transmission lines detract from views and roads including the A5025, A5 and A55 are noticeable due to moving traffic.
- Jet take-off at Valley Airfield and traffic on the A5025 reduce tranquillity and introduce movement.
- Views are channelled by drumlin features and along overhead transmission lines.

LLCA5 AONB drumlins

- Distinctly rolling, medium to large pasture fields dominated by rounded drumlin features. Fields are semi-regular to regular in shape.
- Boundaries are predominantly thick hedgerows with gorse. Other vegetation includes a block of mixed woodland, scrub areas within pasture fields and shelterbelts adjacent to farms.
- Rural and undeveloped feel although the urban edge of Valley is apparent and overhead transmission lines and road infrastructure are noticeable in views to the south. Settlement is predominantly limited to scattered farms and vernacular buildings, with stone and slate building materials.
- Much of the character area is tranquil and still with limited human interaction.
- Elevated parts of drumlins afford views across the west coast, the sea and to Holyhead. Areas along the Alaw estuary have open, panoramic views out across the sea towards Holyhead Mountain.
- High scenic quality due to limited development and elevated, coastal views, recognised by the AONB designation.

LLCA6 Afon Alaw estuary

- Relatively flat land, dominated by a sinuous river course within a large-scale, open, mosaic landscape.
- Vegetation is predominantly scrub, rough grassland, bog and marsh along the open watercourse. Surrounding fields are pasture and are irregular in shape.
- The landscape is unified and balanced, smooth in texture, with limited contrast.
- There is a tranquil feel apart from the intermittent jet noise from Valley Airfield and A5025 traffic. Human interaction is limited.

- Views are open but the sinuous river course channels views out across the sea towards Holyhead Mountain. The chimney on Holyhead detracts from views slightly.
- High scenic quality due to very limited development. Much of the character area is designated as Beddmanarch-Cymyran SSSI and the Wales Coast Path follows the river estuary.
- The landscape is exposed with a wild, natural quality.

LLCA7 Afon Alaw

- Flat to rolling, relatively small, low-lying pasture fields bisected by the Afon Alaw. Fields are semi-regular to irregular in shape.
- Field boundaries are predominantly hedgerows, which are thick and often contain gorse. Other vegetation includes scrub areas within pasture fields and along the river and shelterbelts adjacent to farms. Marsh is present within lower-lying areas.
- Inconspicuous river course noticeable more for its associated vegetation than open water.
- Rural feel with sense of tranquillity, although the village of Llanfachraeth is noticeable along the A5025. Traffic on the A5025 and jet noise from Valley Airfield intermittently interrupt the tranquillity.
- Farms are scattered throughout and are connected by minor roads. Building materials include slate and stone, and timber and wire fences.
- Relatively enclosed compared to more elevated areas of Anglesey, with views channelled by topography, buildings in Llanfachraeth and vegetation.
- Views from the western edge of the character area are scenic and look out across the Alaw estuary.

LLCA8 Llanfachraeth

- Rural linear village distributed along A5025. The village core is centred at a crossroads with a public house and convenience store. Other notable buildings include Ysgol Gynradd and St Machraeth Church.
- Buildings are otherwise residential with a mix of building styles and sizes including two-storey detached, semi-detached and bungalows. Newer houses tend to be bungalows.
- Mixture of housing styles including pebbledash, painted render, stone and slate. Character is diverse, textured and colourful, although this reduces unity slightly.
- Rural feel due to proximity of farmland with rolling, pasture fields visible from most locations in the village.

- Busy traffic on the A5025 reduces sense of safety, security, connectivity, tranquillity and scenic quality.
- Views are confined by built form and are inward-looking except to the outskirts where there are open views across surrounding fields.

LLCA9 North-west coast

- Medium-sized, rolling pasture fields ranging from low-lying in the south to more elevated in the north. Topography generally slopes west towards the coast and there are obvious drumlin features throughout.
- Field boundaries are predominantly thick hedgerows with some hedgebanks, although to the south there are also more managed hedgerows and fences. Other vegetation includes shelterbelts and scrub areas.
- Rural and remote feel with limited development. Scattered farms are linked by minor roads and winding lanes. There is a high sense of tranquillity and security due to the limited human access.
- Views are more channelled in the south by topography but elevated in the north with views out to the coast and sea towards Holyhead Mountain. Elevated areas are exposed and wild.
- High scenic quality due to limited development and elevated, coastal views, recognised by the AONB designation.

LLCA10 Central Anglesey low-lying

- Mixed size (small to large), flat to rolling, low-lying pasture fields with isolated arable fields. Fields are semi-regular to regular in shape but the mixed field size creates an irregular landscape pattern.
- Mixed field boundaries with evidence of gappy and unmanaged hedgerows, as well as overgrown hedgerows, hedgebanks, stone walls and fences. Shelterbelts are found adjacent to farms and marsh is present in lower-lying areas.
- Drumlin features influence the topography and channel views. Views from the drumlin slopes are more elevated with some views possible towards the coast, Holyhead Mountain, Llanfaethlu and Mynydd y Garn. Overhead transmission lines detract from views south.
- Rural, undeveloped feel with scattered farms linked by minor roads and winding lanes. The A5025 is a busy road crossing the character area which introduces movement and intermittent noise. Otherwise, there is a high sense of tranquillity.
- Building materials include stone, slate, timber, painted render and pebbledash.

LLCA11 Central Anglesey higher ground

- Medium to large-sized, elevated, rolling pasture fields bordered by gappy hedgerows and fences. Fields are semi-regular to regular in shape and the area is relatively open due to limited vegetation and elevated topography. Field size is more consistent and balanced compared to LLCA10.
- Gorse is present in hedgerow boundaries and there is a mixture of managed hedgerows, overgrown hedgerows, fences and stone walls.
- Impressive views to Snowdonia and north-west coast of Wales due to elevated position.
- Noticeable views to wind turbines in adjacent character area and to Llanrhuddlad church spire in the west.
- Limited development although views are possible to small villages such as Llanrhuddlad and Llanfaethlu. Scattered farms with associated shelterbelts are linked by minor roads and winding lanes.
- High sense of tranquillity except for intermittent noise from traffic on the A5025 which also introduces movement.

LLCA12 Llanfaethlu small fields

- Small, rolling pasture fields elevated above surrounding landscape on obvious drumlin features. Fields are semi-regular to irregular in shape.
- Mixture of field boundary types creates diversity in the landscape. Evidence of a lack of hedgerow maintenance leading to gappy hedgerows, outgrown hedgerows and fences with trees.
- Scattered farms within farmland with nucleated village of Llanfaethlu. Linear or scattered residential development along A5025. Other buildings in Llanfaethlu include a church, post office and local shop.
- Building materials include stone, slate, timber, painted render and pebbledash.
- Close to the busy A5025 which travels through the character area and reduces tranquillity, safety and security.
- Small deciduous woodland belt and small areas of scrub, otherwise an open landscape.
- Away from Llanfaethlu village and the A5025 there is a rural, upland feel. Very distant views east are possible to Snowdonia due to elevated position with noticeable views to wind turbines in adjacent character area.

LLCA13 Carreglwyd

- Typical parkland landscape with open, medium- to large-sized pasture fields and dense, deciduous woodland belts and individual trees. The woodland belts provide a strong sense of place and they contrast with the surrounding open Anglesey landscape.
- The undulating topography creates curved, sinuous fields, which are smooth in texture apart from the occasional rock outcrop and scrub block. Other vegetation includes marsh and rough grassland around ponds within the Llyn Garreg-Lwyd SSSI.
- Large country house within the dense woodland belts surrounded by designed gardens. Scattered farms and vernacular buildings are present with associated hedgerows and tree clusters. Building materials include stone, slate, timber and wire fencing and metal gates.
- Closer to the woodland the landscape becomes more enclosed with an associated variance in openness of views. Elsewhere there are open, elevated, scenic views east towards Snowdonia and west towards the coast and Holyhead Mountain.
- There is a predominantly tranquil, quiet feel due to limited development. Intermittent noise due to traffic on the A5025.
- The landscape has a high scenic quality recognised by its AONB and Registered Park and Garden designation.

LLCA14 Drumlins with windfarms

- Undulating, medium-sized pasture fields ranging from elevated land to lower-lying land. Fields are semi-regular to regular in shape.
- Predominantly open landscape with some areas of scrub vegetation and shelterbelts.
- Scattered farms of stone and slate are linked by lanes which are very minor in nature. Human access is occasional, which reduces movement and creates a sense of tranquillity, safety and security.
- Numerous wind turbines introduce a man-made influence into an otherwise rural landscape.
- Elevated locations afforded with open, very distant views towards Snowdonia.

LLCA15 Llanrhuddlad small fields

- Small, flat to rolling pasture fields around the village of Llanrhuddlad. Fields tend to be flatter closer to the village and more rolling towards Mynydd y Garn. Fields are semi-regular to irregular in shape.
- Marshy areas within low-lying parts of fields and rocky outcrops noticeable in places, especially near Mynydd y Garn. To the east of the

character area is a large woodland block, which is not a typical feature of open Anglesey farmland.

- Mixture of thick unmanaged hedgerows with gorse and more gappy hedgerows along fences. Hedgerows tend to be neater near the village and stone walls are more common.
- Linear residential development at Llanrhuddlad along the A5025 and minor roads, with a landmark church building and spire. Otherwise limited development with scattered farms connected by minor roads and winding lanes.
- Busy traffic on the A5025 reduces tranquillity, security and safety and creates movement. Away from the main road, there is a quiet, rural feel.
- Mynydd y Garn is prominent in views west. Elevated location and openness of landscape allows views south-east towards windfarms and Snowdonia, and north towards the coast.

LLCA16 Mynydd Mechell

- A very undulating landform consisting of a mosaic of rock outcrops, scrub and small irregular fields.
- A typical upland feel to the landscape, which is relatively wild and natural in character.
- Vegetation cover is fairly open, comprising gorse, scrub and brambles with pockets of rough grazing pasture.
- A diverse landscape with a coarse texture and contrasting colours.
- Limited settlement comprising scattered farms and vernacular buildings. Human access is limited and Public Rights of Way are not easily accessed or found, suggesting they are not regularly used.
- Very distant views south towards Snowdonia and north to the coast and Mynydd y Garn with wind turbines as prominent features.
- Views are dependent on topography with higher areas afforded more open views and lower areas screened by topography and vegetation.

LLCA17 Llyn Llygeirian

- Large water body set within flat, low-lying area of marsh and bog.
- Isolated blocks of scrub, coniferous woodland and individual trees are dotted throughout the marsh areas but otherwise the character area is open, especially due to the large expanse of water.
- Natural in appearance with few man-made features and there is a sense of wildness due to the lack of human influence and the scrubby, unmanaged appearance of vegetation.

- Some access for trout fishing but otherwise human access is limited to a winding lane to the north of the character area. There is a strong sense of tranquillity, safety, security and remoteness.
- Views are contained by topography with views out towards rolling pasture fields in adjacent character areas.

LLCA18 Llanrhuddlad ridge

- Ridgeline made up of rolling, medium-sized pasture fields, which are semi-regular to regular in shape. The ridgeline is bisected by a stream valley, which interrupts the continuity of the topography.
- Scrub areas with gorse are present amongst the pasture, often around rocky outcrops. Elsewhere vegetation is limited to hedgerows, many of which are unmanaged.
- The limited vegetation cover creates an open landscape with middle-distance views north towards the coast and north-west towards Mynydd y Garn due to its elevated position. There are also views towards Snowdonia and Holyhead Mountain.
- Limited development except for scattered farms connected by minor roads. There is an upland, rural feel with a sense of tranquillity, safety and security, although when closer to the A5025 there is intermittent noise and movement.

LLCA19 Cefn Coch low-lying

- Flat to rolling, low-lying, medium-sized pasture fields, which are semi-regular to regular in shape and predominantly bordered by managed hedgerows and stone walls.
- Small stream present within character area as well as rocky outcrops with associated scrub vegetation. Shelterbelts around residential properties, and scrub areas, provide some enclosure but otherwise an open landscape.
- The A5025 is noticeable due to moving traffic, which introduces intermittent noise and reduces tranquillity, safety and security.
- Apart from the A5025, development is limited to farms connected by minor roads and winding lanes.
- Standing stones are visible in some fields.
- Mynydd y Garn is an obvious feature in views. There are also views to the coast and the Existing Power Station in the north, and windfarms in the east.

LLCA20 Mynydd Mechell

- Very undulating landscape with a mosaic of rocky outcrops, scrub and pasture. Pasture fields are small in size and semi-regular to irregular in shape.
- The variety of land cover types creates a highly textured, colourful and diverse landscape, although this also reduces unity and balance. The predominance of scrub and rocky outcrops makes the landscape feel more rugged, natural and wild.
- Very attractive landscape with a high scenic quality, recognised by its AONB designation.
- There is a rural, upland feel due to limited development of occasional farms linked by winding lanes. This creates a sense of tranquillity and security.
- Elevated position allows open almost panoramic views towards the northern coast and the Existing Power Station.

LLCA21 A5025 farmland

- Open and exposed aspect of drumlin fields.
- A5025 within otherwise pastoral farmland of medium scale fields with irregular, angular field pattern.
- Hedgerows and dry stone walls/cloddiau, often in disrepair and replaced or reinforced by post and wire fencing.
- Trees along field boundaries mainly within southern part of LLCA.
- Unmanaged vegetation associated with outcrops of rock and damp hollows.
- Sparsely settled, with mainly scattered farmsteads.
- Open views from tops of drumlins, including views north to the sea framed by drumlins and hill form of Mynydd y Garn to the south-west.
- Components of power production and distribution evident in views out of LLCA, including pylons, overhead lines, wind turbines and the Existing Power Station.

LLCA22 Llanfechell farmland

- Gently undulating drumlin topography amongst sheltered rural valleys with damp hollows.
- Medium- to small-scale fields with larger fields to the east.
- Fields are mainly pasture for sheep and cattle, with some arable land.
- Dry stone walls/cloddiau and overgrown hedgerows, sometimes appearing as rows of stunted trees.

- Scattered dwellings and farmsteads, mainly along roads linking the villages of Llanfeschell, Tregele and Cemaes.
- Distinctive prehistoric standing stones.
- Components of modern power production and distribution evident in views, including pylons, overhead lines, wind turbines and the Existing Power Station.
- Cemaes Mill (windmill) landmark.

LLCA23 North drumlins

- Interconnecting rolling drumlin landform with damp hollows, with mainly pastoral fields grazed by sheep and cattle, as well as some arable fields.
- Open and exposed aspect.
- Medium- to large-scale fields enclosed by overgrown dry stone walls/cloddiau.
- Rock outcrops with associated unmanaged vegetation such as gorse.
- Scattered farmsteads and properties often nestled in between small groups of trees, such as the distinctive pines at the site of The Firs (former small bed and breakfast).
- Skylines defined by surrounding drumlins.
- Views to the sea limited by the undulating drumlin landform.
- The hill form of Mynydd y Garn in the adjacent landscape forms a distinctive backdrop in views south-west.
- The Existing Power Station and associated pylons stand out as industrial features on the skyline in views from higher ground.

LLCA24 Tregele

- Modern residential housing interspersed by garden vegetation.
- Small pastoral fields with irregular field patterns on the fringes of the village.
- Field boundaries comprise a mixture of hedgerows, sometimes with trees, stone walls and post and wire fencing.
- Petrol filling station on the A5025.
- Components of adjacent power production and distribution evident in views out of the LLCA.

3.8 References

Table 3-2 Schedule of references

ID	Reference
RD1	Natural Resources Wales. 1999 to date. <i>LANDMAP, Level 3 Assessments and Methodologies</i> . [Online]. [Accessed: September 2016]. Available from: http://landmap-maps.naturalresources.wales/ .
RD2	TACP and Isle of Anglesey County Council. 2011. <i>Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011</i> . [Online]. [Accessed: September 2016]. Available from: http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/2013/05/08/s/r/x/Anglesey-Landscape-Strategy-Update-2011.pdf .
RD3	Land Use Consultants. 2012. <i>Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey</i> . [Online]. [Accessed: June 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 .
RD4	Natural Resources Wales (NRW). 2014. <i>National Landscape Character, NLCA01: Anglesey Coast</i> . Available by request from NRW, Maes-y-Ffynnon, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW, contact: John.briggs@cyfoethnaturiol.cymru .
RD5	Natural Resources Wales (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 .
RD6	Isle of Anglesey County Council and Natural Resources Wales. 2015. <i>The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review, 2015 – 2020</i> . [Online]. [Accessed: June 2017]. Available from: https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/w/x/m/Anglesey-AONB-Management-Plan-2015_20.pdf .
RD7	Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. 2013. <i>Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</i> . Third Edition. Abingdon: Routledge.
RD8	Natural England. 2014. <i>An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment</i> . [Online]. [Accessed: September 2016]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396192/landscape-character-assessment.pdf .