

Wylfa Newydd Project

6.8.21 ES Volume H - Logistics Centre

App H10-1 - Published sources of landscape character

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Extracts of relevant published sources of landscape character are set out below under the title of the relevant documents, and should be read in conjunction with figure H10-2 (Application Reference Number: 6.8.29).
- 1.1.2 The extracts include descriptions of published Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the study area defined for the landscape and visual assessment, based on the zone of theoretical visibility for the Logistics Centre site, where there is potential for landscape effects resulting from intervisibility.
- 1.1.3 Extracts are also included from published *LANDMAP* (Natural Resources Wales (NRW), 2011 and 2013a-d) aspect areas within approximately 6km of the Logistics Centre site as this is the area where theoretical intervisibility is principally concentrated and where there is greater potential for landscape effects.

2. National Landscape Character Areas

1.1.1 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) are defined by NRW. The following documents describing the landscape character within the study area for the Logistics Centre site:

- National Landscape Character, NLCA01: Anglesey Coast (NRW, 31 March 2014a) [RD1].

NLCA01: Anglesey Coast

1.1.2 The relevant key characteristics listed below for NLCA01: Anglesey Coast have been extracted from the character profile.

- **The coastal zone** - of by far the largest island in Wales [Anglesey] (720km²) ...”
- **Much of the highest land** - on the island falls within the coastal area, including Parys Mountain (147m) ...”
- **Strong geological orientation** - There is a south west to north east geological orientation, resulting in corrugated topography, which is manifest along the coastline in places as rocky headlands and sandy bays.”
- **Great variety of coastal types** - The coastline has great variety, from sheer coastal cliffs and dramatic rocky headlands, to small sandy coves and extensive low lying dunes and sandy estuaries.”
- **Wind exposure but some shelter** - The striking and windswept heathland landscapes of the wild coastline ... together with the barren, mined landscape of Parys Mountain, contrast markedly with the gentler, green, pastoral landscapes inland, away from the immediate coastal edge.”
- **Pasture** - Soils include deep loams supporting predominantly pastoral land cover with occasional hay meadows, away from the coastline.”
- **Heather and heath** - a feature of the thin soils in the more elevated areas such as... the coastline near Amlwch.”
- **Clodd[i]au** - or earth bank field boundaries feature in the north and west with occasional stone walls, whereas hedges are more common in the south and east.”
- **Prehistoric and funerary sites** - including standing stones ...”
- **Coastal Settlements** - often relating to former industry, such as the mining town of Amlwch at the foot of Parys Mountain ... Much C20th coastal development relates to tourism and retirement property.”
- **A number of prominent man-made landmarks** – including ... Parys Mountain (distinctive industrial quarry landscape), Wylfa Nuclear Power Station ...” (NRW, 2014a)

3. The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 – 2020

1.1.1 The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 – 2020, aims "... to take account of the natural resources within and outside of its boundaries [of the AONB] and understand how using an ecosystem approach can better manage the natural resources of the AONB." (Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC), 2015. Executive summary, chapter 1, section 1.2, page 1.) [RD2]

1.1.2 Chapter 3, section 3.2, (page 6) describes the AONB as a:
"... predominantly a coastal designation, covering most of Anglesey's 201 kilometre coastline but also encompassing Holyhead Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon along with substantial areas of land which form the essential backdrop to the coast. The total coverage of the AONB on Anglesey is approximately 221sq kms (21,500 hectares).
The landscape of the AONB reflects the varied underlying geology and is a diverse mixture of marine and terrestrial habitats, including rugged cliffs, heathland, sand dunes, salt marshes and mud flats. Holyhead Mountain, the cliffs of North and South Stack and rocky coves are the dominant features of the island's northern coastline ..." (IACC, 2015)

1.1.3 Section 3.5 (page 6) states:
"There are many distinctive features to the unique landscape of the AONB. The coastline is undoubtedly a defining feature; however, the character of the landscape has been influenced by centuries of farming and also traditional industries such as quarrying. Agriculture is the main land use in the AONB, and stone walls, hedgerows and field patterns are an integral part of the landscape." (IACC, 2015)

1.1.4 Section 3.11 (page 7) recognises the focus on Anglesey for energy development including nuclear power and states:
"...The proximity of these industries to the AONB and the need to bring the energy ashore highlights their influence on both the landscape and the seascape of the AONB, and also the pressure from development in close proximity to the countryside and coast." (IACC, 2015)

1.1.5 Table 4 in chapter 4 (Guiding Principles and Forces for Change) (page 13) lists the features and special qualities of the Anglesey AONB.

1.1.6 AONB features listed comprise:

- coastal landscape/seascape features;
- traditional agricultural landscape features; and
- geological and geomorphological features.

1.1.7 Special qualities are listed as:

- expansive views/seascapes;
- peace and tranquillity;
- islands around Anglesey;
- broadleaved woodlands;
- lowland coastal heath;
- species rich roadside verges;
- ecologically important coastal and wetland habitats (including rocky shores, ...estuaries, saltmarshes and beaches...);
- built environment including Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings;
- archaeology and ancient monuments/historic landscapes, parks and gardens;
- rural agricultural/coastal communities;
- Welsh language;
- soil air and water quality;
- Public Rights of Way network; and
- accessible land and water.

1.1.8 Section 4.2 (page 16) includes the definition of an 'ecosystem approach' from the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (United Nations, 1992): [RD3]

"A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way."

1.1.9 Furthermore, it is explained that:

"On Anglesey, adopting an ecosystem approach would mean a full recognition of the values the AONB's special qualities offer to people and if maintained and enhanced, to future generations." (IACC, 2015)

1.1.10 Section 4.3 (page 16) states that "*The AONB has a relatively open, rolling, undulating landscape.*" (IACC, 2015)

1.1.11 Section 4.4 (page 18) describes AONB seascapes as a "... *highly valued part of the Welsh scenery, they can also be some of our last 'wild' landscape areas and support a wealth of natural heritage.*" (IACC, 2015)

1.1.12 Section 4.10 (pages 21 and 22) states that:

"It is clear that the AONB faces some major developmental pressures over this plan period and further into the future. By gaining a better understanding of the AONB's special qualities and features and improving our understanding of the ecosystem approach and its implications, it will be possible to prepare clear policies to help manage these pressures." (IACC, 2015)

1.1.13 Chapter 5, (page 24) provides the vision for the future of the AONB:

“The unique landscape/seascape, natural beauty and special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey AONB are conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations. Communities within the AONB are dynamic and vibrant and can relate to their local environment whilst sustainable activities contribute positively to a healthy rural and coastal economy.” (IACC, 2015)

1.1.14 In section 5 (page 25) the vision and strategy for the AONB is categorised in six themes as follows:

- enhancing countryside and coastal character (CCC);
- maintaining nature and the environment (NE);
- supporting opportunities for visiting and enjoying the AONB (VE);
- maintaining the living and working landscape (LWL);
- raising awareness and appreciation (AA) and;
- developing the ecosystem approach (TEA).

1.1.15 Section 5.1 specifies policies which seek to fulfil management objectives for enhancing countryside and coastal character, the overall aim of which 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.*” (IACC, 2015)

1.1.16 Policies relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual effects in relation to the Logistics Centre site are presented in table 1-1 to table 1-4 below.

Table 1-1 AONB management objective 1: Landscape/seascape policies

Enhancing countryside and coastal character (CCC) Management objective 1: Landscape/seascape (extracts from IACC, 2015) [RD2]	
“The coastal landscape/seascape will be actively conserved through appropriated management”	
Policy code	Policy
CCC1.1	“LANDMAP is used as the process by which the landscape character of the AONB is valued and assessed”
CCC1.2	“The Anglesey Seascapes Character Assessment is used to determine the likely impacts of marine developments on the special qualities and features of the AONB”
CCC1.3	“There is a need to maintain the accessibility and conservation interest of sites of geological and geomorphological importance”
CCC1.4	“Elements of the landscape that have been degraded and lost

their character will be restored and enhanced to safeguard the quality of the landscape”

Table 1-2 AONB management objective 2: Historic landscape and culture policies

Enhancing countryside and coastal character (CCC) Management objective 2: Historic landscape and culture (extracts from IACC, 2015) [RD2] “Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are important features of the Isle of Anglesey AONB. Strong planning policies will protect such sites from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB.”	
Policy code	Policy
CCC2.1	“Identify, protect and actively conserve the historic, archaeological and cultural resources of the AONB with relevant agencies”
CCC2.2	“Support the use of traditional skills and practices during restoration of the AONB’s special” qualities”
CCC2.3	“Ensure that high quality, co-ordinated and consistent interpretation material is provided to inform people about the rich history of the AONB”

Table 1-3 AONB management objective 3: Development policies

Enhancing countryside and coastal character (CCC) Management objective 3: Development (extracts from IACC, 2015) [RD2] “Planning Policies will ensure that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.”	
Policy code	Policy
CCC3.1	“Identify, protect and actively conserve the historic, archaeological and cultural resources of the AONB with relevant agencies”
CCC3.2	“All new developments and re-developments within and up to 2km adjacent to the AONB will be expected to adopt the highest standard of design, materials and landscaping in order to enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB. Proposals of an appropriate scale and nature, embodying the principles of sustainable development, will be supported”
CCC3.3	“Ensure that the planning policies reflect the statutory duty of the Council to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB”
CCC3.4	“Continue to encourage the under grounding of existing and proposed power and telephone lines”

Table 1-4 AONB management objective 4: Peace and tranquillity

Enhancing countryside and coastal character (CCC) Management objective 4: Peace and tranquillity (extracts from IACC, 2015) [RD2]	
“Unspoilt panoramic views and tranquil atmosphere are safeguarded from improvement that would degrade the special quality of the AONB.”	
Policy code	Policy
CCC4.1	“Work to maintain the solitude and natural beauty of the AONB”
CCC4.2	“Work towards securing Dark Skies status for Anglesey”
CCC4.3	“Ensure noise intrusion into the AONB is within acceptable limits”

4. Special Landscape Areas (SLA)s

1.1.1 There are no SLAs located within the overarching study area for the Logistic Centre site.

5. Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011

- 1.1.1 At county level there are three LCAs identified in the *Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011* (IACC and TACP, 2011), within the study area for the Logistics Centre site. [RD4]
- 1.1.2 The key characteristics for those LCAs with theoretical intervisibility to the Logistics Centre site works and therefore having the potential for landscape effects are set out below. Relevant development and management issues have been included for LCAs encompassing the Logistics Centre site, which are LCA 2: Holy Island, LCA 3: Inland Sea and LCA 5: North West Anglesey.

LCA 2: Holy Island

- 1.1.3 The relevant key characteristics for the LCA 2: Holy Island are described as follows:

“... It falls into two distinctive sub units, separated by the development corridor of Holyhead-Trearddur along the B4545 road. To the north of this the landscape is relatively low lying but due to the underlying geology has a number of craggy outcrops. The area has small fields typically with stone boundaries and gorse hedges. The fir trees that grow here exhibit a windblown form. To the south of the road, again there are rough, craggy areas. However around Roscolyn is an area of more undulating terrain, where glacial clay cover is more widespread, with discrete rocky outcrops and areas of coastal and estuarine alluvium. At Penrhos is the former estate of the Stanley family which is now managed as a Country Park.

There are a number of important habitats – dry heaths, coastal and intertidal – often within a large matrix of improved grassland. However many of these ‘islands’ of habitat value are designated as SSSIs. Holyhead and Trearddur for the main settlement axis. Holyhead, centred on a Roman town, has become a major port with associated industries. In more recent years the arrival of the A55 has increased this. Part of the town is designated as a Conservation Area. Trearddur is a good example of the influence that tourism can bring to an area to affect its character. The hotels, second homes, camping and caravan sites together with the golf course all contribute to this. Notwithstanding this, the LCA represents a landscape character that is quite distinctive – rural, wild, exposed, coastal- with the main detractor being aircraft noise from the adjacent RAF Valley airfield. Cross reference to Seascapes Regional Units 8, 9 and 10.” (IACC and TACP, 2011)

- 1.1.4 Key issues relevant to the assessment of landscape effects for the Logistics Centre comprise:

Settlement Edge

“Development around the settlement edges should:

- be of a form that reflects the character and qualities of each settlement;.

- Be considered in terms of cumulative landscape impacts rather than just the site itself.
- Use landform and vegetation patterns to assist in mitigation of any impacts.
- Do not impose standard solutions, utilise inherent local characteristics.
- Have regard to Holyhead Central Conservation Area ad Holyhead Beach Conservation Area SPGs.” (IACC and TACP, 2011, [RD4]).

Coastal Landscapes

“Given the pressure for recreational tourism developments should take into account:

- Direct or indirect impact upon coastal landscapes.
- Visual impact on people’s perception of the coast, its character and qualities.
- Have regard to the AONB Management Plan.” (IACC, 2015) [RD5].

LCA 3: Inland Sea

1.1.5 The relevant key characteristics for the LCA 3: Inland Sea are described as follows:

“...The inland Sea, which separates Holy Island from Anglesey refers to a wide area of the Holy Island Strait impounded by the Stanley Embankment (built by Telford to carry the A5 road) to the north running down to Four Mile Bridge. This area is influenced by tidal currents which makes it popular for water sports and boat users. In more recent years the embankment has been widened to carry firstly the railway and now the A55 road to Holyhead. This has increased noise and movement in the area.

The southern part of the strait is more convoluted and in places narrow, providing distinctive estuarine character at low tide with exposed sandbanks. To the north of the embankment the strait opens out to include Traeth y Gribin which forms a large sandy foreshore with limited rocky outcrops and includes the low tide channel of the Afon Alaw.

In many ways the landscape of the LCA forms part of the adjacent areas however it is such a strong feature locally that it justifies being a distinct LCA in its own right. Cross reference to Seascapes Regional Unit 10.” (IACC and TACP, 2011) [RD4]

1.1.6 Key issues relevant to the assessment of landscape effects for the Logistics Centre comprise:

“The main considerations with this LCA relate to the impacts of development, tourism, recreation and management proposals upon a range of coastal landscapes and habitats. Particular reference should be made to the differing qualities found throughout the LCA in terms of specifically the Inland Sea, the broad open estuary to the north of the Stanley Embankment and

the more sinuous coastline to the south. Furthermore, it needs to be closely considered in relation to any proposals in adjacent LCAs given the particular qualities of the Inland Sea area.”

LCA 5: North West Anglesey

1.1.7 The relevant key characteristics for the 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 south- west to north- east 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.” (IACC and TACP, 2011) [RD4]

1.1.8 Key issues relevant to the assessment of landscape effects for the SPC Proposals comprise:

Coastal Landscapes

“Abutting LCA 4, any development or management proposals should:

- Have regard to the AONB Management Plan..” (IACC and TACP, 2011) [RD4]

Settlement Edge

“Any proposals for development or landscape management should reflect:

- The development pattern of the area
- Seek to use landform, vegetation patterns to mitigate impacts
- Ensure scale, form and materials respect the local vernacular.
- Utilise and retain local field boundary patterns – cloddiau, fences, hedgerows...” (IACC and TACP, 2011) [RD4]

Energy Landscapes

1.1.9 “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.” (IACC and TACP, 2011) [RD4]

6. Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment

1.1.1 The Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report [RD5], undertaken on behalf of Gwynedd Council, the IACC and the Snowdonia National Park Authority, considers landscape sensitivity and capacity relating to wind energy, solar photo-voltaic energy, overhead electricity lines, mobile masts and static caravan/chalet parks development, and is therefore of limited relevance to the proposed Logistics Centre site. However, landscape sensitivity and capacity issues in relation to overhead electricity lines are also likely to be of relevance to the assessment of cumulative effects. General conclusions or findings considered applicable to the Logistics Centre site and surrounding area are described below.

1.1.2 In order to assess the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape, the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* [RD5] considers discrete geographical areas, which correspond to the county LCAs defined in the Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011 (IACC and TACP, 2011) [RD4]. Extracts from the sensitivity evaluation of those areas corresponding with the county LCAs 2, 3 and 5 are included below.

1.1.3 The Logistics Centre site and study area lie within character area A02: Holy Island and A03: Inland Sea and A05: North West Anglesey (corresponding to county LCA 2: Holy Island, LCA 3: Inland Sea and LCA 5: North West Anglesey). Information about landscape objectives and overall capacity are therefore included in the summary below, for these three areas only.

A02: Holy Island

1.1.4 In relation to A02: Holy Island, the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* [RD5] acknowledges that:

1.1.5 “Views are typically open within this LCA. Landform rises in a north westerly direction towards Holyhead Mountain which provides a prominent landmark...”

1.1.6 This medium scale, rolling coastal landscape is in part characterised by development and transport corridors, which lessen the sensitivity of the landscape to a 400 kV overhead line development, in particular to the north. Sensitivity is further reduced by the presence of a number of masts and the Anglesey Aluminium chimney stack which is a prominent man-made feature. The natural characteristics of the more sparsely settled, tranquil coastal landscape ...imparts a higher degree of sensitivity and has resulted in parts of this LCA being designated within the Anglesey AONB. Sensitivity in these areas is further enhanced by lack of tree cover and openness of this

landscape and intervisibility with adjoining and other high value landscapes such as Holyhead Mountain and areas of cultural heritage value.

- 1.1.7 The main landscape objectives for A02: Holy Island are 'landscape protection', defined as "*all areas lie within or contribute to the outlook and setting of the AONB.*" and 'landscape accommodation' defined as "*areas that do not contribute to the outlook and setting of the AONB and are outside the AONB.*"
- 1.1.8 Typically "*no development or very infrequent smaller scale renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.*" on page iv of the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* (Gillespies LLP et al. 2014) [RD5].
- 1.1.9 The indicative overall landscape capacity, which is only of partial relevance to the proposed Logistics Centre site is stated as "*Typically no or very limited capacity for further 400 kV overhead line developments.*"

A03: Inland Sea

- 1.1.10 In relation to A03: Inland Sea, the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* (Gillespies LLP et al. 2014)[RD5] acknowledges that:
- 1.1.11 "Views are typically open within this LCA. There are strong visual links with Holyhead Mountain and the Inland Sea. Expansive coastal views are afforded from the north of this LCA ...
- 1.1.12 The typically natural characteristics of this sparsely settled and tranquil coastal landscape impart a high degree of sensitivity and have resulted in its designation of part of the Anglesey AONB. This sensitivity is further enhanced by its intervisibility with adjoining and other high value landscapes and by its cultural heritage value, a lack of opportunity to screen tall pylons and by the cultural heritage value of the landscape. When combined with some sensitive visual receptors overall sensitivity of this landscape to development is considered high."
- 1.1.13 The main landscape objectives for A03: Inland Sea is 'landscape protection' of "*typically no capacity for development within this LCA with the exception of infrequent domestic scale development which should relate well to existing settlement/buildings..*"
- 1.1.14 "*Typically no development or very infrequent smaller scale renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development.*" on page iv of the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* (Gillespies LLP et al. 2014) [RD5].

A05: North West Anglesey

- 1.1.15 In relation to A05: North West Anglesey, the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* (Gillespies LLP et al., 2014) [RD5] acknowledges that:
- 1.1.16 “Views are typically open within this LCA. Coastal views are available from areas in the north and west...
- 1.1.17 This is a medium scale landscape comprising extensive drumlin fields with scattered rocky outcrops. Northern and western areas are particularly scenic and designated as part the Anglesey AONB, thus increasing sensitivity in those localities. In areas adjacent to the AONB sensitivity is enhanced by the intervisibility with the adjoining high value landscape. The distinctive wild landscape of Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds SLA is also particularly sensitive.
- 1.1.18 Elsewhere the LCA’s long established history with wind energy development and the presence of modern day structures which punctuate the skylines such as existing wind turbines, 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines and also the presence of major transport corridors reduces the sensitivity of the landscape.”
- 1.1.19 The main landscape objectives for A05: North West Anglesey Coast are ‘landscape protection’ of “... *all areas that lie within or contribute to the outlook and setting of the AONB and SLA*” and ‘landscape accommodation’ of “... all areas that do not contribute to the outlook and setting of the AONB and SLA”, while a “... *degree of Landscape Change is accepted where modern vertical development influences the landscape to the north of this LCA.*”
- 1.1.20 The ‘Landscape accommodation’ 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...*” and is “*Typically [applicable to] a landscape with occasional renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and/or tourism development*”, as stated on page 46 of the *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, Final Report* (Gillespies LLP et al., 2014) [RD5].

7. LANDMAP, Level 3

1.1.1 *LANDMAP* is a data source for landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape, published by NRW (2011[RD10] and 2013a-d [RD6-RD9]) (formerly Countryside Council for Wales). A number of aspect layers are categorised, including the *LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect, Level 3* [RD6] which provides the primary appraisal relevant to informing landscape character assessments. However, the other aspects areas provide relevant information about the geology, habitats, historic and cultural influences on the landscape, which also is relevant in relation to landscape characterisation.

1.1.2 Extracts of summary descriptions from the ‘collector surveys’ for the different *LANDMAP* aspect areas, are quoted in table 1-5 to table 1-9 below. The summary descriptions for the visual and sensory, historic landscape and cultural landscape aspect areas include all aspect areas located within approximately 4km of the Logistics Centre site, within which theoretical intervisibility is principally concentrated. The summary descriptions for the geological landscape and landscape habitats aspect areas include all aspect areas in and within the vicinity of the Logistics Centre site, since geology and landscape habitats would primarily have the potential to be affected directly.

Table 1-5 Summary description of *LANDMAP* Level 3 geological landscape aspect areas

<i>LANDMAP</i> Level 3 geological landscape aspect areas	<i>LANDMAP</i> collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013a) [RD7]
Trearddur (N) (encompassing the Logistics Centre site)	“Extensive area with densely spaced, craggy surface outcrops of metamorphic bedrock (Monian Supergroup, Cambrian). Forms an irregular platform and passes to glacial clay cover to the north-east (Quaternary:Pleistocene). Scattered small lakes and boggy areas between outcrops,”
Penrhos Coast	“Sandy shore and low cliff dominantly in drift including glacial clay (Quaternary:Pleistocene – Recent). Some rock platform on shore (Monian Supergroup, Cambrian)”.
Holyhead	“Urban and industrially developed areas of Holyhead town. Includes modified coastline around harbour/docks.”
Four Mile Bridge	“Inlet / creek between Holyhead and mainland Anglesey. Dominated by mudflats in the south with sand bars at low tide (Quaternary:Recent). Northern part of Aspect Area includes a broad permanently submerged basin. Includes some small marginal areas of saltmarsh and scattered small rocky outcrops of metamorphic bedrock (Monian

LANDMAP Level 3 geological landscape aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013a) [RD7]
	Supergroup, Cambrian).

Table 1-6 Summary description of LANDMAP Level 3 landscape habitats aspect areas

LANDMAP Level 3 landscape habitats aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013c) [RD8]
Holyhead	<p>“... encompasses the built up area of Holyhead. ... a low biodiversity habitat. This is despite part of this area being designated, it should be recognised that this designation is AONB which does not necessarily confer any great ecological value on the area. Also there are a small number of key species records but these could be viewed as being present despite of not because of the general built-up nature of the area...”</p>
Farmland Trearddur Holyhead	<p>– to</p> <p>“...an area of improved grassland farmland that has a distinctly less semi-natural habitat element compared to areas to the east and west. The built up areas to the north and south form these Aspect Area boundaries</p> <p>... largely improved grassland which is generally not a particularly valuable ecological habitat. There are limited areas of more valuable semi-natural habitat present and no areas have even been designated as pSINC's. Please note that despite 100% of the Aspect Area being designated this is an AONB that does not necessarily confer any great ecological value...”</p>
W. of Holyhead	<p>“differentiated from the improved grassland dominated habitat to the west because it has a significant element of wooded habitat within it.</p> <p>... the area is covered by very limited ecological designations (80-90% designated but this is almost exclusively AONB which does not necessarily confer any great ecological value). Multiple records of species present. 40% approximately appears to be wooded, but lack of adjacent woodland nearby to ensure this Aspect Area (AA) is part of a large network and urban settlements/road separating two woodland habitats reduces the AA to moderate...”</p>
Inland Sea	<p>“Inlet / creek between Holyhead and mainland Anglesey. Dominated by mudflats in the south with sand bars at low tide (Quaternary : Recent). Northern</p>

LANDMAP Level 3 landscape habitats aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013c) [RD8]
	<p>part of Aspect Area includes a broad permanently submerged basin. Includes some small marginal areas of saltmarsh and scattered small rocky outcrops of metamorphic bedrock (Monian Supergroup, Cambrian). "... an area of quite sheltered coastal/intertidal habitat that lies between Holy Island and the mainland of Anglesey (basically between the Stanley embankment which divides it from Beddmanarch Bay (more open coast) down to where it opens out into Cymaran Bay in the south). The area is basically generally intertidal bud/sand flats but areas of saltmarsh etc. have also been included because they do not warrant separate Aspect Areas. Some areas of terrestrial habitat have also been included in the form of coastal grassland..."</p> <p>... the area contains valuable habitat that supports important wintering bird communities and is thus of considerable importance which is reflected in its SSSI designation..."</p>
Farmland S. of Holyhead	<p>"... a noticeable patchwork of semi-natural habitats within the improved grassland landscape...Holyhead forms the boundary to the north and the "coastal strip" forms the boundary to the south.</p> <p>... contains many areas of valuable habitat scattered throughout reflected in presences of some SSSI, SPA and SAC areas (these are quite small and confined to an area near the coast) and a pSINC designation. But 75% of the Aspect Area is improved grassland..."</p>
Farmland S.W. of Holyhead	<p>"...largely improved grassland which is generally not a particularly valuable ecological habitat.</p> <p>...contains areas of lowland/dry heath (of international and national importance) increasing AA to lower side of high value although these areas are relatively small. Other areas may be present particularly within pSINCs presence of marshy grassland also occurs.</p> <p>...a reasonable number of key species records and 80-90% of the Aspect Area is designated although this is largely AONB which does not necessarily confer any great ecological value. On the whole the area has been evaluated as high (albeit on the lower side of this criteria), due to the presence of protected species records and fen and wet grassland habitat."</p>
Beddmanarch Bay	<p>"An area of coastal/intertidal habitat within</p>

LANDMAP Level 3 landscape habitats aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013c) [RD8]
Intertidal	<p>Beddmanarch Bay this area is expansive sandflat...</p> <p>...This area contains valuable habitat that supports important wintering bird communities and is thus of considerable importance which is reflected in its SSSI designation."</p>

Table 1-7 Summary description of LANDMAP Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas

LANDMAP Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013d) [RD9]
Holy Island	<p>"This consists of three parts, separated by areas of development, forming most of the island. It is low-lying with a pattern of low craggy ridges and marshy bottoms. The small roads also follow these alignments along 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 sheep, stone walls and gorse/hedges. The few trees are wind-pruned. There is limited tourist development, with a few caravan/camping sites, but it remains unspoilt, with good views to the coast and to Holyhead Mountain, with a feeling of maritime openness. Overall it has a character and feeling similar to most parts of westernmost peninsula Britain, including the western part of Lleyn. The quiet atmosphere of this landscape is shattered during weekdays by jets from nearby RAF Valley. Change detection 2014: boundary changes - housing on the edge of Holyhead has expanded into this area, and a new industrial estate lies adjacent to the A55."</p>
Holyhead	<p>"This is a medium-sized town situated on the east coast of Holy Island. The town centre is on rising ground above the harbour. It has a long history, with a beautiful old parish church set within the remaining walls of the Roman fort. It grew as a cross channel port in the nineteenth century and much of the centre and housing dates from that time. Most of the town is not beautiful and it has a rather run-down air despite recent improvements to facilities. It is, however, in a fine location, with the wild Holyhead Mountain rising steeply behind and views across the harbour to the sea and north-west coast of Anglesey beyond. It is an important part of the first impressions of Wales when</p>

LANDMAP Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013d) [RD9]
	arriving from Ireland on the ferry. Small areas of agricultural and/or wild land are included where they form an important part of the setting of the settlement. Change detection 2014: Minor boundary change - housing expansion”
Aluminium Works (encompasses the Logistics Centre site)	“This large factory and adjacent industrial estate is on the outskirts of Holyhead, between the A5 and the railway. Its single tall chimney is a landmark seen from much of north west Anglesey, and presumably also from approaching ferries. Dense screening woodland along the A5 edge means that the works are hidden from view from the east side. From the A55 and railway, however, there are open unattractive views into the site. Small areas of agricultural and/or wild land are included where they form an important part of the setting of the development. Change detection 2014: major new retail/business developments in western part, and new business/industrial estate being developed on other side of A55 now included in this aspect areas.”
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 Stanley's and has a central farm complex and plantation woodlands. It is popular for walking in the woodland and enjoying the views along the coast. Its entrance is marked by the white-painted tollhouse on the A5. It is managed as a country park and has various paths leading from the car parks.”
A55 Corridor	“The A55 dual-carriageway corridor crosses Anglesey diagonally, between Britannia Bridge and Holyhead. Where it follows a similar alignment to the A5 and the railway, the whole transport corridor is included in the aspect area. There are six interchanges, with intrusive raised roundabouts, signs and lighting. On the whole 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 of the coast towards Holyhead. Small areas of agricultural and/or wild land are included where they form an important part of the setting of the road.”

LANDMAP Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013d) [RD9]
Trearddur	<p>“This dispersed settlement is located on the narrowest part of Holy Island. It consists of various housing estates, areas of bungalow development, caravan parks and holiday accommodation with fields in-between. It straggles along the western coast and thrives as a holiday resort in the summer. In the winter it looks rather sorry for itself. It is centred on the attractive sheltered Trearddur Bay and, being near Holyhead, is popular for water sports and bathing. Most of the buildings are poor quality and the settlement has a haphazard appearance. Small areas of agricultural and/or wild land are included where they form an important part of the setting of the settlement. Change detection 2014: some increase in scattered new/upgraded housing etc.”</p>
Penrhos Beach	<p>“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.”</p>
Inland Sea	<p>“This area is the wide part of the Holy Island straits, impounded by the Stanley Embankment, originally built by Telford to carry the A5. This causeway, now widened to also 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.”</p>
Holyhead Mountain	<p>“On the north-west end of Holy Island, this is the highest hill on Anglesey, at 220m. rising steeply from the sea. It has a distinctive rounded profile seen from many parts of western Anglesey and as a landmark on approaching Holyhead from Ireland. Most of the mountain is open rocky moorland, with wildlife and historic interest. At the base of the eastern slopes is the Breakwater Quarry, now a country park, and Gorlan, its associated quarry village with scattered</p>

LANDMAP Level 3 visual and sensory aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013d) [RD9]
	<p>houses and smallholdings. Considering its close proximity to Holyhead there is surprisingly little access, making it feel remote. There are fine panoramic views across Anglesey and the sea to Lleyn peninsula and Snowdonia in the distance. On a clear day the Lake District, Isle of Mann and Ireland can also be seen.”</p>

Table 1-8 Summary description of LANDMAP Level 3 historic landscape aspect areas

LANDMAP Level 3 historic landscape aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013b)
Penrhos (encompasses the Logistics Centre site)	<p>“Occupation of the Penrhos area dates from the Neolithic period. The Trefignath Burial Chamber (AN011) lies within the area. A prehistoric hut group is found at Trearddur (AN092). Historic assets of later date include the former post-medieval windmill at Melin y Gof, also known as the Stanley Windmill. Within the aspect area, as redefined in 2017, there is a large golf course and the Holyhead Leisure Centre, which has football fields, which make recreation and leisure an important theme here.”</p>
Holyhead	<p>“The area of Holyhead has had almost unbroken occupation since the Mesolithic period. The coast forms a natural harbour which was used by the Romans who constructed a fort here in the 4th century AD, although the harbour was probably also used in the prehistoric period. Holyhead continued in use as a port into the medieval period, being used mainly for communication and trade links with Ireland. In the 19th century the port facilities were updated by John Rennie and Thomas Telford as part of the works to improve the route between Dublin and London. Further developments in the 19th century, including alterations to adapt to the introduction of railways and the construction of a pier to protect moored ships, boosted the population and economy in Holyhead. The town lost its economic strength in the period of the two World Wars, following changes in trade and communication routes. Later in the 20th century the port was adapted to cope with larger ferries and cars, while aluminium was imported via the port to the aluminium factory near Holyhead.”</p>

LANDMAP Level 3 historic landscape aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013b)
Penrhos Park	<p>“Occupation of this area dates from the Neolithic period. The Ty Mawr standing stone is a scheduled monument within the area, and the Ty Mawr excavations of November, 2007 revealed further Neolithic activity, including possible dwellings. The excavations also produced evidence for bronze age, Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval activity, as well as a scatter of earlier Mesolithic artefacts. Much of this area is occupied by a huge industrial estate and become part of the sprawl of larger Holyhead. In the post- medieval period the land here was owned by the Penrhos family and was then passed, by marriage, to the Stanley’s of Alderley. Most of the farmsteads in the area are now in ruins and some of the fields have been amalgamated, but the underlying framework of estate land is still evident in places. The southern part of the area has been built over in the 1960s by the Anglesey Aluminium factory, while both the mainline railway and the main road run through it.”</p>
Trearddur Bay area	<p>“In pre-glacial times the area of Trearddur Bay formed part of a river estuary, but changes during glaciation and the post-glacial period led to the formation of the natural bay. Layers of peat beneath the sand on the shore of the Bay contain the remains of trees, estimated to have grown around 5000 BC. Throughout much of the post-glacial period, however, the area would have been marshy and uninhabitable, although excavations have revealed that a stable land surface existed during the Roman and immediately post-Roman periods, and that this surface was cultivated. A hoard of Roman coins was found at Trearddur Bay, containing coins ranging in date from the mid-3rd to the mid-4th centuries AD, and a possible prehistoric settlement has been identified to the south of the Bay. In the medieval period, a chapel, Capel Sanffraid, was constructed on a mound in the centre of the Bay but erosion led to its collapse in the mid-19th century. Excavations of the chapel between 1997 and 2004 found stone cist graves dating from the 6th to 8th centuries AD. The area started to be developed alongside the 18th century coach road between Valley and Holyhead as a holiday resort on a small scale in the late 19th century and further development took place in the early 20th century, and it is this settlement which really</p>

LANDMAP Level 3 historic landscape aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2013b)
	characterises the area today."
Holy Island/South Stack	"Rural area dominated by towering Mynydd y Twr (unenclosed), areas of agriculture interspersed with outcrops. Considerable historical interest, from "relic" prehistoric ceremonial and settlement sites to 19th century encroachment settlement on common (east side of Mynydd y Twr)."

Table 1-9 Summary description of LANDMAP Level 3 cultural landscape aspect areas

LANDMAP Level 3 cultural landscape aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2011) [RD10]
Urban Settlement (encompasses the Logistics Centre site)	"Cultural essence: "gateway" town which still awaits its regeneration. A workaday port town with more than its fair share of problems and social exclusion. It forms a dispiriting arrival point for ferry passengers and cruise ship passengers. Despite this, Holyhead has a strong identity and an interesting history, as well as some attractive buildings. Recent attempts to give it a makeover have been only partially successful."
Northern Coast	"Cultural essence: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A rural area, dominated by the looming presence of Wylfa, with many small fields and scattered dwellings. Porth Swtan is believed to be the last thatched dwelling on Anglesey and has been rebuilt as a heritage centre."
Anglesey Aluminium	"Cultural essence: major employer; potential to disrupt economy if unsustainable. An aluminium smelter established in 1971, using nuclear energy from Wylfa. The plant now requires 12% of all the electrical power consumed in Wales; the smelter produces in excess of 143,000 tonnes of pure aluminium annually. It is jointly owned by Rio Tinto and Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation and is managed by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto. Bauxite, alumina and calcined coke are off-loaded at a jetty at Holyhead and moved by underground conveyor to their storage facilities at the main plant. Liquid pitch, delivered by road, is mixed with the coke, and then formed to make anodes for the electrolytic cells. These are baked to make them

LANDMAP Level 3 cultural landscape aspect areas	LANDMAP collector survey summary description/extracts (NRW, 2011) [RD10]
	electrically conductive and give them mechanical strength, and assembled for later electrical connection to the cell when delivered to the cell rooms. Cathodes are purchased externally, with electrical connections cast on site for installation in the cells. In the cell rooms 316 reduction cells produce approximately 400 tonnes of aluminium per day. The anodes are consumed as the alumina is reduced to molten metal, and are replaced to schedule, and the metal is periodically tapped for casting into primary products. Some is cast into 500kg moulds, and the rest is allocated to two direct chill-casting pits that cast extrusion billet or rolling ingot.”
Trearddur Bay	“Cultural essence: tourist settlement. A settlement with a distinctive part-dispersed part ribbon development plan adjacent to the beach which is overlooked by the Trearddur Bay Hotel. There are extensive leisure facilities locally including a golf course, sea fishing. As well as its wealthy English (and Irish) residents there is an active Welsh-language culture in the village. The area is also rich in archaeology such as Tywyn y Capel and the Trefnignath burial chamber.”
Holyhead Mountain	“Cultural essence: archaeological landscape; recreational area; first sight of the United Kingdom for many. A dominant mountain, visible for miles from the sea and from Anglesey and beyond; it is well-known for its archaeological riches and it has been used for signalling purposes in Roman times and from the 18th century onwards.”
South West Coast	“Cultural essence: rural/coastal area. An extensive riparian area, with small farm settlements and a few hamlets. It includes the village of Malltraeth, the tywni (sands) around Aberffraw, “Trac Mon” (motor racing circuit) on the former Ty Croes army site and Bodorgan with its gardens.”

8. Glossary of technical terms and abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum	Above the mean sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall calculated between 1915 and 1921, taken as a reference point for the height data on Ordnance Survey maps.
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Areas designated under the <i>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</i> for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the designated area.
BAP	Biodiversity action plan	A plan to address threatened species and habitats.
-	Cloddiau	Plural of clawdd, a stone-faced earth bank.
-	Elements	Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as trees, hedges and buildings.
CCC	Enhancing countryside and coastal character	Isle of Anglesey AONB vision theme.
TEA	Developing the ecosystem approach	Isle of Anglesey AONB vision theme.
IACC	Isle of Anglesey County Council	The local authority governing the area within which the Power Station is intended to be constructed. The IACC has a number of functions, including the granting of planning permission as Local Planning Authority.
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites	-
-	Key characteristics	Those combinations of elements that are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
		of place.
-	Land cover	The surface cover of the land, which is usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. This is related to but not the same as land use.
-	Land use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.
-	Landform	The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.
LCA	Landscape Character Area	Single, unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
-	Landscape assessment character	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive.
NE	Maintaining nature and the environment	Isle of Anglesey AONB vision theme.
LWL	Maintaining the living and working landscape	Isle of Anglesey AONB vision theme.
NLCA	National Landscape Character Area	Single, unique areas identified nationally, which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
NRW	Natural Resources Wales	The public body whose stated purpose is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future. It absorbed the regulatory and advisory duties of the Environment Agency Wales, Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission in Wales.
pSINC	Proposed site of nature conservation	Site proposed to be designated locally for its nature conservation or geological value.
AA	Raising awareness and appreciation	Isle of Anglesey AONB vision theme.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest	Sites designated as being of special interest for their flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features and protected under the <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> .
SAC	Special Area of Conservation	Areas that have been identified as being important for a range of vulnerable habitats, plant and animal species within the European Union and are designated under the Habitats Directive.
SLA	Special Landscape Area	A non-statutory designation applied by the Local Planning Authority to define areas of high landscape importance within its administrative boundary.
SPA	Special Protection Area	Sites designated under the Birds Directive due to their international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering, or the migration of, rare and vulnerable species

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
		of birds.
VE	Supporting opportunities for visiting and enjoying the AONB	Isle of Anglesey AONB vision theme.
ZTV	Zone of theoretical visibility	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible.

9. References

ID	Reference
RD1	Natural Resources Wales. 31 March 2014a. National Landscape Character, NLCA01: Anglesey Coast. Available by request from NRW, Maes y Ffynnon, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW, contact: John.briggs@cyfoethnaturiol.cymru.
RD2	Isle of Anglesey County Council. 2015. The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 – 2020. [Online]. [Accessed: 26 April 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	Isle of Anglesey County Council and TACP. 2011. Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update (Document No. DC.011). [Online]. [Accessed 26 April 2017]. Available from: https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Anglesey-Landscape-Strategy---Update-2011-(DC.011).pdf
RD5	Gillespies LLP, Gwynedd Council, Isle of Anglesey Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority. 2014. Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment. (Document No.DC.020) [Online]. [Accessed 24 April 2017]. Available from: https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Landscape-Sensitivity-and-Capacity-Assessment-(DC.020).pdf
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ID	Reference
RD10	Natural Resources Wales (NRW). 2011. LANDMAP. Cultural Landscape dataset. [Online]. [Accessed 26 April 2017]. Available from: http://landmap-maps.naturalresources.wales/