

The background of the entire page is a landscape photograph. It shows a wide river or estuary in the foreground, with a large suspension bridge crossing it. The bridge has stone arches at its ends and a steel suspension structure in the middle. The far bank is covered in dense green trees and some buildings. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky filled with large, grey clouds. A small tree branch is visible in the top left corner.

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Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey

Prepared for the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU)

Final Report
Prepared by LUC
December 2012

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November 2012

Planning & EIA
Design
Landscape Planning
Landscape Management
Ecology
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC BRISTOL
14 Great George Street
Bristol BS1 5RH
Tel: 0117 929 1997
Fax: 0117 929 1998
bristol@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:
London
Glasgow
Edinburgh



FS 566056
EMS 566057

Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number: 2549296
Registered Office:
43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1JD
LUC uses 100% recycled paper

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1 Background

- 1.1 LUC was commissioned by the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU) to **undertake a review of the two authorities' local landscape designations ('Special Landscape Areas' or SLAs)** as part of their Joint Local Development Plan preparation. For the purposes of this report, the two authority areas are referred to collectively **as the 'Study Area'**. See Figure 1.1.
- 1.2 As stated in Planning Policy Wales (2012), Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are applied by local planning authorities where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. It also states, however, that such designations should not unduly restrict acceptable development.
- 1.3 In Gwynedd, a total of eleven Landscape Conservation Areas (LConAs, equivalent to SLAs) are defined in the current Unitary Development Plan (2001-2016). See Figure 1.2. **The Inspector's Report from the Plan's Public Inquiry stated that the policy for these local landscape designations (B10):**

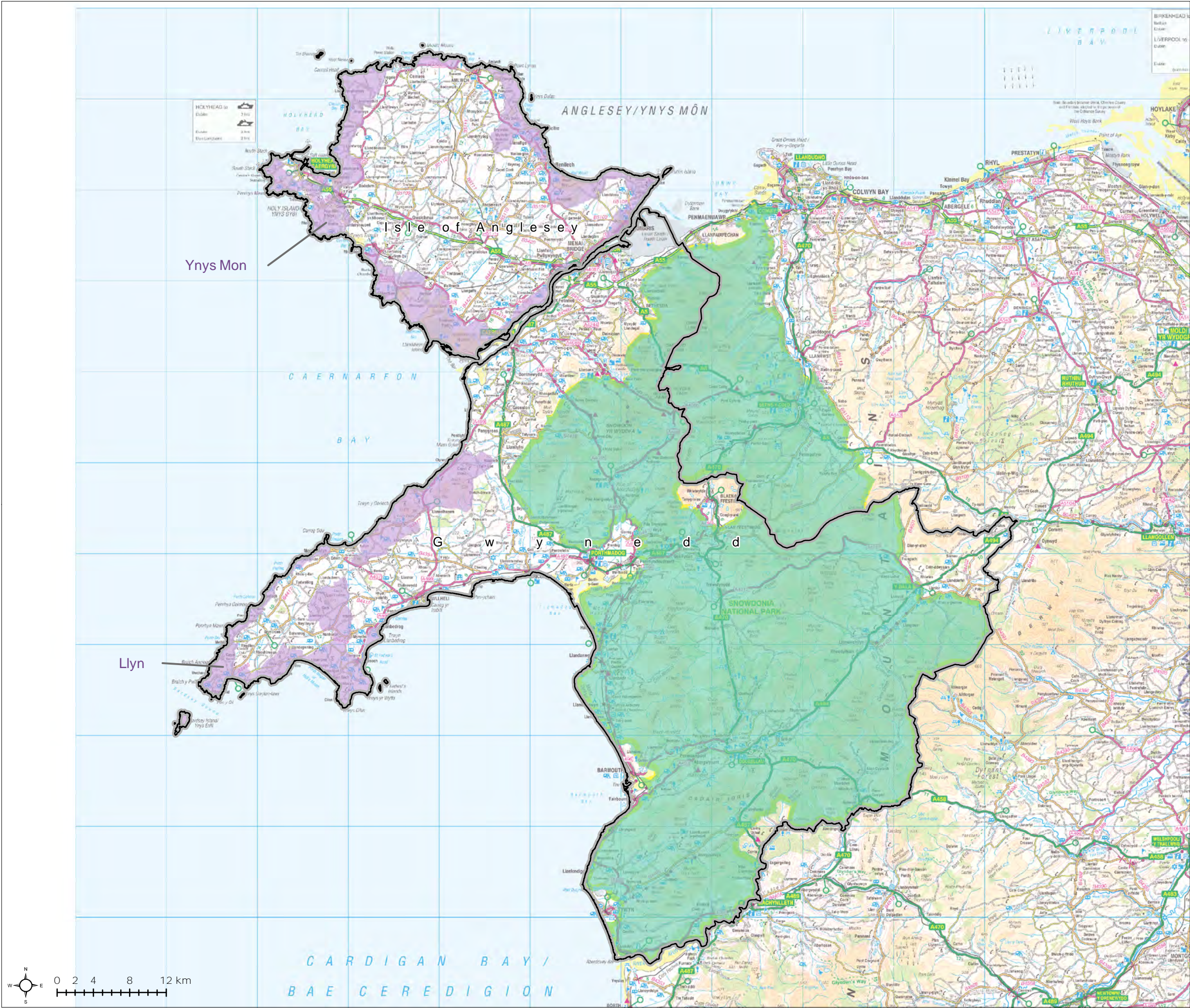
"...will enable the effect of a proposed development on the landscape to be assessed against the particular attributes of the local landscape... This could usefully inform decisions on proposed developments, not only in terms of the sensitive siting of new development, but also in its design and landscaping. In this respect the Policy will heighten the awareness among prospective developers of the importance of landscape impact..."
- 1.4 On the Isle of Anglesey, the County Council stopped work on its own Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in 2005. However, it is given weight as a material consideration in decision making for development control purposes as it had reached an advanced stage (it was stopped at the proposed modifications stage). The UDP had elected not to identify Special Landscape Areas on the island. **At the end of 2010 work on Anglesey's own Local Development Plan was halted at Pre-Deposit stage, but they are now working with Gwynedd to prepare a Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP), via the establishment of the JPPU.**
- 1.5 Until the JLDP is adopted, planning on Anglesey remains guided by the 1996 Ynys Môn Local Plan, which designated the whole of the island (outside the AONB and settlement boundaries) as a Special Landscape Area under Policy 31:

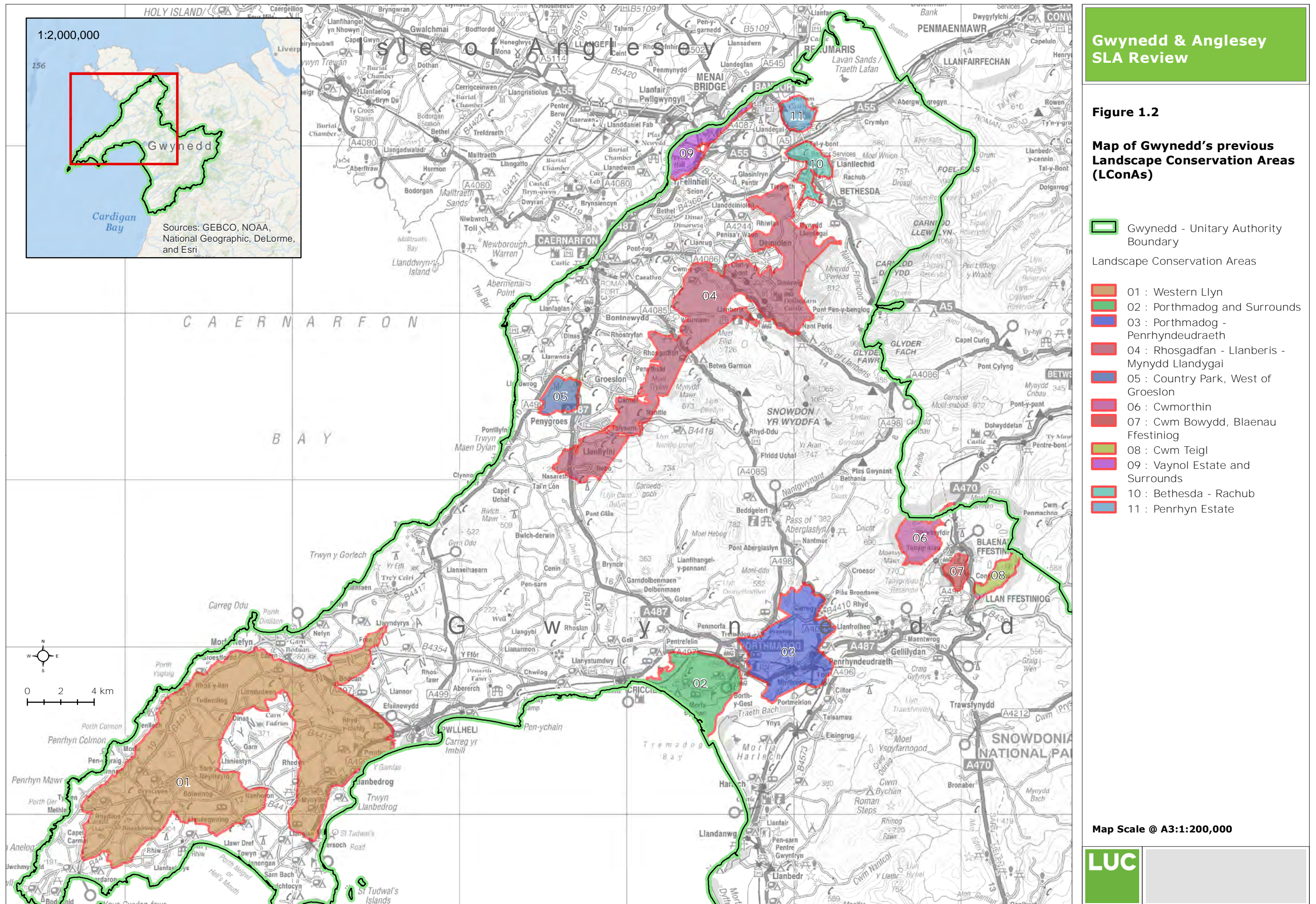
"Proposals for development in the Special Landscape Area will be expected to have particular regard to the special character of their surroundings. In considering the landscape impact of any proposal, the Council will need to be satisfied that the development can be fitted into its surroundings, without unacceptable harm to the general landscape character, before planning permission is granted".
- 1.6 **Whilst the Inspector's Report of the 1996 Ynys Môn Local Plan supported the above policy, it also stated that planners would need to refer to the island's Landscape Strategy when considering the impact of proposals on landscape character at a more local scale (the Strategy was subsequently adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 1999 and updated in 2011).**
- 1.7 This study will undertake a thorough review of the evidence available to inform the continued designation of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Gwynedd & Anglesey
SLA Review

Figure 1.1
Study Area in the context of
nationally protected landscapes

- Unitary Authority Boundaries
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Snowdonia National Park





2 Method for defining Special Landscape Areas

- 2.1 The approach taken for the SLA review in Gwynedd and Anglesey sought to follow the LANDMAP guidance¹ set out by CCW, whilst ensuring the method is robust and makes the best use of available local evidence and the knowledge of the councils' planners, landscape architect and LUC's landscape professionals. A four-step approach was followed:
- **Stage 1: Defining Strategic Criteria** – establishing whether there is a valid, defensible and clearly justified need for SLA designations in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The study defined a set of six criteria against which each potential SLA was judged, ensuring that in every case a consistent process was followed in considering the need for local designation.
 - **Stage 2: Establishing Broad Search Areas** – including querying and combining the evaluation scores from across the five LANDMAP Evaluated Aspects. The existing location of Landscape Conservation Areas (LConAs) in Gwynedd provided a key starting point for this stage, but the current LANDMAP data (and other mapped evidence) was also used to help refine and, where necessary, propose new SLAs.
 - **Stage 3: Establishing Specific Special Landscape Areas** – individual SLAs were further refined by more detailed desk-based work and field survey. For each SLA identified, a clear statement of need was drafted and any links/amendments to the current designations (Gwynedd's LConAs) documented. The JPPU consulted with council officers, the AONB teams and the Countryside Council for Wales on the proposed SLAs before proceeding to the next stage.
 - **Stage 4: Preparing Statements of Value and Significance** – once the proposed SLAs were agreed, these were then mapped in GIS and accompanying Statements of Value & Significance provided for each (see Appendix 1).

Stage 1: Strategic criteria

- 2.2 For both authorities now progressing with their Joint Local Development Plan, a review of an up-to-date landscape character baseline was needed to justify the continued inclusion of the Special Landscape Areas designation in local planning policy. The recently updated LANDMAP data for the two authorities has therefore played a key role in this review, as well as information from the two local landscape character assessments (Gwynedd, 2005 – updated as part of this contract – and Anglesey, 1999 – which was updated in 2011). The independent opinion of LUC's landscape professionals, including a thorough field verification exercise, has formed an essential element of this study to ensure its robustness.
- 2.3 In terms of the strategic role of SLAs; both Councils support the concept of the local designation – particularly for the extra level of protection they provide for areas of landscape outside the two AONBs (LIŷn and Anglesey) and Snowdonia National Park. They also value their role in enhancing the setting of the protected landscapes and the Menai Straits (a distinctive landscape feature in its own right), as well as their function in helping to protect sensitive landscapes from development. The study developed more detailed 'Practical' and 'Landscape' criteria to further assure the robustness of the area's Special Landscape Areas, which is set out under Stage 3.

¹ CCW (June 2008) LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas: LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 1

Stage 2: Establishing broad search areas for SLAs in Gwynedd & Anglesey

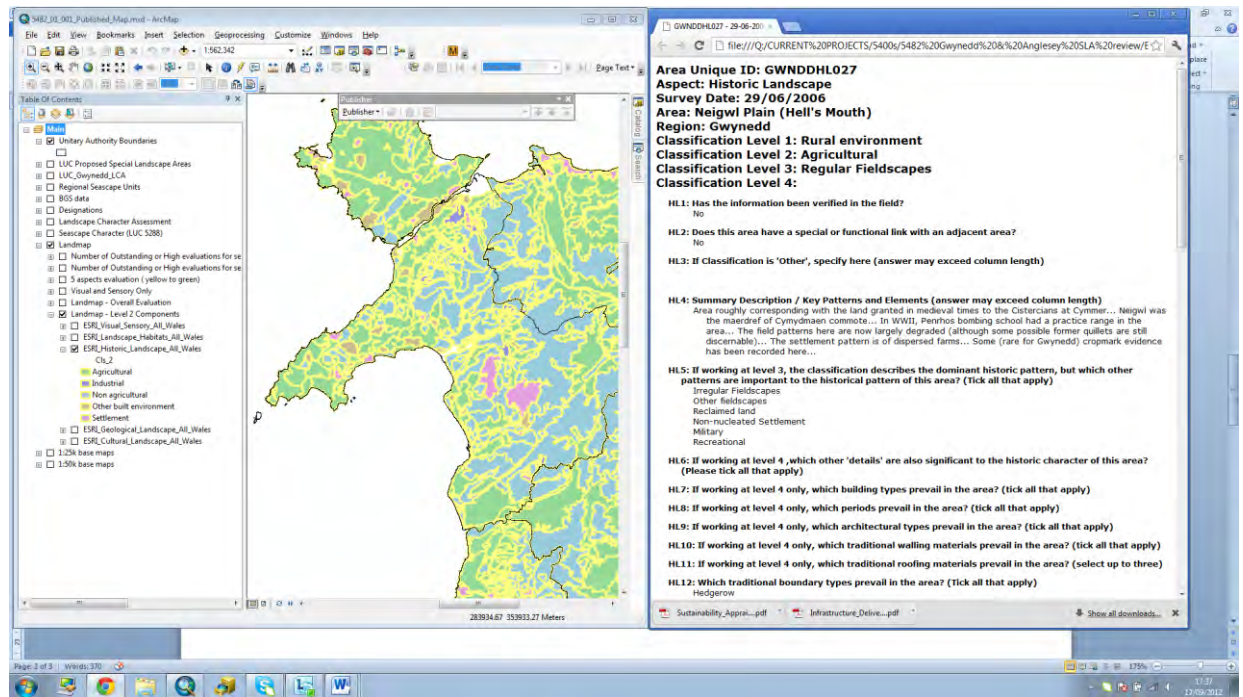
Background to this stage and the LANDMAP data

- 2.4 The purpose of Stage 2 in the methodology was to identify broad search areas for SLAs that can then be refined at Stage 3 (Establishing Specific Special Landscape Areas). This stage focused solely on the GIS information provided by LANDMAP –**looking within and across its five 'aspects'** to discover spatial patterns which might highlight areas worth investigating for designation.
- 2.5 There are five LANDMAP aspects, as follows:
- Geological Landscape
 - Landscape Habitats
 - Visual and Sensory
 - Historic Landscape
 - Cultural Landscape
- 2.6 Each of these aspects has their own spatial layer in GIS, which divides the land up into discrete **geographical units**. **These discrete units or polygons are referred to as 'aspect areas'**. Each aspect **area has a survey record ('Collector File')** which documents how it is classified, what its characteristics and qualities are, and how it has been evaluated.
- 2.7 Within each LANDMAP aspect there are up to four levels of hierarchical classification. For the Visual and Sensory aspect for example, the levels are:
- Level 1 – Broad landform and land cover (e.g. upland / lowland / development...)**
- Level 2 – Landform (e.g. exposed upland or plateau / lowland valleys / built land...)**
- Level 3 – Land cover (e.g. upland moorland / mosaic lowland valleys / village...)**
- Level 4 – Detail – location / scale / exposure / settlement (e.g. upland moorland (heather) / wooded mosaic low valleys / linear...)**
- 2.8 **All aspect areas also have a single 'overall evaluation' score, which is based on** the separate evaluations made for specific criteria within that aspect.
- 2.9 The CCW guidance note presents a series of maps showing the overall evaluation for each aspect for a case study area, and then a further map showing the combined evaluation score for all 5 aspects. However, it provides no information on how the combined evaluation score is calculated using GIS. We therefore developed our own technical approach for undertaking the process in Gwynedd and Anglesey. CCW were consulted with at this stage in the study, and were happy with the approach that was developed to interrogate the LANDMAP data. This is set out below.

Method developed for this study

- 2.10 Data for each of the aspects was obtained as shapefiles provided by CCW, and put into an ESRI map document (mxd) in ArcGIS. The analysis and map production described in the following section was carried out in ArcGIS. The data was also exported into an ESRI ArcReader published map file (pmf) to allow data to be viewed by non-ArcGIS users in an interactive way. It was thematically mapped for each aspect using the Level 2 classifications, allowing each aspect to be investigated in turn. The use of ArcReader also enabled the Collector Files to be interpreted for individual aspect areas, as shown in **Figure 2.1** below.

Figure 2.1: Screen shot of ArcReader project with hyperlinked collector file



- 2.11 Within each LANDMAP aspect, there are a series of questions that are evaluated in turn (which combine to produce the 'Overall Evaluation'. All LANDMAP evaluations are based on a four-point 'score', as defined in Table 2.1 below:

Table 2.2.1: LANDMAP evaluation scores

Evaluation 'score'	Importance to evaluated aspect
Outstanding	International or national importance
High	Regional or county importance
Moderate	Local importance
Low	Little or no importance

- 2.12 The questions that are evaluated within each aspect are set in Table 2.2 below. The initial analysis for Gwynedd and Anglesey (described below as 'Part A') was conducted using all questions in the table. A secondary analysis (described below as 'Part B') was also conducted, with a selected set of questions chosen for their particular relevance to SLA designation. These are highlighted in light green in **Table 2.2** below.

Table 2.2.2: LANDMAP evaluated questions

Question code	Name of question	Description
Historic Landscapes (5 questions + overall evaluation)		
HL35	Integrity	Used to evaluate the 'completeness' of the Aspect Area
HL36	Survival	Used to evaluate the levels of survival of the various components of the aspect area

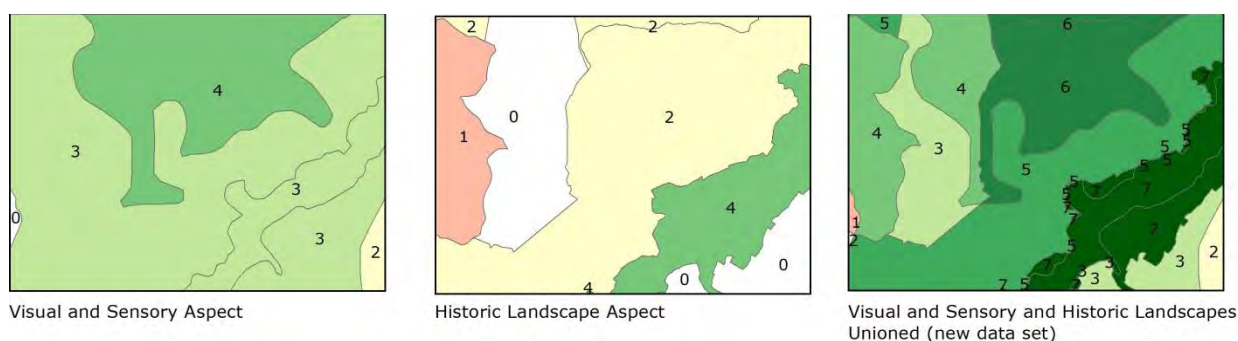
Question code	Name of question	Description
HL37	Condition	overall condition
HL38	Rarity	rarity of the aspect area within the study area
HL39	Potential	likely potential of the Aspect Area for future study or educational or tourist use
HL40	Overall evaluation	Overall evaluation for Historic Landscapes
Landscape Habitats (9 questions + overall evaluation)		
LH37	Priority habitats	In particular, those most characteristic of the area, rarity in national context. Priority Habitats are explained in terms of those habitats most characteristic of the area, although where there are significant areas of high quality habitats for example SSSI's these should be described
LH38	Significance	This addresses the issue of whether the Aspect Area contains a high % of national resource E.g. Is a habitat confined to the area or does the area have a high proportion of the national resource?
LH39	Opportunity	Opportunity is scored according to how easy it would be to enhance any existing moderate, high or outstanding habitats
LH40	Expansion Rates	Increases in the semi-natural and valuable habitats and species assessed over the last 25 years
LH41	Sensitivity	How sensitive the area is to changes in land management and other practices that could adversely affect the biodiversity.
LH42	Connectivity / cohesion	Describe how well the Aspect Area functions in terms of interconnection networks and corridors for native habitats, which will allow for species movements and protect and enhance biodiversity
LH43	Habitat evaluation	Importance of habitat for key species: is the area known to be of special significance for one or more important species?
LH44	Importance for key species	This should be an overall assessment of how important the area is for both Habitats and species.
LH45	Overall evaluation	Overall evaluation for Landscape Habitats
Visual and Sensory (4 questions + overall evaluation)		
VS46	Scenic quality	The extent to which the area has scenes which are of a picturesque quality, demonstrating aesthetically pleasing elements in composition.
VS47	Integrity	The extent to which the area is in good condition, with consistent character throughout, and is generally unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious

Question code	Name of question	Description
		development.
VS48	Character	The extent to which a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements, features and qualities occurs within the aspect area, to give a clear sense of place.
VS49	Rarity	The extent to which the area's visual & sensory character and/or features or qualities are rare/representative locally, regionally or nationally/internationally.
VS50	Overall evaluation	Overall evaluation for Visual and Sensory
Cultural Landscape (9 questions + overall evaluation)		
CL31	Recognition / transparency	The level to which the cultural elements of a landscape are recognised by society
CL32	Period	Associations/influences pertaining to a particular category or cultural activity or expression (hereinafter 'practices') , representing a particular period, movement or group of events or people, either historical or contemporary.
CL33	Rarity	Rare types of association/influence, or relating to rare, or uncommon unnatural practices; however, selections must be made which portray the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular type of association/influence.
CL34	Documentation	The significance and importance of an association/influence may be enhanced by the existence of records, previous descriptions or accounts, or in the case of more recent associations/influences, by supporting evidence of contemporary written, visual or oral material.
CL35	Group value	The value of a single association/influence (such as a place-name) may be greatly enhanced by its connection with related contemporary associations (such as a folktale or a tradition) or with associations/influences of different periods. In some cases it is preferable to recognise the complete group of associations, including associated and adjacent areas or features, rather than to identify isolated associations within the group.
CL36	Survival	The survival or longevity of a cultural practice or association is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to the present form, condition and use of the area or feature with which the practice is associated
CL37	Vulnerability	Important cultural evidence manifest in an association or practice can be lost or forgotten by indifference, neglect or lack of recording of the area or feature to which it relates: vulnerable associations/influences of this type should be identified and recorded for posterity.
CL38	Diversity	Some associations may be identified because they represent a

Question code	Name of question	Description
		practices, others because they represent a single important practice.
CL39	Potential	On occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely, but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for identification. This is confined to indicative areas rather than precisely defined sites or upstanding features.
CL40	Overall evaluation	Overall evaluation for Cultural Landscapes
Geological Landscape (5 questions + overall evaluation)		
GL29a	Research Value	No information provided by LANDMAP
GL29b	Educational Value	No information provided by LANDMAP
GL30	Historical Value	No information provided by LANDMAP
GL31	Rarity/uniqueness	No information provided by LANDMAP
GL32	Classic example	No information provided by LANDMAP
GL33	Overall evaluation	Overall evaluation for Geological Landscapes

- 2.13 To assess all aspects together, the GIS data for each aspect in the Study Area was combined together; a process known as 'unioning'. This process is a geometric intersection of the features from the original, source shapefiles. The process is illustrated in **Figure 2.2**, below.

Figure 2.2: Example of how the LANDMAP data was combined in GIS ('unioned')



- 2.14 Figure 2.2 above shows an example of the union process for two LANDMAP aspects (Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscapes). The union process retains both the boundary lines and the **attribute data**. The numbers in the figures show the number of 'Outstanding' evaluations the area received, and the combined data set (far right) shows how these have been added together.
- 2.15 This process was undertaken for all five aspects, so that the resultant dataset presented the combined evaluation data across the whole of the study area.

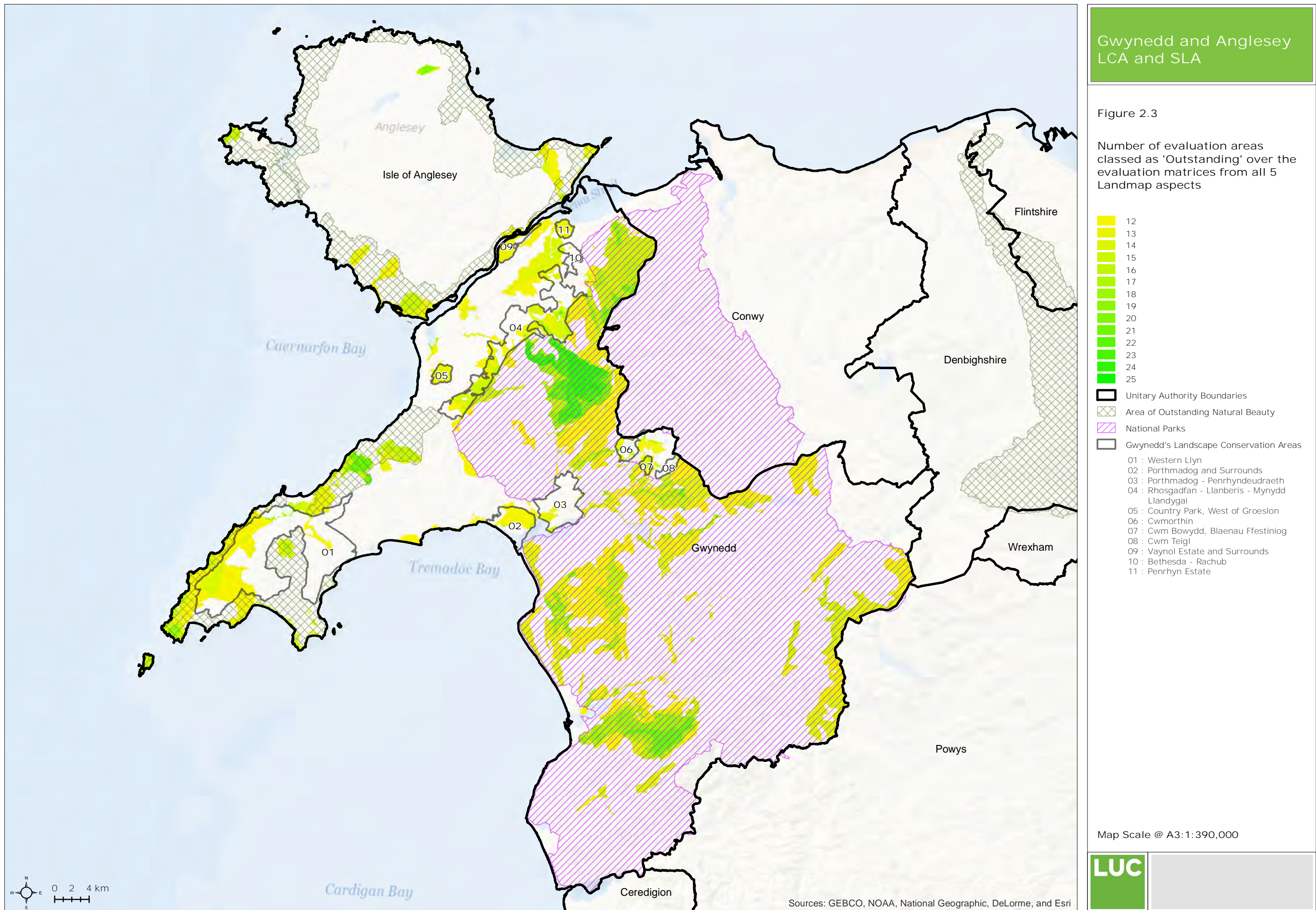
Part A: Combined analysis of all LANDMAP evaluations

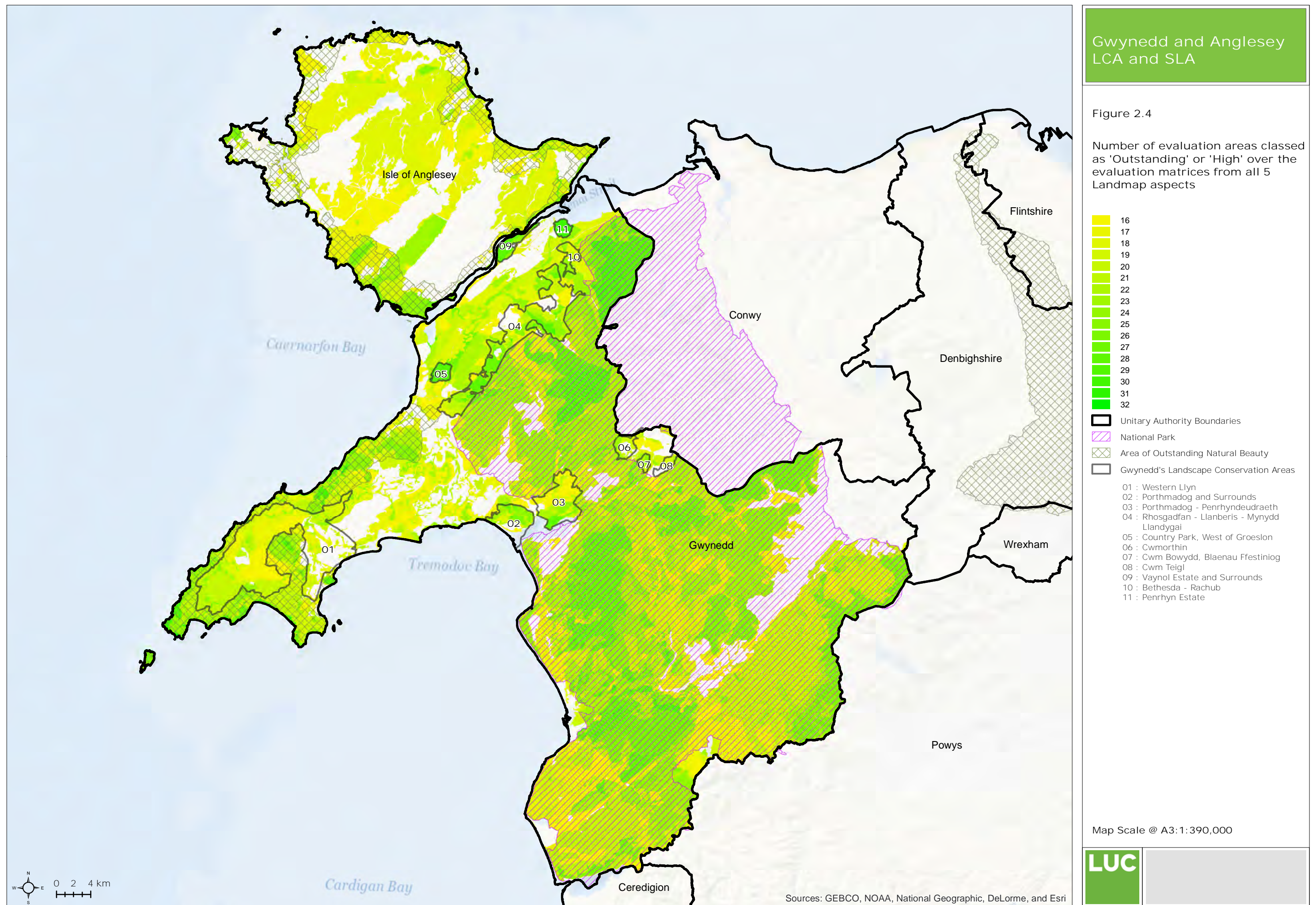
- 2.16 The initial analysis (Part A) considered all evaluated questions for the five aspects, as listed in **Table 2.2** above. Three maps were produced showing:

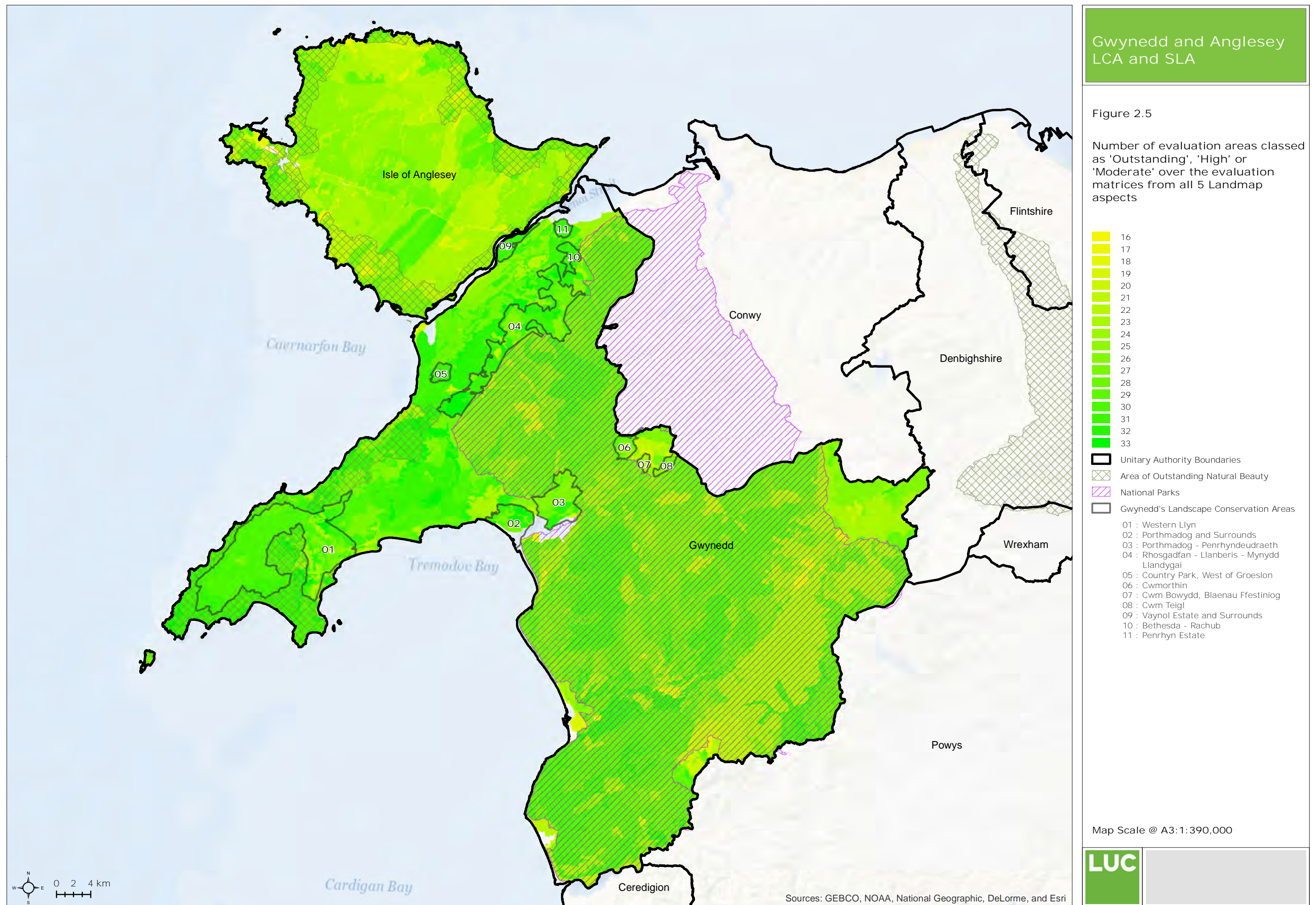
- **Figure 2.3:** The number of 'Outstanding' evaluations
 - **Figure 2.4:** The number of 'High' and 'Outstanding' evaluations (combined)
 - **Figure 2.5:** The number of 'Moderate', 'High' and 'Outstanding' evaluations (combined)
- 2.17 Within the figures above, the darkest/brightest green areas have the highest number of evaluations (scoring 'Outstanding', 'High' etc – the combinations set out above) and the lightest green/yellow areas represent those with the least number of evaluations against the required score. All of these maps were presented with the boundaries of the AONBs, National Park and Gwynedd's existing Landscape Conservation Areas showing to look at correlations between existing designations and the LANDMAP data.
- 2.18 A clear pattern emerged which showed the very limited extent of 'Outstanding' evaluations, as illustrated in **Figure 2.3** (even within the National Park and AONBs), with coverage increasing when 'High' evaluations were considered in addition (**Figure 2.4**). However, this still left gaps in coverage, particularly on Anglesey (including the AONB-designated coastline). Once 'Moderate' evaluations were added into the mapping (**Figure 2.5**), almost all of the Study Area received high coverage, with the majority of the map shaded green. This made it particularly difficult to differentiate Broad Search Areas for exploring SLA (seemingly all of the Study Area).
- 2.19 Following the production of these maps, a further two maps were produced which solely focused on the Visual and Sensory aspect, due to its specific relevance to landscape quality. This was undertaken as an aid to uncovering patterns which could inform the selection of Broad Search Areas. **Figures 2.6** and **2.7** show the following:
- **Figure 2.6:** The number of 'High' and 'Outstanding' evaluations (combined)
 - **Figure 2.7:** The number of 'Moderate', 'High' and 'Outstanding' evaluations (combined).
- 2.20 **Figure 2.6**, as might be expected, generally highlighted the greatest number of 'High' and 'Outstanding' aspect areas as being within the nationally designated landscapes (although even within these areas, some parts did not receive any 'High' or 'Outstanding' scores, which was surprising). Some locations outside of the National Park and AONBs were also highlighted as scoring more highly (e.g. the edges of the Menai Strait, fringes of Snowdonia and Parys Mountain), a few of which in Gwynedd corresponded with the LConAs. **Figure 2.7** resulted in a nearly completely green map, indicating that the vast majority of the Study Area scored moderate or above in the Visual & Sensory aspect. Still with an absence of very clear patterns to create Broad Search Areas, a more selective process of reviewing the LANDMAP evaluations was undertaken (Part B below).

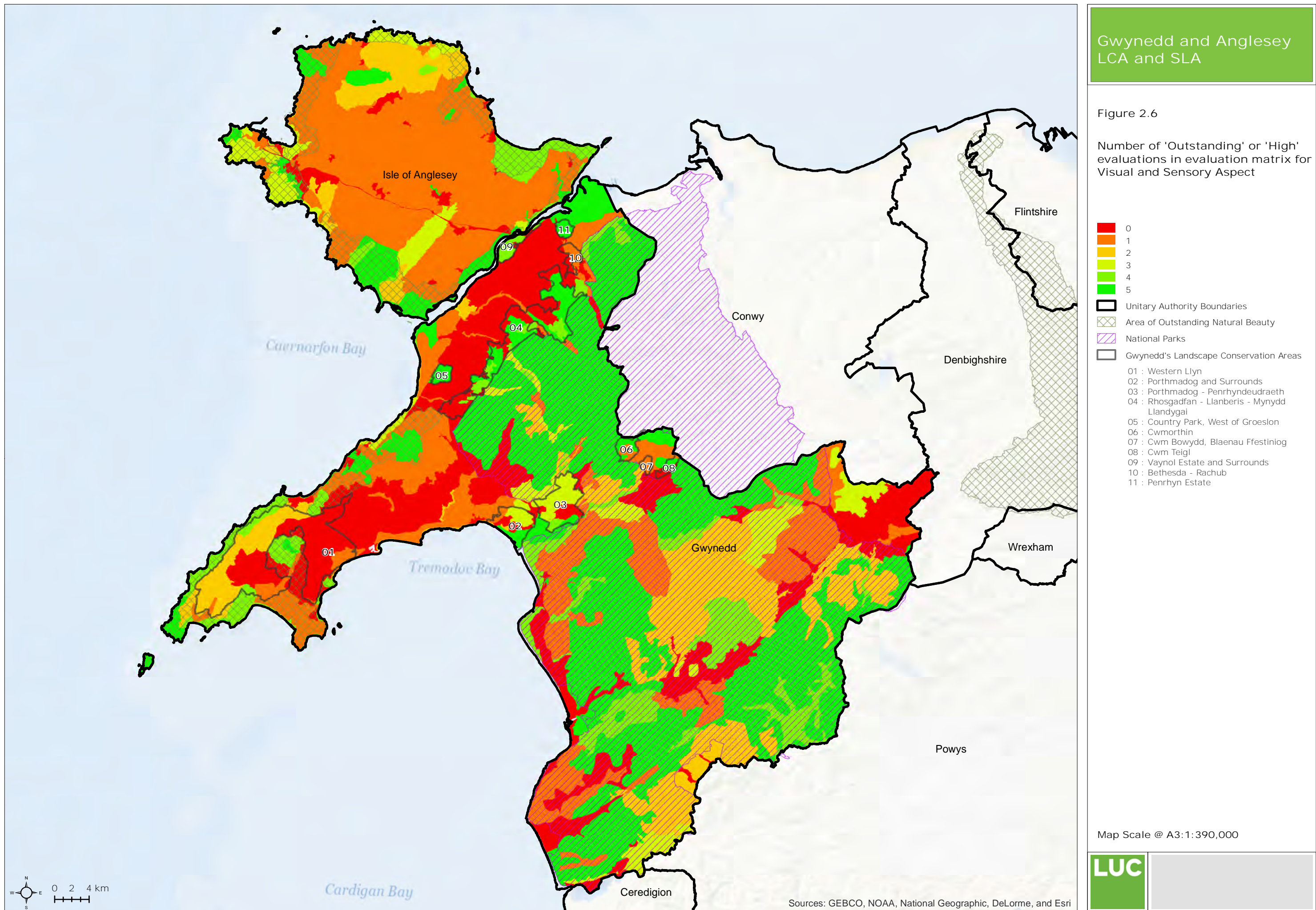
Part B: Combined analysis of selected LANDMAP evaluations

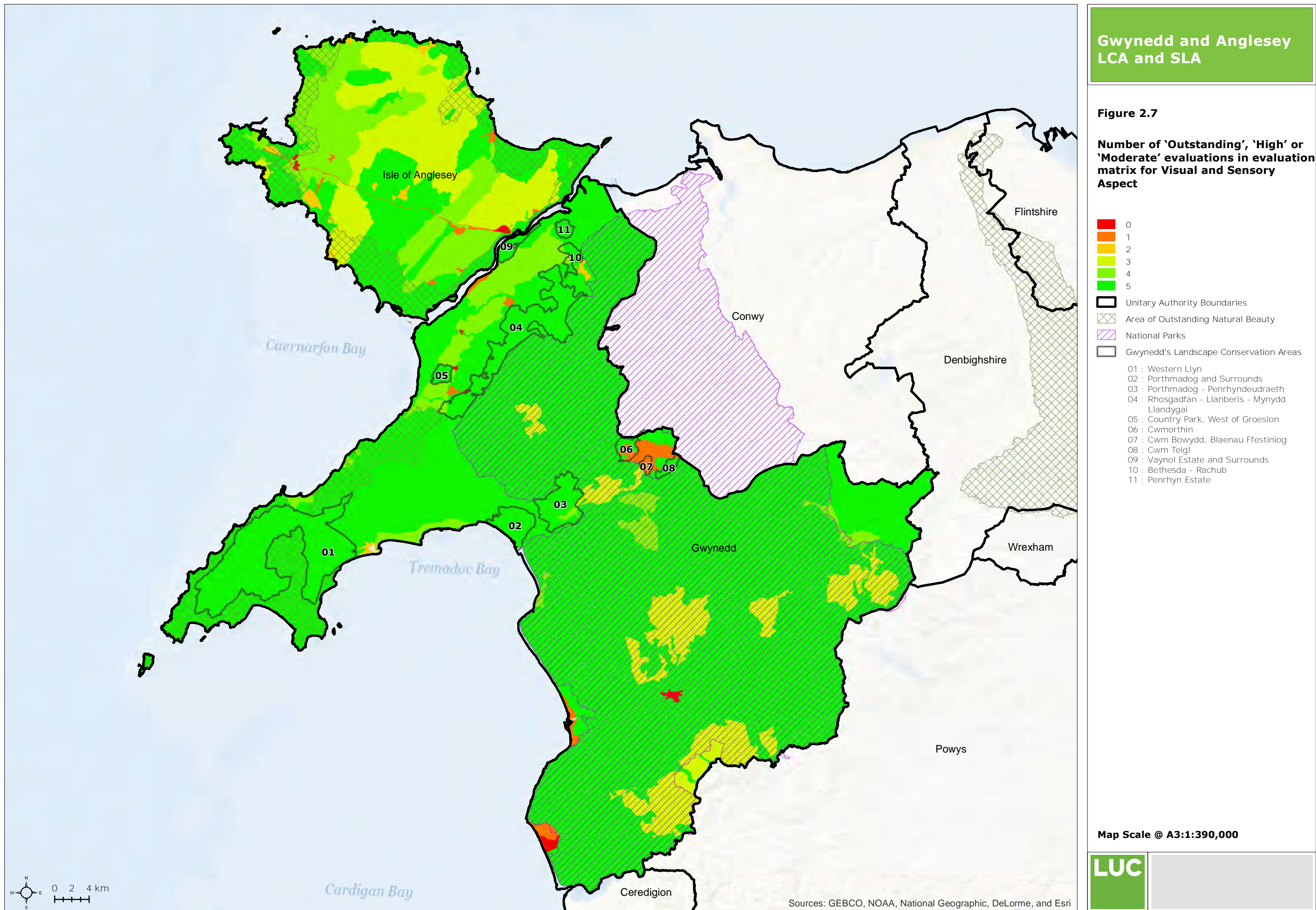
- 2.21 The initial combined analysis undertaken in Part A yielded few patterns to establish Broad Search Areas for SLA designation. For this reason a selection of the most relevant evaluated questions across the five aspects was undertaken for more targeted analysis (as highlighted in green in previous **Table 2.2**). This more selective process of using LANDMAP to identify Broad Search Areas was agreed with CCW due to the absence of clear patterns resulting from the initial Part A analysis. CCW also recommended trying the maps both with and without the Cultural Landscapes aspect (because this aspect was likely to be scored highly across much of the Study Area, and might therefore 'skew' the results).
- 2.22 Two further maps were produced showing:
- **Figure 2.8:** the number of 'Outstanding' or 'High' classifications based on the selected questions
 - **Figure 2.9:** the number of 'Outstanding' or 'High' classifications based on the selected questions, excluding the Cultural Landscape aspect.
- 2.23 Within both of these maps, the areas of darkest green had the most number of 'Outstanding' or 'High' evaluations throughout all of the aspect areas (for the selected questions). The brown and darkest yellow areas had zero or one 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluations respectively.
- 2.24 Because these maps were produced using carefully selected evaluations across all five aspects, it was considered that these would provide the most thorough and balanced baseline evidence for

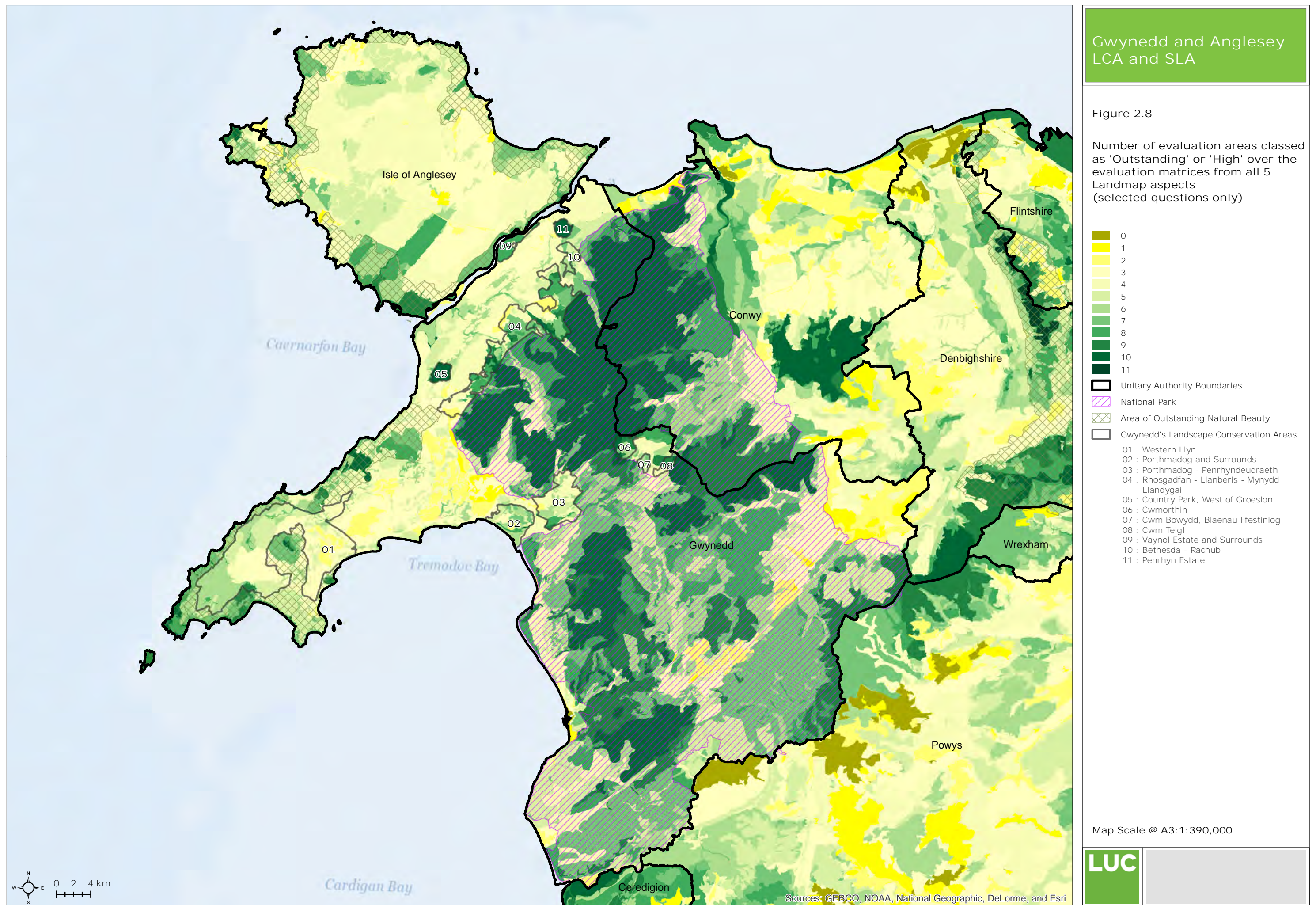


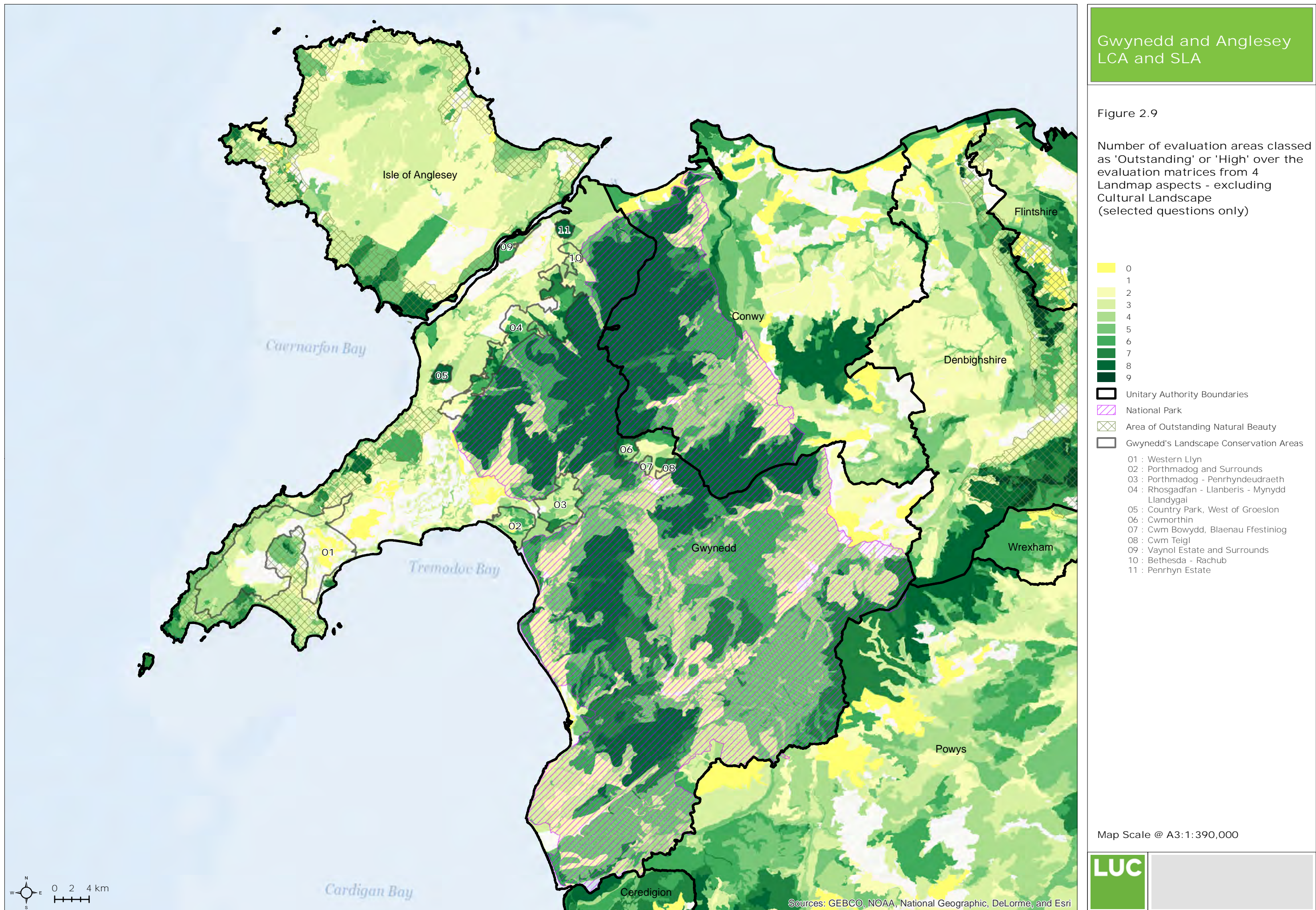












highlighting potential areas for SLA designation. Whilst some discernible patterns are shown in these maps (e.g. higher scores in some parts of the land bordering the Menai Strait, the fringes of Snowdonia, Parys Mountain, Mynydd Mechell and Malltraeth Marsh); it was clear that LANDMAP would not provide all of the answers. The project therefore ensured that any SLA designation was based on a clear set of criteria (see Stage 3 below), reviewed against the LANDMAP results in conjunction with a thorough field survey process and further evidence gathering/consultation.

Stage 3: Establishing specific SLAs

Defining criteria for designating SLAs within Gwynedd and Anglesey

- 2.25 As stated by CCW (2008), areas of high landscape importance may be designated as SLAs for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape. Potential SLAs for the study area were identified using a clear set of criteria following national best practice², upon which evidence will be presented[through the Statements of Value and Significance] to ensure robustness.
- 2.26 This study developed and agreed three types of criteria to select areas for potential SLA designation. These criteria are considered in combination for each SLA: all areas will need to meet both of the **two 'Practical Criteria' and at least one of the three 'Landscape Criteria'**. A separate criterion is provided for those SLAs that will play a further important role in protecting/enhancing the setting of nationally protected landscapes (Snowdonia National Park and the Llŷn and Anglesey AONBs). **The criteria were carefully designed to ensure that areas designated as SLAs are done so based on clear need: the SLAs need to be 'special' and distinctive** landscapes in their own right, whilst also meeting the overall strategic criteria of providing additional protection (above and beyond standard policy) to sensitive landscapes within the authority areas.
- 2.27 These criteria are set out in **Table 2.3** on the following page.

Field survey work

- 2.28 Once the criteria were agreed with the Councils, a thorough fieldwork exercise was undertaken by LUC's landscape planners to identify areas of landscape to be considered for SLA designation. **The fieldwork was guided by the results from Stage 2 in the process (which established 'Broad Search Areas')**. For Gwynedd, the field survey work also carefully reviewed the eleven existing LConAs – assessing whether they should be retained in their entirety; their boundaries amended or whether the current designation failed stand up to scrutiny under the new SLA criteria.
- 2.29 The fieldwork process used the criteria set out in Table 2.3 to form a professional judgement on whether areas of the local landscape could be justified for designation as SLA. Notes were made in the field and representative photographs taken. Boundaries for proposed SLAs were noted using a 1:25K Ordnance Survey basemap, seeking to follow logical landscape features (roads, contours, rivers etc) and, where possible, seeking logical fit with the landscape baseline (LANDMAP or the local LCA).

Consultation and verification

- 2.30 The findings from the field survey work were presented and discussed with the Steering Group at a meeting at the JPPU offices in Bangor. Following this meeting a written summary justification of areas deemed suitable for SLA designation was circulated, along with the maps of proposed SLAs. The Steering Group discussed these findings further with relevant officers within the two Councils, as well as the AONB teams. The JPPU also held a meeting with the Countryside Council for **Wales's landscape architect to receive further professional opinion on the proposed designations.**
- 2.31 Additional suggestions put forward at this stage were explored using available evidence.

² This includes recommendations from Scottish Natural Heritage guidance (March 2004: *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*)

Table 2.3: Designation criteria for Special Landscape Areas

Criteria and rationale	Factors to consider*	Source of evidence
Practical criteria (which all potential SLAs will need to meet)		
Need To what extent will designation provide for the more effective management and planning of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	Presence/absence of other designations Strong recommendation from LPA and local support on need for additional level of designation/protection for particular areas Areas where the LPA has identified particular pressures and need for positive planning and management to conserve special character	Information on need agreed through steering group meetings with client and informed by support by local community and other stakeholders
Integrity / cohesiveness of landscape character Is the area to be designated both coherent enough (in terms of character) and of sufficient size to make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and planning?	Size – and SLA must be more than an individual landscape feature or site and form a coherent 'area' . Recognisable as a cohesive area – may have distinct boundaries	LANDMAP V&S, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscapes and Cultural Landscapes evaluations LCA information Field survey
Landscape criteria (all potential SLAs will need to meet at least one)		
Local distinctiveness and sense of place Is the landscape particularly rare/unique or special in the local context? Does the landscape provide an important contribution to the local distinctiveness/sense of place?	Coherent landscape character conferring a recognisable sense of place Distinct landform or topography forming a discrete and recognisable area Strong character linked to cultural or natural factors – which contribute to understanding of its historic character and wider cultural record or a create a strong degree of naturalness A landscape with particular associations for example with representation in art, music, literature, language or folklore	LANDMAP V&S, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscapes and Cultural Landscapes evaluations, LCA information Historic landscape designations Nature/wildlife designations Field survey
Landscape quality Does the proposed SLA contribute to important landscape and visual qualities associated with the local landscape?	An intact landscape with characteristic landscape elements well represented throughout A landscape with characteristic elements in good condition Incongruous elements or	LANDMAP evaluations (selected questions) LCA information Field survey

	features not present or not visually intrusive	
Scenic quality Does the landscape have particular scenic and aesthetic qualities and appeal to the senses?	Strong visual character with memorable, important or distinctive views . Special perceptual qualities such as strong sense of tranquillity, ruralness or remoteness	LCA information LANDMAP (views) Field survey Intrusion mapping
Setting of protected landscapes criterion (only to be used in conjunction with the above)		
Setting of nationally important landscapes Does the proposed SLA provide a valued setting to nearby protected landscapes (AONBs and National Park), including views both from and to the protected landscape?	Area forms extension to National Park/?AONB in terms of character Area of similar high scenic quality as designated landscape Views/intervisibility both from and to the protected landscape	OS maps LCA information Field survey

- 2.32 *Note: Not all factors will need to be met for designation as a Special Landscape Area. Many of the factors will work together in combination.

Finalising the proposed SLAs and preparing Statements of Value & Significance

- 2.33 Once the final selection of proposed SLAs was agreed, the boundaries were finalised in GIS and draft Statements of Value & Significance prepared. The draft statements were circulated to the Steering Group for further comment from both themselves and other council officers. A final meeting was held at the JPPU headquarters to discuss the final drafts of the statements, which are included in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.34 The next Chapter sets out the final findings from the SLA review.

3 Recommended SLAs for Gwynedd and Anglesey

Proposed SLAs for Gwynedd and Anglesey

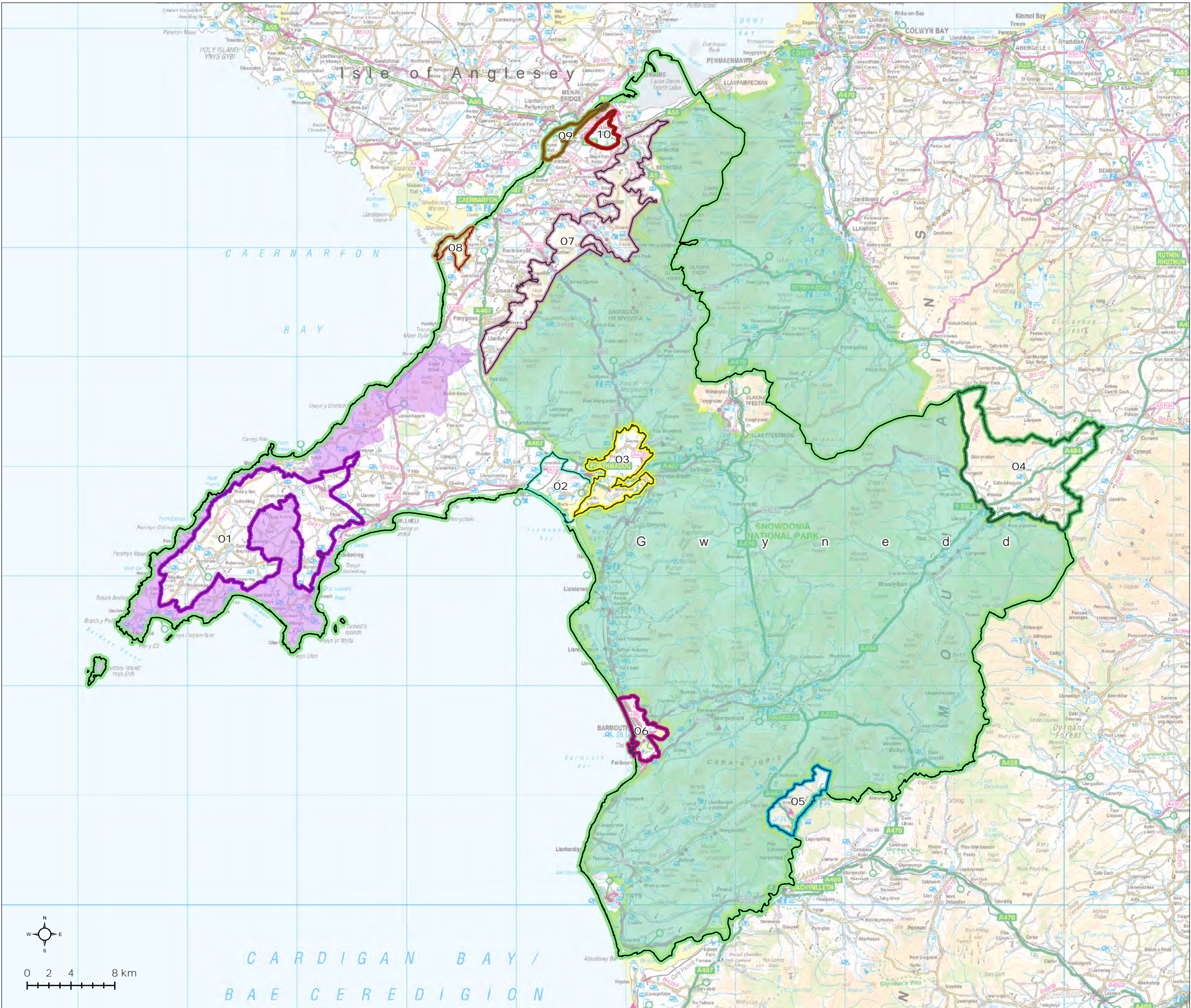
- 3.1 **Table 3.1** provides a breakdown of the recommended Special Landscape Areas for Gwynedd and Anglesey: 10 for Gwynedd and six for Anglesey. **Figures 3.1 and 3.2** illustrate the SLAs in the context of the study area (and the nationally protected landscapes). **Full descriptions** ('Statements of Value & Significance') of each SLA, setting out how they meet each of the designation criteria, are provided in Appendix 1.

Table 3.1: List of proposed Special Landscape Areas

Proposed SLA Number/Name	Summary justification for designation
GWYNEDD	
01: Western Llŷn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intimate, rural landscape with tranquil character Areas of intricate field patterns with pockets of woodland and heathland Western half scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects scoring >High Important setting and significant views to/from the Llŷn AONB Under pressure from tourism-related developments particularly in the south around Pwllheli and Abersoch
02: Porthmadog & Tremadog Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive, scenic and varied landscape forming transition from National Park to the coast Strong rural character Significant proportion of the area scores highly across the combined aspects scoring >High (as well as the overall evaluation for Visual & Sensory) Setting to the National Park Could be future pressures from tourism-led development around Morfa Bychan and infrastructure developments around Porthmadog
03: Glaslyn & Dwyryd Estuary Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive area of flat, reclaimed farmland and estuarine habitats (including open water): culturally and visually distinctive Scores moderately across the combined LANDMAP aspects (those scoring >High), particularly around Portmeirion and the water's edges Outside developed areas, scores 'High' in LANDMAP V&S aspect, and 'Outstanding' around Portmeirion Magnificent views towards the Cnicht and Moelwyn Mountains Important setting to the National Park Flat area likely to be under pressure for further development (including recreation/tourism) on edges of settlements
04: Penllyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intimate, tranquil and intact landscape forming a scenic rural setting to National Park (but smaller in scale) Rolling pastoral farmland and rough grazing with frequent woodlands and mature trees giving semi-natural character FoelGoch uplands have overall 'High' evaluation in Visual & Sensory aspect Already wind turbines within and on very edge of the area: likely to be under more pressure
05: Corris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms gateway to National Park and Gwynedd County from Powys Large parts unsettled, tranquil and remote. Strong wooded character (including ASNW) and peaceful valley landscape.

Proposed SLA Number/Name	Summary justification for designation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern half scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects scoring >High; slate quarrying areas score 'Outstanding' in Historic Landscapes aspect Important landscape forming setting to National Park and without equivalent designation at present
06: Barmouth Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique setting and strong, coherent character: coastal estuary, beach grading up to higher ground – mountains forming scenic and prominent backdrop. AfonMawddach scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects scoring >High and 'High' in the Visual & Sensory overall evaluation Coastal gateway to National Park with strong visual and functional links to the protected landscape
07: North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pockets of upland moorland surrounded by historic fieldscapes of 19th century intakes – extending the character of the National Park grading to lower landscapes Large areas scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects scoring >High Important setting and 'buffer' to Snowdonia Likely to be under pressure for renewables and other infrastructure (e.g. masts/pylons). In north-east, pressure along the busy A55 road corridor near to Bangor
08: Foryd Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive intertidal area forming the western gateway to the Menai Straits Strong intervisibility with the Anglesey AONB and setting to this protected landscape (particularly Newborough Warren on the opposite side of the Straits) Vast majority of area scores 'High' in Visual & Sensory aspect and also scores highly across the combined aspects scoring (>High) Pocket of tranquillity/nature in close proximity to Caernarfon.
09: Menai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive wooded landscape forming a strong landscape feature along the southern edge of the Menai Straits (prominent in views from across the water) Strong intervisibility with the Anglesey AONB and setting to the protected landscape Majority of area (particularly in the west) scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects scoring >High Pocket of tranquillity/distinctive mature woodland in-between the built-up areas of Bangor and Caernarfon.
10: Bangor Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive elevated hillside with patches of rough ground (e.g. gorse) that provides an important setting to Bangor and containment to development Visual connectivity with wooded estate land along the Menai Straits (e.g. SLA 09 and Penrhyn Castle) Area sensitive to development pressure from the city and recreational pressures (much of Bangor Mountain is already a golf course though well integrated into the landscape). Panoramic views from the summit across the Menai Strait to Anglesey, and inland to Snowdonia National Park.
ANGLESEY	
11: Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive low-lying reclaimed marshland surrounded by rising land of a 'hummocky' character Strong semi-natural character; rural and lightly settled. Regular fields on reclaimed marshland surrounded by a more intimate landscape with rock outcrops and occasional bands of woodland. Marshland area scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects scoring >High ('Outstanding' for Historic Landscapes overall evaluation) Views to Snowdonia NP dominating southern skyline Adjacent to and forming setting of Anglesey AONB.

Proposed SLA Number/Name	Summary justification for designation
12: Parciau Estatelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive parkland/managed estate landscape • Very lightly settled and highly tranquil • Area of coherent landscape character • Overall score of 'Outstanding' in Historic Landscapes aspect ('Moderate' for Visual & Sensory) • Setting to Anglesey AONB and coastal road (A5025)
13: Parys Mountain and Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique and visually prominent feature in north Anglesey – a strong feature of the landscape and backdrop to the seascape • High cultural significance – strong sense of timelessness • Geology and land use giving rise to distinctive colourful landscape and unique ecology • Large parts of area (particularly Parys Mountain core) score highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects (>High) • Parys Mountain scores 'Outstanding' for the Visual & Sensory overall evaluation • Setting to the Anglesey AONB – mountain and slopes descend to the coast; strong intervisibility between the sea, coast and mountain
14: Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive 'wild' landscape with pockets of heathland, rough grazing, rock exposures and hummocky topography • Unity between stone walls and stone vernacular of buildings • Feeling of remoteness and tranquillity; very lightly settled • Whole area scores highly across the combined LANDMAP aspects (>High) • Scores 'high' in Visual & Sensory aspect across the area • Forms a setting to the AONB in the west • Area under pressure from surrounding wind farms at odds with its semi-natural, remote and small-scale character
15: Beaumaris Wooded Slopes and Llangoed Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive area of wooded slopes and rolling pastoral land with pockets of rough grazing and heathland (including Llanddona Commons Nature Reserve) • Area of relative tranquillity close to development at Beaumaris, Llangoed and Llanddona • Whole area 'Outstanding' in the Cultural Landscapes overall evaluation: strong time depth representing a range of periods • Beaumaris wooded slopes 'high' for both Visual & Sensory and Landscape Habitats: rare area of broadleaved woodland in Anglesey • Intervisibility with the Menai Straits and northern Snowdonia (from higher ground) • Forms backdrop to Anglesey AONB and surrounding settlements • Tourism-related development pressures: golf courses, caravans etc
16: Southern Anglesey Estatelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole area 'Outstanding' in the Historic Landscapes overall evaluation and 'High' in Cultural Landscapes • Strong estate character being part of the Marquis of Anglesey's estate – link to the landmark of The Marquess of Anglesey's Column on nearby coastline (within the AONB) • Forms immediate backdrop to Anglesey AONB and the Menai Straits • Pressure for wind energy development



Gwynedd & Anglesey SLA Review

Figure 3.1
Location of Proposed SLAs in
Gwynedd

Gwynedd Special Landscape Areas

- 01 : Western Llyn
- 02 : Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay
- 03 : Glaslyn & Dwyryd Estuary Landscapes
- 04 : Penllyn
- 05 : Corris
- 06 : Barmouth Bay
- 07 : North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia
- 08 : Foryd Bay
- 09 : Menai
- 10 : Bangor Mountain

- Gwynedd - Unitary Authority Boundary
- Llyn - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Snowdonia National Park

Map Scale @ A3: 1:340,000



Relationship between the proposed SLAs and the previous local landscape designations

Gwynedd

- 3.2 **Table 3.2** below provides a summary of the review of Gwynedd's previous 11 Landscape Conservation Areas (mapped in previous **Figure 1.2**). This sets out which LConAs have been transferred wholly or partly to new SLAs, as well as which have not been taken forward following the review of Gwynedd's landscape against the new SLA criteria.

Table 3.2: Relationship between Gwynedd's LConAs and the proposed SLAs

Previous Landscape Conservation Area (LConA)	Recommendations from the SLA Review
01: Western Llŷn	Incorporate into a new SLA of the same number/name, excluding small areas of developed land in the south on the fringes of Pwllheli and Abersoch.
02: Porthmadog and Surrounds	Incorporate into a new SLA (02: Porthmadog & Tremadog Bay), extending westwards to trace the boundary of the Landscape Character Area ³ (9), and northwards to the edge of Snowdonia National Park.
03: Porthmadog-Penrhyndeudraeth	Incorporate into a new SLA (03: Glaslyn & Dwyryd Estuary Landscapes), ensuring the boundaries are flush against the edges of the National Park and extend to cover non-NP designated areas of estuary. Exclude developed land around Penrhyndeudraeth and Porthmadog, using LANDMAP's Visual & Sensory aspect as a guide.
04: Rhosgadfan – Llanberis – Mynydd Llandygai	LConA combined with LConA 10 to create one larger SLA (07: North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia), forming a 'collar' around the National Park . The boundary of the new SLA should more closely follows the contours of upland fringe land sloping away from the National Park (including keeping open commons as intact units).
05: Country Park, West of Groeslon	This LConA is not recommended for new SLA designation because of adequate protection already afforded by other designations. The entire area is Grade I Registered Parkland, Country Park and part is a Conservation Area. The walled nature of the parkland also provides a physical barrier from any future development that might affect its setting.
06: Cwmorthin	This small LConA is not recommended for new SLA designation for a number of reasons; it is not of a sufficient size to meet the practical criteria of SLA designation; it is already designated as Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance and potentially part of a bid for World Heritage Site status; it is dominated by mining spoil/quarries; and it sits in a

³ Gwynedd Council (2005, updated 2012) *Gwynedd Landscape Strategy*

Previous Landscape Conservation Area (LConA)	Recommendations from the SLA Review
	'hole' within the National Park (so planning policy already exists to protect the landscape setting of the protected landscape surrounding it). The majority of the area also scores 'low' in LANDMAP's Visual & Sensory aspect.
07: Cwm Bowydd, Blaenau Ffestiniog	This LConA is not recommended for SLA designation for the same reasons as for 06 Cwmorthin above. All of the area is evaluated as 'Low' in LANDMAP's Visual & Sensory aspect.
08: Cwm Teigl	This LConA is not recommended for SLA designation for the same reasons as for 06 Cwmorthin above. Over half of the area is evaluated as 'Low' or 'Moderate' in LANDMAP's Visual & Sensory aspect.
09: Vaynol Estate and Surrounds	Incorporate LConA into a new SLA (09: Menai), extending to be flush with the shoreline of the Menai Strait (and county boundary). LConA should also be extended eastwards to form a buffer between Bangor and the Strait.
10: Bethesda-Rachub	LConA should be combined with LConA 4 to create one larger SLA (07: North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia), forming a 'collar' around the National Park. The boundary of the new SLA closely follows the contours of upland fringe land sloping away from the National Park (including keeping open commons as intact units).
11: Penrhyn Estate	Similar to the reasoning for LConA 05, this area is already adequately protected through its existing designation as a Grade II* registered parkland managed by the National Trust. Its walled estate boundaries provide strong physical protection against development that might take place on land surrounding the parkland.

Anglesey

- 3.3 With the exception of the AONB and land that falls within the development boundaries, as defined by the Ynys Môn Local Plan (1996), the whole island is designated as a SLA. This designation was not included in the stopped UDP (stopped at the proposed modification stage, 2005) because at the time there was no evidence to justify its inclusion. The six proposed SLAs are designed to represent areas of Anglesey that merit designation based on the carefully selected criteria designed for this study (as set out in Table 2.3). Although this results in a reduction in the area of land designated as SLA in the Ynys Môn Local Plan, it serves to emphasise which parts of the island's landscape truly merit the extra level of protection afforded by the designation.
- 3.4 The previous 'blanket' designation across the island arguably resulted in a dilution of the level of protection provided by the SLA, with planners and developers less able to distinguish between those areas that are truly 'special', and those that could be adequately managed through standard planning policies. By having a robust selection of SLAs, with detailed evidence lying behind their designation, new development on the island will be able to be more appropriately guided to the right locations, respecting the special qualities of the local landscape where it is needed most.

Appendix 1 Statements of Value & Significance

01: Western Llŷn

Location Map



Representative photographs



This Special Landscape Area covers the western half of the Llŷn peninsula, wrapping around the eastern edges of Garn Fadryn and extending westwards to the outskirts of Aberdaron. The SLA lies adjacent to the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>A gently undulating coastal plateau that is strongly influenced by the close proximity of the sea. The landscape is highly rural, dominated by productive farmland interspersed with mixed plantations, small woodlands and pockets of heathland. Settlement is dispersed, with nucleated hamlets and villages at crossing points, and isolated individual farms and properties. The area displays a wealth of small-scale historic and archaeological features: lying wholly within a wider Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance in Wales (Lleyn and Bardsey Island). There are long views across the area to the AONB-designated coastline and uplands, as well as distant views eastwards to the mountains of Snowdonia.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA sits directly adjacent to the Llŷn AONB. The area is under pressure from tourism-related developments, particularly in the south (e.g. around the resorts of Abersoch and Pwllheli). The elevated and exposed nature of the landscape means that demand for wind energy development and their cumulative effects is a key issue, with southerly slopes also likely to attract proposals for solar photovoltaics.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA's character is consistent across the area, forming a large proportion of the central peninsular between the AONB-designated coastline.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criterion)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>The area forms a significant proportion of the wider Llŷn peninsular – a topographically varied and distinctive landscape with a strong historic sense of place (a significant proportion scores 'High' or 'Outstanding' in the LANDMAP Historic Landscapes aspect). The SLA displays well-preserved evidence of the evolution of land use and settlement from as early as prehistoric times, including intricate field patterns enclosed by stone walls, hedge and banks, and historic villages clustered around road crossing points.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>This is an intact landscape with a strong rural feel – agricultural farmland dominating, but with valued areas of semi-natural wetland, heathland and woodland contributing to a varied mosaic. The strong field patterns and lightly settled character, with few visual detractors (small conifer plantations and occasional caravan/camping sites) result in a generally high landscape quality.</p>
	Scenic quality	<p>There is strong intervisibility between the SLA and the surrounding landscapes and seascapes; the open, elevated character of parts of the plateau allowing long, scenic views across the peninsula and further afield (including the mountains of Snowdonia). The largely undeveloped character of the SLA conveys a strongly rural and tranquil quality to the landscape.</p>

Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	<i>Setting of nationally important landscapes</i>	The SLA provides a valued setting and significant views to the Llŷn AONB , which lies immediately adjacent. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management Plan.
Special Qualities of the SLA		
<p>Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tranquil and rural character of the landscape; • Its elevated and open position– creating strong intervisibility across the peninsula, including significant views to the AONB; • The intricate landscape patterns: including areas of small-scale, irregular fields and 19th century smallholdings; • The outstanding array of historic and archaeological features, within the Llŷn and Bardsey Island Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest; • Valued pockets of semi-natural habitat, including heathland, mire and fen (e.g. Cors Hirdre and Cors Geirch SSSIs); • The dispersed settlement pattern of nucleated villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads; and • The landscape’s important role as a setting to the Llŷn AONB. 		
Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP		
<p><i>Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>The majority of the SLA falls within LCA 7: Western Llŷn. Small parts of the eastern fringes of the SLA lie within LCA 6 (Llŷn North Coast) and LCA 10: Central Llŷn (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).</p>		

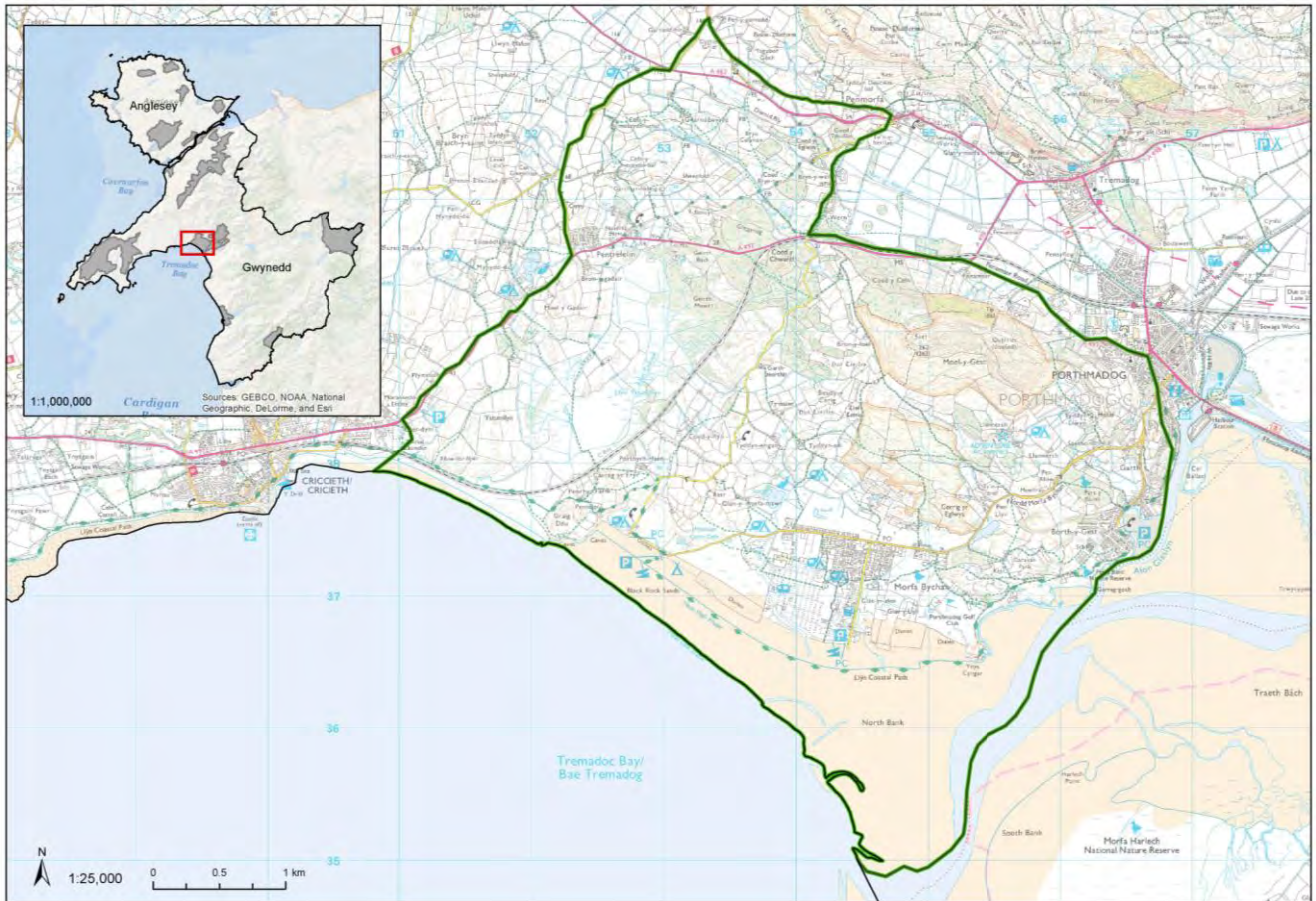
Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Western Llyn												
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscape	GWNDDGL145	Y Ffor	H	H	H	M						High
	GWNDDGL144	Llithfaen	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL143	Llannor	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDGL142	Llanbedrog	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDGL141	Mynytho	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL138	Llangwnnadi	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL137	Pen y groesion	H	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL136	Rhiw	O	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL135	Pwllheli	L	L	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDGL134	Hell's Mouth	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
GWNDDGL133	Aberdaron	H	H	H	H						High	
Landscape Habitats	GWNDDLH489		L	L	M	L	M	L	M	M		Low
	GWNDDLH471		M	L	M	L	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH498		L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH497		H	H	L	M	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH496		M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH495		H	H	M	M	M	M	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH494		L	M	M	M	M	L	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH493		H	H	M	M	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH492		L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH502		M	M	U	M	M	M	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH490		M	M	M	M	M	H	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH503		L	M	M	M	M	H	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH486		L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH485		M	H	M	M	M	M	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH484		M	M	M	M	L	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH477		M	M	H	M	H	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH476		H	H	M	H	U	M	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH474		M	M	M	H	U	M	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH473		H	H	M	H	M	H	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH472		H	H	M	H	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH491		H	H	M	H	H	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH514		H	H	M	M	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH895	Coastal strip Carreg - Groesffordd	H	H	L	M	M	H	H	H		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH678		L	L	M	L	M	L	L	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH677		M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH530		H	H	L	H	H	M	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH527		L	L	M	L	M	M	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH526		L	M	M	H	U	H	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH519		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH518		H	O	M	H	M	O	O	H		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH499		M	L	M	L	L	L	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH515		L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH940	Castell Grug to Abersoch North	M	M	U	M	M	M	M	H		High
	GWNDDLH513		M	M	H	M	M	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH512		O	O	L	H	M	O	O	O		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH510		H	H	M	H	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH508		M	M	M	H	H	H	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH507		H	H	M	M	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH506		M	H	M	H	H	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH505		M	L	M	L	M	M	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH504		H	H	L	M	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH516		H	H	L	M	L	H	H	H		High

Visual & Sensory	GWNDDVS516	Garn Boduan	H	H	H	M					High	
	GWNDDVS090	Llyn Coast	H	M	H	H					High	
	GWNDDVS059	Llaniestyn	H	H	H	M					High	
	GWNDDVS057	Afon Daron	M	H	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS056	North-west plateau of Lleyrn	H	M	H	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS055	Mynydd Rhiw	H	M	H	H					High	
	GWNDDVS054	Afon Horon	M	H	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS053	Llandegwning	H	M	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS051	Afon Soch	M	M	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS050	Abersoch	H	M	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS049	Morfa Gors	M	M	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS048	Mynydd Tir-y-Cwmwd	H	H	M	H					High	
	GWNDDVS047	Llanbedrog	M	M	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS046	Penrhos	M	H	M	M					Moderate	
	GWNDDVS044	Boduan-central plateau of Lleyrn	M	M	M	M					Moderate	
Historic Landscape	GWNDDHL183	Mynytho	H	H		M					High	
	GWNDDHL006	Fieldscape around Ederu	M	L		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL379	Botwnnog plateau	M	H		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL350	Rhyd-y-clafdy	M	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL345	Rhoshirwaun enclosures	H	O		U					Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL293	Llangian & Llanengan	H	H		H					High	
	GWNDDHL280	Aberdaron plateau	H	H		H					High	
	GWNDDHL451	Nefyn & Morfa Nefyn	O	O		O					Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL190	Woods and fields west of Rhyd-y-Clafdy	M	H		U					High	
	GWNDDHL487	Fieldscape around Llanfihangel	M	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL100	Cefn Leisiog	H	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL027	Neigwl Plain (Hell's Mouth)	H	H		H					High	
	GWNDDHL018	Coastal fields around Abersoch	L	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL014	Fieldscape north of Penrhos	L	L		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL013	Fieldscape, north coast of Llyn	M	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL007	Ederu	M	H		U					High	
	GWNDDHL279	Mynydd Rhiw	O	O		H					Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL781	Cors Geirch	L	L		M					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL921	Fieldscape east of Llannor	L	L		L					Low	
	GWNDDHL905	Llanbedrog	H	H		U					High	
	GWNDDHL864	Mynydd Nefyn	O	O		H					Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL842	Fieldscape around Pentreuchaf	H	H		U					High	
	GWNDDHL835	Coed Cefnamwlch	U	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL829	Boduan parkland	H	H		H					High	
	GWNDDHL435	Carneddol	L	M		U					Moderate	
	GWNDDHL813	Llaniestyn valley	H	H		U					High	
	GWNDDHL988	Tudweiliog	H	H		U					High	
	GWNDDHL734	Fieldscape around Groesffordd	M	M		U					High	
	GWNDDHL720	Botwnnog	M	M		U					High	
	GWNDDHL696	Efailnewydd	M	H		M					High	
	GWNDDHL684	Penrhos airfield & camp	O	O		H					Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL564	Cefnamwlch	H	O		U					Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL562	Coastal flats around Llanbedrog	M	L		M					Moderate	
GWNDDHL817	Nanhoron	H	H		M					High		
Cultural Landscape	GWNDDCL047	Penrhos	H	H	H	O	H	H	H	O	M	High
	GWNDDCL046	Llanbedrog	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	High
	GWNDDCL041	Mynydd Rhiw	H	O	O	M	O	O	L	M	M	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL040	Llyn (Western)	O	O	O	H	O	O	H	H	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL037	Llyn (Central)	O	O	O	H	O	H	H	H	O	Outstanding

02: Porthmadog & Tremadog Bay

Location Map



Representative photographs



This Special Landscape Area is located between Criccieth and Porthmadog, covering the northern banks of Tremadog Bay up to the edges of Snowdonia National Park at Penmorfa.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This is a distinctive landscape which forms a transition from the mountains of Snowdonia to the coast. The northern part of the SLA comprises a rugged, hummocky landform with rough grazing and swathes of woodland, with rock outcrops, dry stone walls and stone buildings providing unity to the landscape. Its strong rural and upland fringe character grades southwards away from the National Park to the coast, where sand dunes and the wide sandy beach of Black Rock Sands provide a setting to the open expanse of the Afon Glaslyn estuary. There are attractive views from the higher ground over Traeth Bach to southern Snowdonia and along the coast. In turn, the mountains of Snowdonia form an imposing, scenic backdrop to the SLA.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA provides an important function as a setting and coastal 'gateway' to Snowdonia. Due to its location outside the National Park and popularity of the coast, the area is under pressure from tourism development (e.g. caravan/beach development around Morfa Bychan). Other development pressures include proposals for major infrastructure and the linear spread of development along the roads into Porthmadog.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA comprises an area of coherent character which sits between the coastal settlements of Criccieth and Porthmadog. It extends inland to the edges of the National Park, tracing the northern and western boundaries of Landscape Character Area 9.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>The landscape's rugged hills, mosaic of land cover patterns, scenic views and sweeping coastline combine to create a distinctive and varied sense of place.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>The majority of the landscape is evaluated as 'High' in LANDMAP's Visual & Sensory aspect owing to its strong rural character and distinctive upland-coastal transition. It forms a scenic backdrop to the historic town of Porthmadog. There are few detractors.</p>
	Scenic quality	<p>The strong visual relationship between the SLA and the mountains of Snowdonia, Traeth Bach and the western coastline of Gwynedd contributes greatly to the high scenic qualities associated with this landscape. It has a pervading rural quality, affected locally by caravans/camp sites around Morfa Bychan and development spreading outwards from Porthmadog.</p>
Setting of protected landscapes (where relevant)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	<p>The SLA provides a scenic setting to Snowdonia National Park. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the National Park Management Plan.</p>

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

- The rural and tranquil character of the landscape;
- The long, sweeping views across the Afon Glaslyn estuary, Traeth Bach, the coast and the mountains of Snowdonia;
- The varied land cover patterns, with irregular fields bounded by stone walls and interspersed with blocks of open rough grazing land and woodland;
- The valued areas of semi-natural habitat (unimproved grassland, heathland, woodland, sand dunes and coastal wetlands), including Tiroedd a Glannau Rhwng Cricieth ac Afon Glaslyn SSSI and the **Pen Llŷn and Sarnau** SAC;
- The lightly settled character of dispersed hamlets and isolated dwellings;
- **The landscape's important role as a setting to Snowdonia National Park and backdrop to the historic town of Porthmadog.**

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

[*Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment*](#)

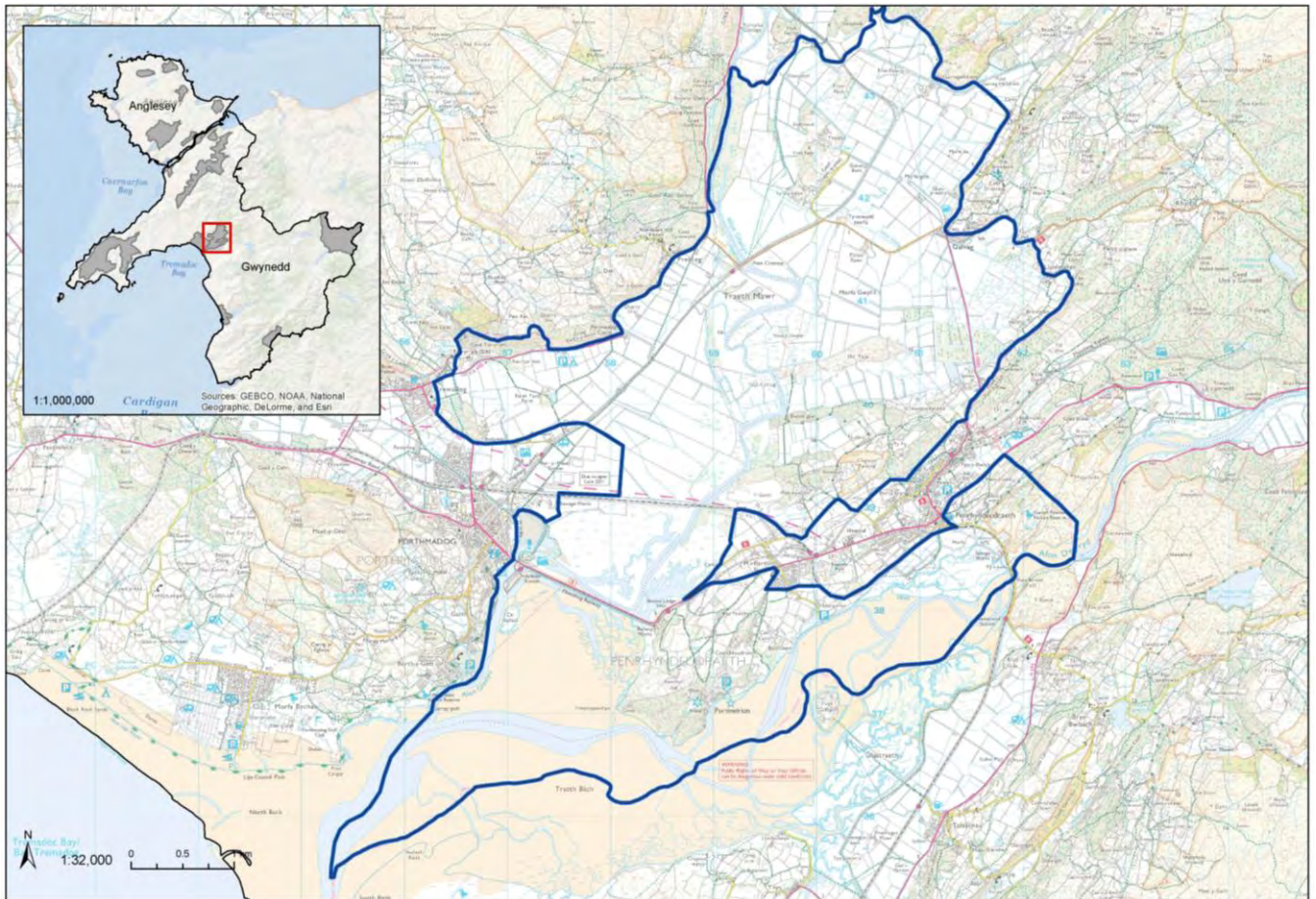
All of the SLA falls within LCA 7: Porthmadog (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	SNPGL029	Cwm Pennant	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL001	Mochras Farm	U	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL147	Porthmadog	H	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL146	Llanystumdwy	M	H	O	M						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL023	Morfa Bychan	L	L	M	L						Moderate
	GWNDDGL022	Traeth Mawr	L	L	L	L						Moderate
Landscape Habitats	GWNDDLH573		M	H	M	M	M	M	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH564		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH565		H	H	H	H	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH566		H	H	L	H	L	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH567		L	L	M	L	M	L	L	M		Low
	GWNDDLH568		O	O	M	H	M	H	O	U		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH560		H	O	H	U	H	H	H	H		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH570		H	H	M	H	M	M	H	M		High
	SNPLH316		O	O	M	U	M	U	O	U		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH576		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH578		M	M	L	L	M	L	M	H		Moderate
	GWNDDLH579		H	H	M	M	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH610		H	H	L	M	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH682		H	H	U	M	M	M	H	M		High
	SNPLH136		L	L	M	U	U	U	L	O		Moderate
	GWNDDLH569		M	M	L	L	M	M	M	L		Moderate
Visual & Sensory	SNPVS121	Prenteg Margins	H	M	H	M						High
	SNPVS053	Prenteg rolling farmland	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS038	Morfa Harlech	H	M	H	H						High
	GWNDDVS089	Morfa Bychan	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS082	Shingle beaches throughout	H	M	M	H						Moderate
	GWNDDVS081	Traeth Bach	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDVS075	Black Rock levels	H	H	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS073	Criccieth	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS072	Llyn Ysturnllyn	M	H	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS071	Porthmadog & Tremadog	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS070	Ynys Cyngar	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDVS066	Mynydd Ednyfed north of Criccieth	H	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS065	Bryn Neuadd	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS064	Moel-y-Gest	H	M	H	M						High
	GWNDDVS062	Traeth Mawr	M	H	H	M						High
Historic Landscapes	SNPHL219	Harlech dunes	M	M		M						Moderate
	SNPHL138	Gesail Gyfarch to Braich y Big	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL880	Porthmadog harbour	O	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL687	Moel y Gest	O	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL674	Criccieth	H	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL547	Porthmadog	H	O		O						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL104	Glaslyn estuary - reclaimed land	O	H		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL020	Morfa Bychan	L	M		H						Moderate
	GWNDDHL010	Wern	H	U		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL009	Eastern Eifionydd fieldscape	M	H		U						Moderate
Cultural Landscapes	SNPCL016	Cwm Pennant	H	M	M	H	H	H	M	H	M	High
	GWNDDCL056	Railway-Pwllheli to Dyfi Junction	H	H	H	H	H	O	H	H	O	High
	GWNDDCL054	Portmadoc/Tremadoc/Penrhyndeudraeth	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL053	Morfa Bychan/Blackrock sands/Garregwen	H	M	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	High
	GWNDDCL051	Criccieth	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	H	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL034	Eifionydd (Eastern)	M	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL008	Principal roads	H	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	High

03: Glaslyn & Dwyryd Estuary Landscapes

Location Map



Representative photographs (© John Briggs)



This Special Landscape Area comprises the low-lying reclaimed farmland and marshes of Traeth Mawr and the eastern/southern banks of the Traeth Bach estuary, including the historic village of Portmeirion.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This is a culturally and visually distinctive landscape comprising the 19th century flat, reclaimed marshes of Traeth Mawr and the banks of the Traeth Bach Estuary. The northern part of the SLA is Traeth Mawr: an open, large-scale landscape of drained pasture and wetlands dominated by the meandering form of the Afon Dwyrdd. This cultural landscape is recognised nationally, falling entirely within the Aberglaslyn Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. The flat pastoral land is broken by distinctive wooded outliers which form rugged land rising up as 'islands' from the marshes. Progressing south the Glaslyn and Dwyrdd rivers meet to form a large-scale Traeth Bach Estuary with mud/sand banks dominating the coastal landscape. The Italianate village of Portmeirion, designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, nestles on the northern banks of the estuary – but elsewhere the landscape is sparsely settled. Borrowed views along the coast emphasise the coastal feel here, contrasting strongly with the mountains which form the inland backdrop of the SLA. Spectacular views to and from the Cnicht and Moelwyn Mountains are a particular feature of this landscape.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	The SLA acts as a gateway to Snowdonia National Park, which forms the inland boundary of the area. Whilst sparsely settled and with an overall absence of modern development, the SLA abuts the settlements of Porthmadog, Minffordd and Penrhyndeudraeth. This includes commercial/industrial development on their fringes, which is beginning to encroach into the surrounding landscape. The SLA is under pressure from large scale infrastructure including masts and pylons.
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	The SLA covers the undesignated parts of the Traeth Bach Estuary and encompasses the entire expanse of the Traeth Mawr reclaimed marshland which is surrounded by the higher land of Snowdonia. It nests within the LCA framework but excludes areas of development at Penrhyndeudraeth, Minffordd and Porthmadog.
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	The flat, open landscapes of Traeth Mawr and the sweeping Traeth Bach estuary contrast greatly with the rugged hills and mountains of the adjacent National Park, resulting in a distinctive landscape. The cultural significance of the area contributes greatly to its sense of place: Traeth Mawr was one of the most ambitious 19th century land reclamation initiatives in Wales, and includes the prominent Porthmadog Embankment (once described as 'The Wonder of Wales'). The Italianate village of Portmeirion is also a distinctive feature of the landscape.
	Landscape quality	The vast majority of the SLA scores 'High' in the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect, with the landscape around Portmeirion evaluated as 'Outstanding'. The only detractors within the landscape are the road and rail corridors crossing through it, as well as visual/noise intrusion from the Minffordd quarry and developments spreading

		outwards from the main settlements.
	Scenic quality	The strong visual relationship between the SLA and the mountains of Snowdonia (Cnicht and Moelwyn mountains in particular) contributes greatly to the high scenic qualities associated with this landscape, enhanced by reflections off the floodwaters producing special light qualities. Coastal and estuary views from Portmeirion also enhance the scenic qualities of the landscape. Overall this is a peaceful and naturalistic landscape.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides a setting to Snowdonia National Park, with strong visual and cultural connections to the protected landscape. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the National Park Management Plan.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

- The peaceful, rural and generally open character of the landscape;
- The strong cultural and visual relationship between the SLA and the National Park (particularly views to the Cnicht and Moelwyn mountains);
- The naturalistic land cover, with drained pastures and coastal grazing marsh, mudflats and sand banks, broadleaved woodland and scrub on higher ground, and open water.
- Nationally and internationally valued habitats within the Morfa Harlech SSSI and NNR; Pen Llŷn a Sarnau SAC, Glaslyn SSSI, and the Meirionnydd Oakwoods & Bat Sites SSSI.
- The sparsely settled character with the distinctive Italianate settlement at Portmeirion (a Conservation Area); and
- The historic and cultural significance of the landscape, entirely within the Aberglaslyn Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment

All of the SLA falls within LCA 7: Porthmadog (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

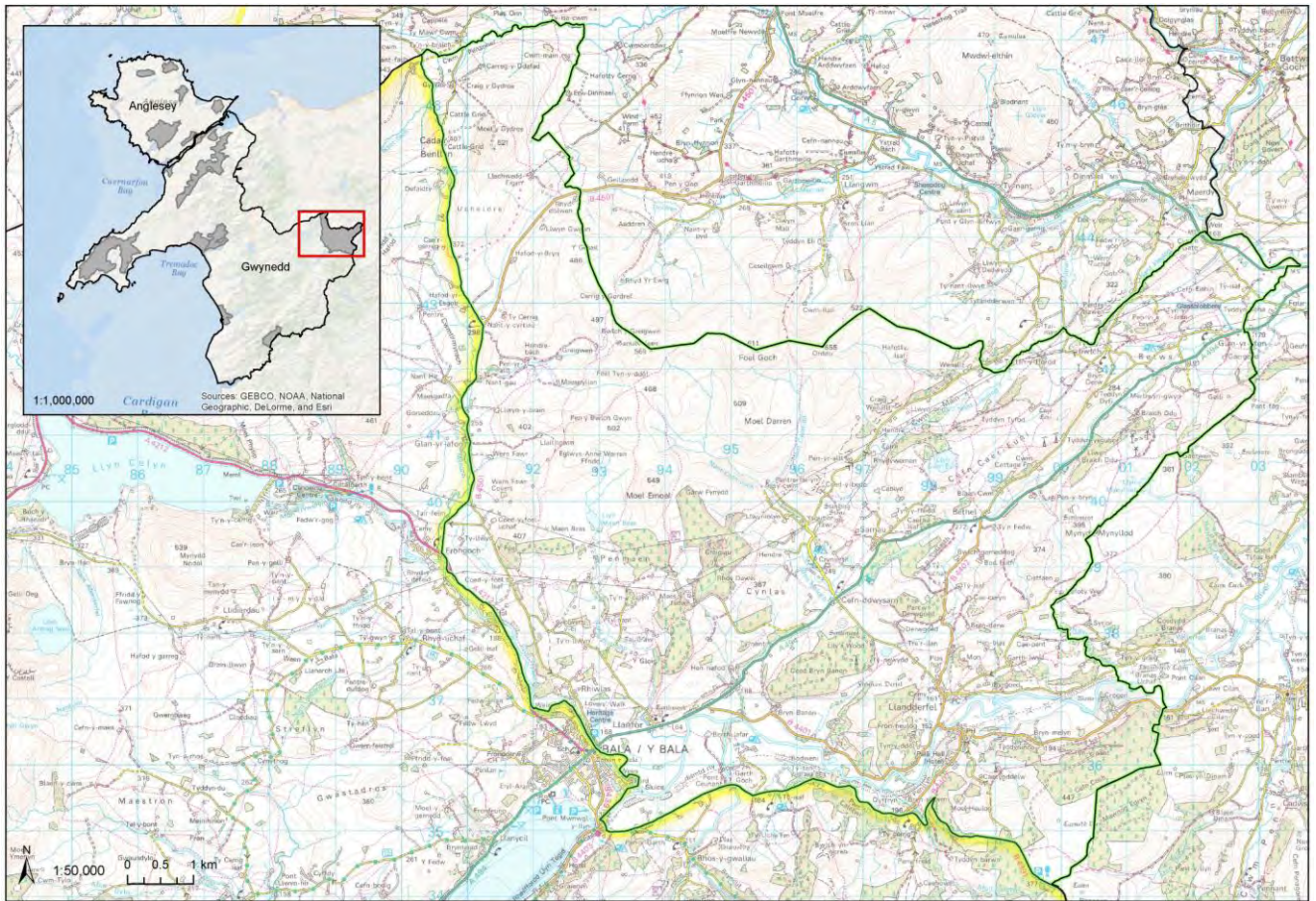
Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Glaslyn & Dwyrdd Estuary Landscapes			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	SNPGL120	Nanmo	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL029	Cwm Pennant	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL028	Afon Glaslyn	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL027	Cwm Croesor	U	H	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL025	Pentrhyndeudraeth	U	H	H	H						High
	SNPGL022	Traeth Mawr	L	L	L	L						Low
	SNPGL021	Afon Dwyrdd	U	L	L	L						Low
	SNPGL003	Morfa Harlech	U	L	L	L						Low
	SNPGL001	Mochras Farm	U	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDL147	Porthmadog	H	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDL133	Aberdaron	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDL027	Cwm Croesor	H	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDL025	Pentrhyndeudraeth	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDL022	Traeth Mawr	L	L	L	L						Moderate
Landscape Habitats	SNPLH316		O	O	M	U	M	U	O	U		Outstanding
	SNPLH171		O	O	U	U	U	U	O	O		Outstanding
	SNPLH168		H	H	U	U	U	U	H	O		High
	SNPLH151		H	H	U	U	U	U	H	H		High
	SNPLH150		L	M	U	U	U	U	M	H		Moderate
	SNPLH149		H	H	U	U	M	U	H	O		High
	SNPLH147		L	M	U	U	U	U	M	H		Moderate
	SNPLH146		H	H	M	U	U	U	H	O		High
	SNPLH143		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	GWNDLH578		M	M	L	L	M	L	M	H		Moderate
	GWNDLH577		H	H	M	M	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDLH576		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M		Moderate
	GWNDLH575		H	H	M	M	U	H	H	H		High
	GWNDLH574		H	O	L	H	M	H	H	O		Outstanding
	GWNDLH568		O	O	M	H	M	H	O	U		Outstanding
Visual & Sensory	SNPVS036	Coed Ystymgwern coastal farmland	H	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDVS063	Penrhyndeudraeth environs	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDVS069	Penrhyndeudraeth	M	M	L	M						Moderate
	GWNDVS071	Porthmadog & Tremadog	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDVS080	Marsh	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDVS081	Traeth Bach	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDVS062	Traeth Mawr	M	H	H	M						High
	SNPVS012	Conifer plantation	L	H	H	L						Moderate
	SNPVS121	Prenteg Margins	H	M	H	M						High
	SNPVS038	Morfa Harlech	H	M	H	H						High
	SNPVS039	Vale of Ffestiniog	M	H	H	H						High
	SNPVS048	Snowdon uplands	O	H	O	H						Outstanding
	SNPVS052	Garreg	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS115		H	M	H	H						High
	SNPVS119		M	H	M	M						High
	GWNDVS088	Portmeirion	O	H	M	O						Outstanding

Historic Landscapes	SNPHL058	Dwyrdd valley	O	O	M						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL274	Ffestiniog railway	O	O	H						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL338	Tan-yr Allt	H	M	M						High	
	GWNDDHL456	Garreg	O	H	M						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL472	Intermediary slopes of the Moelwyns	O	H	H						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL535	Penrhyn-Garth	H	H	H						High	
	GWNDDHL547	Porthmadog	H	O	O						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL556	Penrhyndeudraeth	H	O	M						High	
	GWNDDHL557	Minffordd quarry	H	H	M						Moderate	
	GWNDDHL833	Portmeirion	O	O	M						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL104	Glaslyn estuary - reclaimed land	O	H	M						Outstanding	
	GWNDDHL937	Tremadoc	O	O	H						Outstanding	
	SNPHL219	Harlech dunes	M	M	M						Moderate	
	SNPHL074	Moel Hebog uplands	H	H	M						High	
	SNPHL086	Hafod Garegog, Hafod y Llyn	H	H	U						High	
	SNPHL087	Glaslyn estuary - reclaimed land	O	O	H						Outstanding	
	SNPHL130	Cwm Croesor and Manod lower slopes	O	O	H						Outstanding	
	SNPHL131	Parc and lower Croesor valley	O	O	H						Outstanding	
	SNPHL132	Brondanw estate villages	O	O	H						Outstanding	
	SNPHL137	Glaslyn slopes	H	H	H						High	
SNPHL141	Cefn Hir	M	H	M						Moderate		
SNPHL193	Ardudwy coastal strip	H	H	H						Moderate		
	GWNDDHL880	Porthmadog harbour	O	O	M						Outstanding	
Cultural Landscapes	SNPCL018	Cnicht-Siabod	O	M	H	M	H	H	M	M	M	High
	GWNDDCL021	Ffestiniog/Welsh Highland Railway	M	O	O	O	O	O	M	H	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL034	Eifionydd (Eastern)	M	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL053	Morfa Bychan/Blackrock sands/Garregwen	H	M	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	High
	GWNDDCL054	Portmadoc/Tremadoc/Penrhyndeudraeth	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL055	Portmeirion	O	O	O	O	O	O	M	O	H	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL008	Principal roads	H	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	High
	SNPCL010	Mynydd Mawr-Nantlle Ridge-Moel Hebog	H	M	H	M	H	H	H	M	M	High
	SNPCL053	Coastal railway, Conwy valley railway	H	H	H	H	H	O	H	H	O	High
	SNPCL025	Croesor-Cwm Croesor	H	H	O	H	H	O	M	O	M	Outstanding
	SNPCL027	Vale of Ffestiniog-Trawsfynydd-Cwm pryso	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	H	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL028	Eifionydd (Eastern)	M	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL029	Ffestiniog-Welsh Highland Railway	M	O	O	O	O	O	M	H	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL032	Rhinogydd	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	High
	SNPCL046	Aberglaslyn	O	M	O	M	H	H	H	H	O	Outstanding
		GWNDDCL056	Railway-Pwllheli to Dyfi Junction	H	H	H	H	H	O	H	H	O

04: Penllyn

Location Map



Representative photographs



This Special Landscape Area is located on the most easterly edge of Gwynedd. It lies immediately adjacent to Snowdonia National Park which lies to the west and south, and extends up to **the Authority's** boundary with Denbighshire to the east and Conwy to the north. **It also abuts Conwy's Special Landscape Area 5: Cerrigydrudion and the A5 Corridor.**

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This is a scenic upland fringe landscape which abuts the eastern edge of Snowdonia National Park. It comprises a rolling agricultural and wooded landscape which scales up to 500 metres and includes a number of impressive mountains such as Moel y Gydros, Moel Darren, Foel Fach and Moel Emoel. Land use is predominantly pastoral farmland and rough grazing, with a number of mixed plantations and mature trees, valued wetland and heathland habitats adding variety and texture into the landscape. The floodplain of the River Dee passes through the southern part of the landscape, with its western extent designated as part of the wider Bala & Bala Lakesides Landscape of Special Historic Interest and its entire length being SSSI and SAC. The former is due to its important function as a natural and historically strategic route, with important archaeological sites remaining from the Roman and medieval period. The smaller scale of the landscape when compared with the adjacent National Park results in an intimate, tranquil and gentle character. The landscape forms a scenic, rural setting to Snowdonia and a gradual transition to the mountains beyond (including the Berwyn Mountains to the south).</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA provides an important function as a setting to Snowdonia and rural 'gateway' into the National Park from the east. Due to its location outside the protected landscape and the proximity of the settlement of Bala, the SLA is under pressure from increasing development along the river valley floodplain and the linear spread of development along the A494.</p> <p>The elevated nature of the landscape means that demand for wind energy development and their possible cumulative effects is a key issue, with the operational Braich Ddu Wind Farm located within the east of the SLA.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of landscape character	<p>The SLA comprises an area of coherent character which follows the boundaries of LCA 12: Llandderfel (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012). It sits between Snowdonia National Park and the Authority's eastern boundary.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criterion)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>This is an intimate, rural landscape with a tranquil feel and valued historic and natural characteristics. A strong historic sense of place is provided along the route of the River Dee – a natural and historically strategic route which includes important sites from the Roman and medieval period (e.g. Llanfor Roman Fort and camps). Around Sarnau is an historic landscape of irregular fields and woods little changed since the 19th century, while pockets of marginal upland and forestry are found elsewhere. The SLA nestles in the foothills of Snowdonia, with views to the nearby mountains further enhancing the local distinctiveness of this landscape.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>The uplands in the north of the area, which include Moel Darren, Foel Fach and Moel Emoel are assessed as 'High' by LANDMAP in the Visual & Sensory aspect. This is owing to the strong visual and functional relationship between these uplands and the nearby National Park. The SLA's pastoral</p>

		farmland and patches of rough grazing land are interspersed by nationally and internationally valued semi-natural habitats, including heathland/blanket bog on the fringes of the Berwyn Mountains, carr and wetland habitats alongside the River Dee, and species-rich hay meadows and wet pasture. These combine to form a rich landscape mosaic of varied colours and textures. There are few detractors.
	Scenic quality	There is strong intervisibility between the SLA and the surrounding landscapes; the open, elevated character of parts of the uplands allowing long, scenic views across the SLA and to the National Park. This mountainous and large scale backdrop serves to emphasise the intimate and gentle feel of the SLA, with a varied land cover providing visual interest. Its intact, unspoilt character is broken only by occasional overhead pylons, wind turbines and geometric conifer blocks.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides a valued and scenic setting and gateway into Snowdonia National Park. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the National Park Management Plan.
Special Qualities of the SLA		
<p>Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intimate, tranquil and rural character of the landscape; • The elevated and open position of the upland areas – creating strong intervisibility across the landscape, including with Snowdonia National Park • Internationally and nationally valued pockets of semi-natural habitat, including alder carr and mire (Cors y Sarnau SSSI), species-rich hay meadows and wet pasture (Caernau Uchaf SSSI), riparian habitats and species (River Dee SSSI and SAC) and pockets of dry heath and blanket bog (Berwyn SSSI, SAC and SPA); • Its strong historic character, particularly along the River Dee (a Landscape of Special Historic Interest); • The dispersed settlement pattern of nucleated villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads; and • The landscape's important role as a setting to the Snowdonia National Park and other uplands outside the Study Area (e.g. Berwyn Mountains). 		
Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP		
<p><i>Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>The SLA falls entirely within LCA 12: Llandderfel (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).</p>		

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

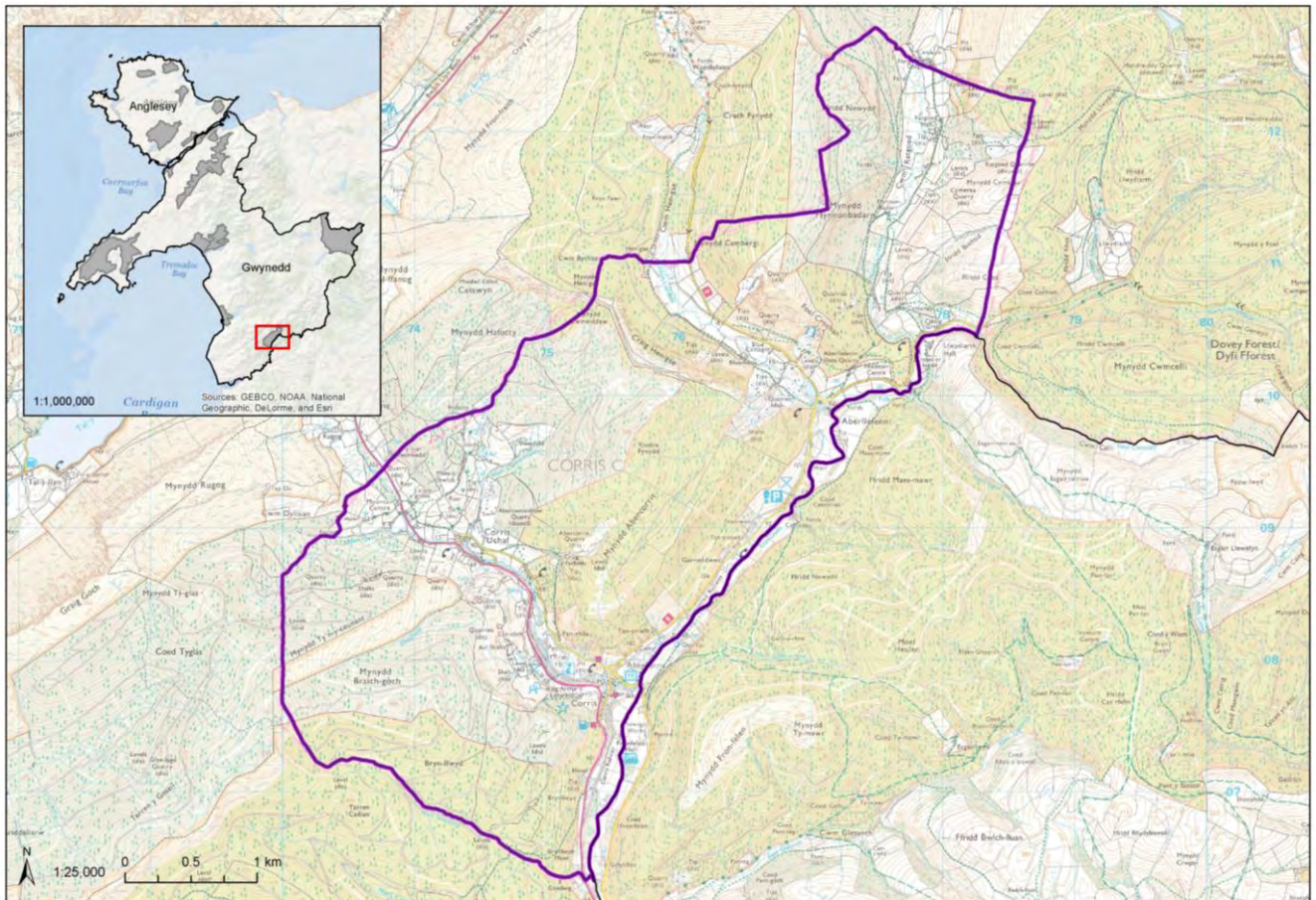
LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Penlllyn			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	SNPGL102	Bala Lake	U	L	L	L						Low
	SNPGL126	Moelfryn	U	O	O	H						Outstanding
	DNBGHGL113	Afon Dyfdwy	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	CNWGL101	Moel Gwern-nannau	H	H	H	H						High
	CNWGL102	Pen y Cerrig- serth	H	H	H	H						High
	CNWGL103	Ceirw river valley	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	CNWGL107	Trum Nant-fach	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	DNBGHGL094	Afon Alwen	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPGL132		M	M	M	M						Moderate
	DNBGHGL123	Four Crosses	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL129	Dovey Forest	U	H	O	H						Outstanding
	DNBGHGL120	Cynwyd	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	DNBGHGL122	Tyfos	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	DNBGHGL125	Bryniau Gleision	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	DNBGHGL126	Cwn Pedew-Cwm Tywyll	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPGL057	Afon Mynach	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL098	Bala	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL101	Glasgwm	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	DNBGHGL121	Myndd Mynyllod	M	M	M	M						Moderate
Landscape Habitats	DNBGHLH090	Mynydd Mynyllod Upland Mosaic	H	H	H	U	H	M	H	U		High
	CNWLH083	Cerrigydrudion grasslands	M	M	M	U	U	L	M	H		Moderate
	SNPLH193		L	L	U	U	U	U	O	U		Moderate
	SNPLH192		M	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Moderate
	SNPLH191		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH189		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	DNBGHLH095	Berwyn Upland Heath Mosaic	O	O	O	U	H	O	O	O		Outstanding
	SNPLH195		M	M	M	L	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	DNBGHLH092	Cynwyd Slopes Mosaic	M	L	M	U	L	M	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH196		M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	DNBGHLH089	Druid Hills Improved Grassland	M	L	M	U	L	M	M	U		Moderate
	DNBGHLH088	Corwen Floodplain Improved Grassland	O	O	H	U	H	H	O	H		High
	DNBGHLH072	Gwyddelwern Hills Improved Grassland	M	L	M	U	L	M	M	U		Moderate
	CNWLH088	Foel Frech uplands	O	O	M	U	U	O	O	O		Outstanding
	CNWLH086	Afon Ceirw valley mosaic	H	M	M	U	U	H	M	H		High
	CNWLH085	Criag y Llwynog upland grasslands	M	M	M	U	U	M	M	U		Moderate
	CNWLH084	Pen y Gop upland grasslands	L	L	M	U	U	L	L	M		Low
	DNBGHLH094	Mawnog Egryn Conifer Forest	L	L	M	U	L	L	L	L		Low
	SNPLH204		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH254		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	O		High
	SNPLH251		M	M	M	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH212		L	M	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH210		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH209		M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH208		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH194		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH205		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH314		O	O	U	U	U	U	O	O		Outstanding
	SNPLH203		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH202		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH201		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH200		H	H	U	U	M	U	H	U		High
	SNPLH199		M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH198		M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH197		M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH206		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low

Visual & Sensory	DNBGHVS098	Afforested Slopes-Llandrillo/Corwen	H	L	H	M				Moderate
	CNWVS013	Ceirw and Alwen valleys east	H	H	H	H				High
	CNWVS016	Merddwr and Ceirw valleys	M	L	M	L				Moderate
	CNWVS047	Merddwr Ceirw Alwen upper valley sides	H	M	H	M				High
	CNWVS048	Maes-newyddion uplands	M	M	M	M				Moderate
	CNWVS049	Moel Gwern-nannau	H	M	M	M				Moderate
	CNWVS050	Foel Goch	H	M	H	H				High
	CNWVS078	Pentre Llawen	H	M	H	H				High
	DNBGHVS073	Gwyddelwern Hills (including the Rug Est	H	H	H	M				High
	DNBGHVS095	Dee Valley-Corwen	M	M	M	M				Moderate
	CNWVS006	Ceirw and Medrad narrow valleys	H	H	M	H				High
	DNBGHVS097	Mynydd Mynllod	H	M	H	H				High
	SNPVS105	Bwlch y Groes uplands	H	H	H	H				High
	DNBGHVS100	Berwyn Mountain	H	H	O	H				High
	SNPVS089	Afon Mynach valley	M	H	M	M				Moderate
	SNPVS090	Afon Tryweryn	M	L	M	M				Moderate
	SNPVS091	Foel Goch uplands	H	M	H	M				High
	SNPVS092	Bethel	M	M	M	M				Moderate
	SNPVS093	Llanderfel	M	H	M	M				Moderate
	SNPVS094	Bala Plain	M	M	L	M				Moderate
	SNPVS095	Rhyd-uchaf	H	M	M	M				Moderate
	SNPVS102	Llangower	H	H	M	M				Moderate
	SNPVS103	Moel Heulog	M	M	M	M				Moderate
	DNBGHVS096	Slopes below Mynydd Mynllod	H	M	M	M				Moderate
Historic Landscapes	GWNDDDL585	Moel y Gydrhos	M	M		H				Moderate
	CNWHL017	Pen y Cerrig-serth	M	M		M				Moderate
	CNWHL025	Garthmeilo	L	H		M				Moderate
	CNWHL037	Dinmael	M	H		M				Moderate
	CNWHL044	Cwm Penanner	M	H		M				High
	DNBGHHL141		M	M	H	M	M			Moderate
	DNBGHHL152		H	M	M	H	H			High
	DNBGHHL164		M	M	L	L	M			Moderate
	DNBGHHL167									Low
	DNBGHHL168									Moderate
	GWNDDDL004	River Dee valley (part)	M	M		M				High
	GWNDDDL012	Mynydd Mynyllod (part)	M	M		U				Moderate
	GWNDDDL117	Coed Foel-Dryll	L	U		L				Low
	CNWHL016	Erw Dinmael	M	M		L				Low
	GWNDDDL395	Llandderfel	H	H		H				High
	SNPHL865	Bala	O	O		H				Outstanding
	GWNDDDL586	Cefn Caer-Euni	H	H		U				High
	GWNDDDL592	Cefn Coch	M	O		U				High
	GWNDDDL694	Rhiwlas	H	H		H				High
	GWNDDDL736	Fieldscape around Ffridd yr Henblas	M	H		U				Moderate
	GWNDDDL743	Uplands around Moel Darren	M	M		H				High
	GWNDDDL815	Fields & woodland, north of Rhiwlas	M	H		U				High
	GWNDDDL908	Fieldscape around Sarnau	H	H		U				High
	GWNDDDL974	Coed Bryn Banon	L	M		U				Moderate
	GWNDDDL987	Earl's Wood	M	M		U				Moderate
	SNPHL035	Llyn Tegid and floodplain	O	O		H				Outstanding
	SNPHL043	Uplands, Migneint	H	O		M				High
	SNPHL061	Southern uplands	M	M		H				High
	SNPHL213	Bala lakesides	O	H		H				High
	GWNDDDL172	Cwmtirmynach	M	H		M				High

Cultural Landscapes	SNPCL051	A470 and principal roads	H	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	High
	SNPCL043	Cader Idris-Berwyns	H	O	O	H	O	O	H	O	M	Outstanding
	SNPCL037	Frongoch-Llandderfel	M	H	O	M	H	H	H	M	M	High
	SNPCL036	Llyn Tegid, Bala, Gwersyllfa'r Urdd	H	O	O	H	O	O	M	H	H	Outstanding
	SNPCL035	Dee-Wnion valley	M	H	M	M	H	H	M	M	M	Moderate
	SNPCL034	Llyn Tryweryn-white water rafting	O	H	O	H	H	M	M	M	M	Outstanding
	SNPCL032	Rhinogydd	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	High
	DNBGHCL022	Dee Valley (upper)	U	H	H	U	H	H	U	M	H	High
	DNBGHCL004	A roads	L	H	L	U	H	H	H	M	M	Moderate
	DNBGHCL003	Telford Road	O	H	O	H	H	H	M	M	M	Outstanding
	CNWCL027	Telford road	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	M	M	Outstanding
	CNWCL018	Conwy uplands	M	H	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	High

05: Corris

Location Map



Representative photographs



The Corris Special Landscape Area is located on the southern edge of Gwynedd. It is located immediately adjacent to Snowdonia National Park, which borders the SLA on all sides except for the south, which extends up to the Authority's boundary with Powys.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This is a culturally and visually distinctive landscape, with very strong visual and functional links to and from Snowdonia National Park. It comprises the upper reaches of Dulas and Llefenni valleys that drain south into the River Dovey (Afon Dyfi), outside of the SLA. The landscape includes open upland areas with remnant heathland, but the majority is dominated by extensive mixed and conifer plantations, creating a strong wooded and enclosed character. A number of former slate quarries remain scattered throughout the area along the valleys, and contain important relics of the Welsh mining industry. The landscape is nestled between Snowdonia National Park and the county boundary with Powys, as such providing an important southern gateway into the protected landscape. Large parts of the landscape are unsettled, and a tranquil and remote character prevails.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA acts as a gateway to Snowdonia National Park and Gwynedd, from Powys. Whilst the landscape has been shaped by industrial activities in the past, it now contains important cultural and historical relics of the Welsh mining industry, and very strong visual and historical links to and from the protected landscape. The area is under pressure from tourism related development. In addition, forestry operations and linear developments along the main A487 present drivers for change within this landscape.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA comprises an area of coherent character which nests within the Gwynedd LCA framework (fully within LCA 14: Corris). It sits between the Snowdonia NP and the south eastern edges of the Authority's boundary.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>The steep-sided upper reaches of Dulas and Llefenni valleys demonstrate a strong sense of remoteness, despite a large degree of the SLA being shaped by past or present human activity, such as slate mining settlements which grew to support the expanding slate industry, and coniferous plantation. The cultural and historical significance of the area contributes greatly to its sense of place, and a number of relic slate quarries remain scattered throughout the area, which provide important visual, biodiversity and archaeological qualities. The entire SLA scores 'Outstanding' in the LANDMAP Cultural Landscapes aspect, and 'Outstanding' along the valleys in the Historic Landscapes aspect.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>This strongly undulating landscape has a rich diversity of land cover providing a variety of textures and colours into the landscape. This includes swathes of semi-natural broadleaved woodland and rush pasture along watercourses, and patches of remnant heathland. Added to the areas of conifer plantation and grey slate waste this results in a complex landscape pattern. The A487 passes along the Derri valley, with the linear</p>

		settlements of Corris and Corris Uchaf scattered along its route.
	Scenic quality	The steeply graded upland valley landscape evokes a high scenic quality that links it to the adjacent National Park. Overall this is a peaceful and remote landscape, with large parts remaining unsettled despite the large-scale forestry operations present. Intermittent forestry operations can interrupt the overriding sense of remoteness locally.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides a strong visual, historic and cultural setting to Snowdonia National Park, and shares a similar landscape character with the protected landscape. The transition between the SLA and the National Park is not obvious, and the landscape character blends between the two areas. Therefore it provides a very important setting and southern gateway into Snowdonia. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the National Park Management Plan.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

- Its remote, strongly rural character;
- The historic and cultural fabric of the landscape, such as relic slate quarries and buried remains;
- Valued swathes of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, rush pasture and remnant heathland;
- The sparsely settled character in much of the SLA, with distinctive vernacular settlement typically built from slate; and
- The cultural/historic and visual relationship between the SLA and the National Park.

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

[*Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment*](#)

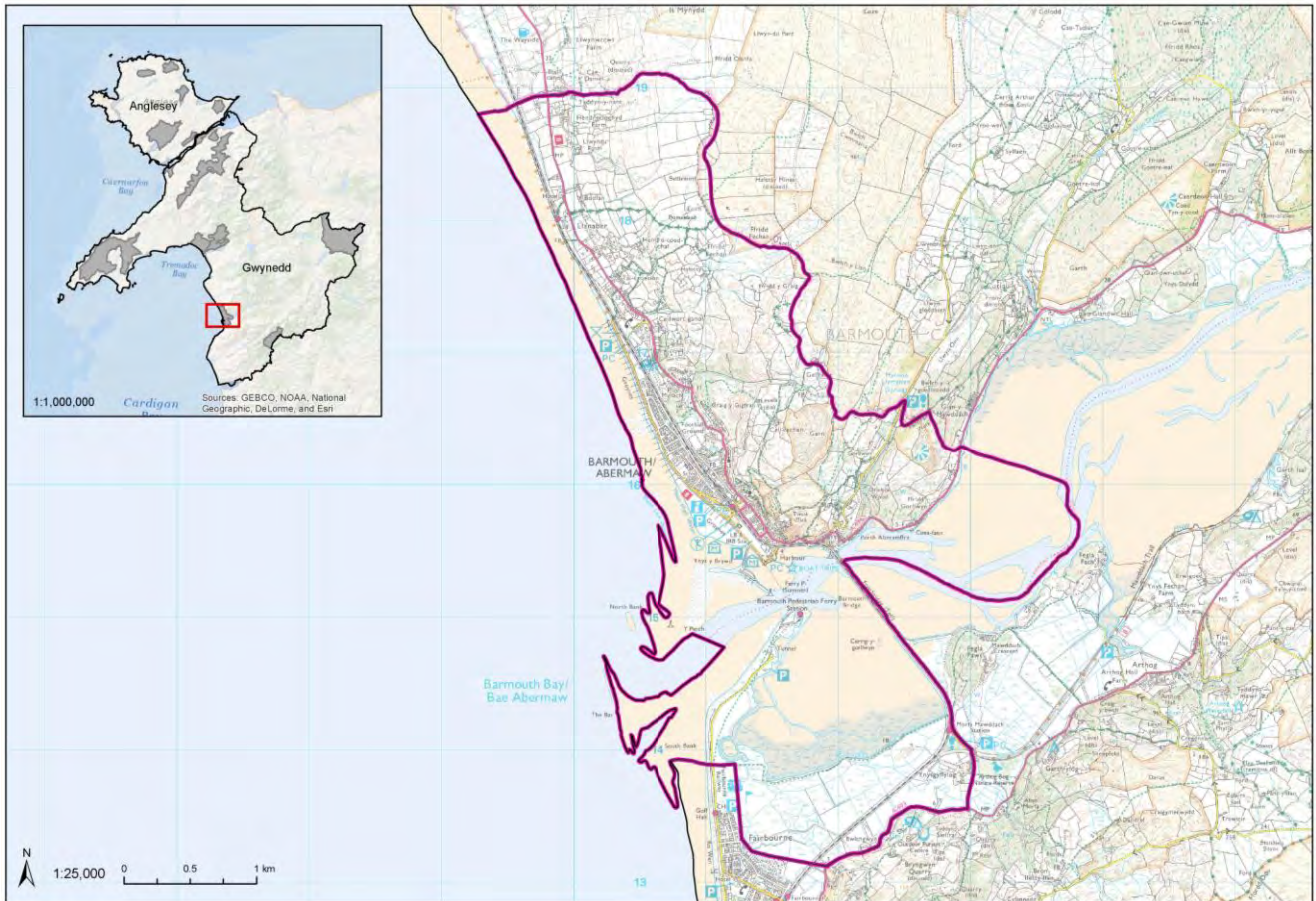
All of the SLA falls within LCA 14: Corris (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Corris			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	SNPGL133	Corris Uchaf	M	H	H	H						High
	SNPGL129	Dovey Forest	U	H	O	H						Outstanding
	SNPGL125	Cwm Ratgoed	U	H	H	H						High
	SNPGL124	Corris Uchaf	U	H	H	H						High
	SNPGL045	Moel Maesywerngoch	U	H	H	H						High
	SNPGL044	Mynydd Cedris	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	MNTGMGL671	Dulas (NW)	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	MNTGMGL488	Dovey Forest	M	L	M	M						Moderate
Landscape Habitats	SNPLH413	Upland Dry Heath (Mynydd Fron-fraith)	M	H	M	U	M	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH411	Conifer Plantation (Dovey Forest)	L	L	U	U	M	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH410	Conifer Plantation (Aberllefenni north)	L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH409	Conifer Plantation (Corris)	L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH408	Broadleaved Woodland (Corris)	M	H	M	H	M	U	H	H		High
	SNPLH407	Improved Grassland (Corris)	M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH406	Acid Grassland (Mynydd Ty'n-y-Ceunant)	M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH394	Dry Dwarf Heath (Mynydd Cedris-Mynydd Ru	O	O	M	U	M	U	O	U		Outstanding
	SNPLH391	Broadleaved Woodland (Abergynolwyn Woodl	H	H	U	H	M	U	H	H		High
	SNPLH388	Broadleaved Woodland (Tan y Coed)	M	H	M	H	M	U	M	H		Moderate
	SNPLH340											Low
	MNTGMLH075		M	M	M	U	U	M	M	M		Moderate
Visual & Sensory	SNPVS026	Gorris	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS012	Conifer plantation	L	H	H	L						Moderate
	MNTGMVS276	Dyfi Valley Catchment	H	H	H	M						High
Historic Landscapes	SNPHL065	Bryneglwys Tarren Cadlan	M	H		H						Moderate
	SNPHL061	Southern uplands	M	M		H						High
	MNTGMHL843	Nant Dulas	M	M		L						Low
	MNTGMHL646	Dyfi Forest	M	L		L						Low
	GWNDHHL692	Mynydd Ffynnonbadarn	L	L		U						Low
	GWNDHHL556	Penrhyndeudraeth	H	O		M						High
	GWNDHHL444	Mynydd Abercorris	L	L		H						Moderate
	GWNDHHL384	Slate quarrying remains around Corris	O	H		H						Outstanding
Cultural Landscape	SNPCL055	Corris-Aberllefenni-Dyfi valley	H	H	O	H	O	H	M	O	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL052	Sustrans route	O	M	H	L	M	L	L	M	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL051	A470 and principal roads	H	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	High
	SNPCL043	Cader Idris-Berwyns	H	O	O	H	O	O	H	O	M	Outstanding
	SNPCL011	Slate quarries	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	H	Outstanding
	MNTGMCL052	Cambrian Railway	M	M	L	U	H	H	H	H	L	High

06: Barmouth Bay

Location Map



Representative photographs



The Barmouth SLA covers the settlement of Barmouth and the Afon Mawddach Estuary on the west coast of Gwynedd. The SLA is defined by the strong coastal character and setting to Snowdonia National Park.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This SLA encompasses the distinctive and expansive landscape of the Afon Mawddach Estuary, which flanks the coast and sits on the doorstep of Snowdonia National Park. The landscape includes a range of habitats– covering the coast, estuary and upland fringe – providing diversity, colour and texture. The Victorian coastal resort town of Barmouth is situated in the north of the SLA, spreading in a linear form along the edge of the estuary. The whole SLA falls within the Mawddach Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, reflecting evidence for land use and activity from prehistoric and later periods, including the rare and prominent wooden viaduct/ trestle Barmouth Bridge which crosses the estuary. The landscape of this SLA is typified by expansive vistas and long distance views to the coastline and along the estuary. This forms a dramatic contrast to the rising mountain landscape of Snowdonia National Park which physically and visually encompasses the area. The variety provided by the contrasting landscapes, and its naturalistic character, produces a tranquil and highly scenic landscape.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA provides an important coastal setting and 'gateway' to the Snowdonia National Park, with strong functional and visual links between the two. Due to its location outside the National Park and popularity of the coastal resort of Barmouth, the area is already under pressure from tourism-related development. Fairbourne – a modern, nucleated 'holiday village' – lies along the southern SLA boundary.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA comprises the lower section of the Afon Mawddach Estuary, which lies outside of the National Park, and beach grading up to higher ground which joins the Snowdonian mountains. The SLA encompasses the majority of LCA 13: Barmouth, with its southern boundary defined by the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect (excluding the settlement of Fairbourne which is evaluated as 'Low').</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>The SLA forms the lower part of the Afon Mawddach Estuary which stretches east into the Snowdonia National Park. The broad, open estuary is fringed by rising ground inland which forms a transition to the adjacent mountains. The SLA has a distinctive coastal sense of place with expansive vistas, and a strong visual and functional connection to the mountains of the National Park (over half of the SLA is assessed as 'High' in LANDMAP's Visual and Sensory aspect). The landscape's extensive evidence of diverse land use and activity from prehistoric and later periods, and the distinctive wooden viaduct/ trestle bridge crossing the estuary, contributes to a strong sense of timelessness. All of the SLA lies within the Mawddach Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>The SLA comprises a range of coastal, estuarine and upland fringe habitats which provide varying texture and colour to the landscape, as well as</p>

		valued habitats. Estuarine habitats, including mud flats, sand flats, salt marshes, reedbeds and sand dunes form part of the Llyn Peninsula & the Sarnau SAC and the Mawddach Estuary SSSI. The eastern upland fringes include areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, unimproved acid grassland, improved grassland and dry acid heath. Barmouth Hillside SSSI lies on the slopes immediately above Barmouth town, and contains an area of rare wind-pruned oak woodland and also includes disused quarries, mine workings and spoil tips as a legacy of previous slate mining activity. Occasional modern intrusions reduce the intactness and quality of the landscape in parts, particularly modern development on the fringes of Barmouth and Fairbourne, the busy A493 and A496 which runs along the north and south boundaries of the SLA, and the Fairbourne railway.
	Scenic quality	The flat and open character of the landscape allows for expansive vistas and long distance views across the estuary and coastline, with a backdrop provided by the prominent and scenic mountains of Snowdonia National Park. The movement of water and the tides adds further visual and aural interest to the coastal landscape.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides an important coastal setting and 'gateway' to the Snowdonia National Park, with strong physical and visual links between the coast and the protected landscape. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the National Park Management Plan.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

- Its function as a unique setting and strong, coherent character which provide a coastal gateway to Snowdonia;
- Marked contrast between the broad, open estuary, and the rising valley sides and upland fringe;
- Expansive vistas and long distance views to the coastline, up and down the estuary and to the prominent mountains of the National Park;
- Its historic and cultural significance, including evidence of diverse land use and activity from prehistoric and later periods (within the Mawddach Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest)
- The range of nationally and internationally important coastal, estuarine and upland fringe habitats within the Llyn Peninsula & the Sarnau SAC, Mawddach Estuary SSSI, Barmouth Hillside SSSI and Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC;
- Victorian town of Barmouth with attractive Victorian frontages; and
- Its tranquil and scenic qualities.

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment

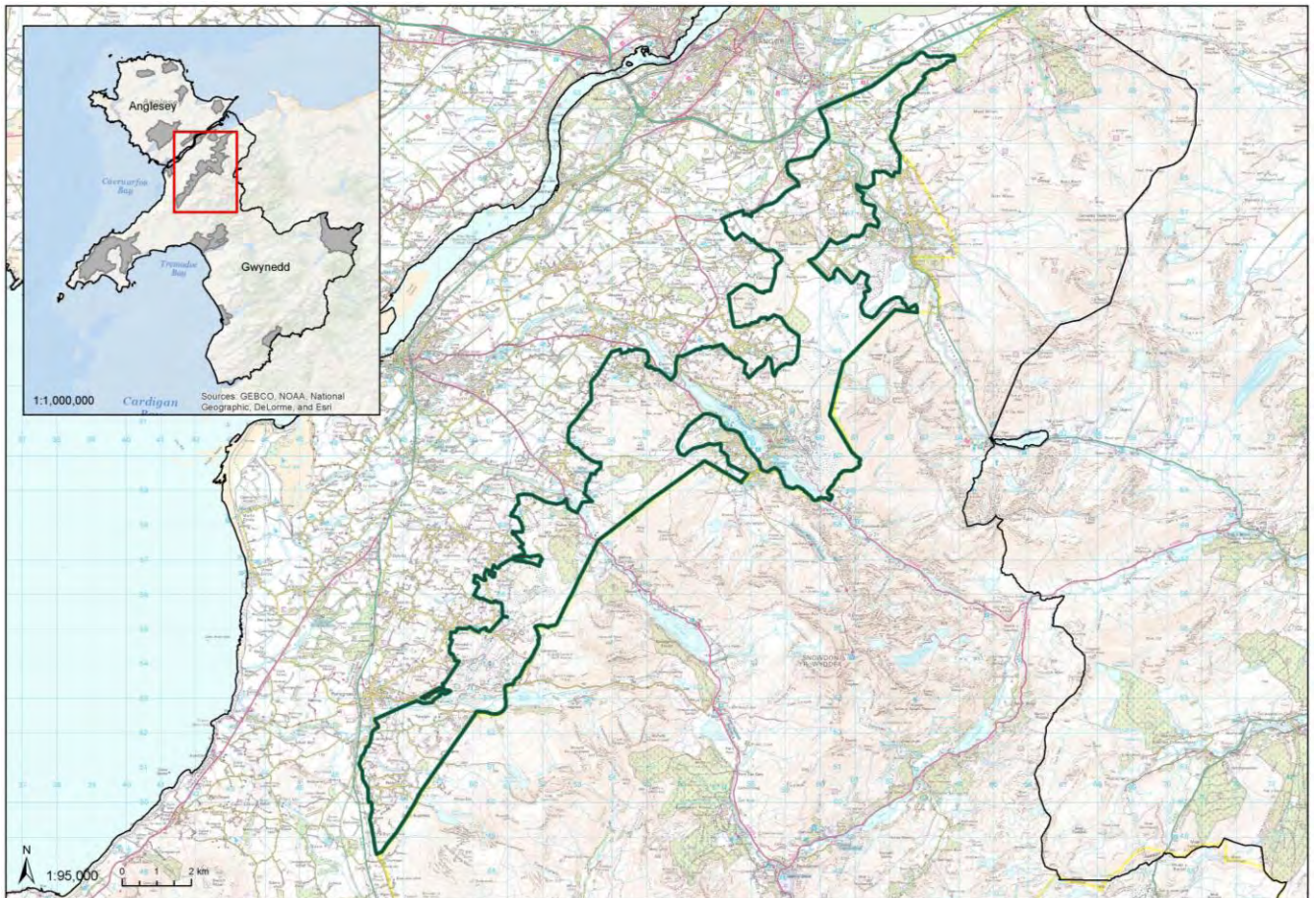
The entire SLA falls within LCA 13: Barmouth (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

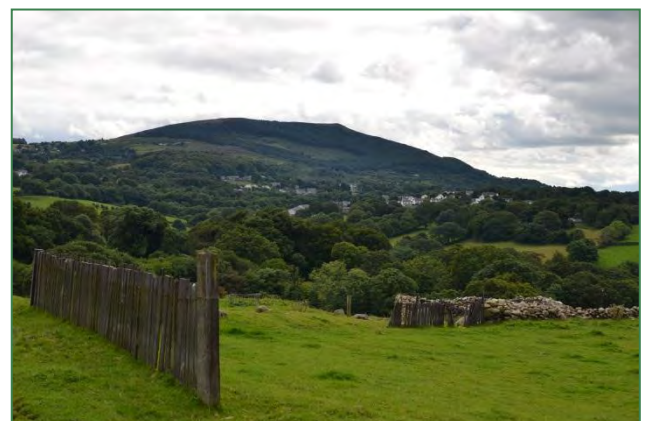
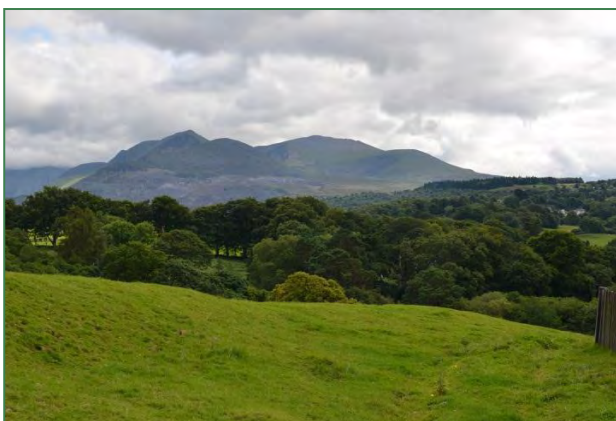
LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Barmouth Bay			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	SNPGL038	Pen y Garth	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL015	Afon Mawddach	U	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPGL008	Afon Ysgethin	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL007	Hirgwm	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL001	Mochras Farm	U	H	O	O						Outstanding
Landscape Habitats	SNPLH354	Broadleaved Woodland (Arthog)	O	O	M	H	M	U	O	O		Outstanding
	SNPLH351	Bog (Modified Raised Bog - Arthog)	O	O	M	H	H	M	O	U		Outstanding
	SNPLH350	Broadleaved Woodland (Fegla Fawr)	H	H	M	H	M	U	H	H		High
	SNPLH349	Coastal Intertidal Sands (Mawddach Estua	O	O	M	U	M	U	O	U		Outstanding
	SNPLH348	Coastal Dunes (Mawddach Estuary south))	H	H	M	U	M	U	H	U		High
	SNPLH347	Improved Grassland (Fairbourne)	L	L	U	U	U	U	L	O		Low
	SNPLH327		O	O	M	M	M	U	O	O		Outstanding
	SNPLH323		H	H	M	U	U	U	H	U		High
	SNPLH322		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH321		O	O	U	M	M	U	O	H		Outstanding
	SNPLH320		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH319		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	M		Moderate
	SNPLH318		H	H	M	U	U	U	H	U		High
	SNPLH279		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	M		Moderate
	SNPLH260		L	M	U	U	U	U	M	O		Moderate
Visual & Sensory	SNPVS130	Barmouth	L	L	M	L						Low
	SNPVS112	Morfa Mawr Coast	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS111	Mawddach Valley	H	H	H	H						High
	SNPVS037	Morfa Mawr	H	M	H	H						High
	SNPVS035	Barmouth coastal hills	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS031	Rhinogs-upland	H	H	H	H						High
	SNPVS028	Llechfraith	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS027	Barmouth	L	L	M	L						Low
	SNPVS025	Afon Mawddach	H	H	H	H						High
	SNPVS017	Daran	H	M	H	H						High
Historic Landscapes	SNPHL196	Llynnau Greggenan	O	O		H						Outstanding
	SNPHL193	Ardudwy coastal strip	H	H		H						Moderate
	SNPHL189	Arthog	O	O		U						Outstanding
	SNPHL174	Craig y Grut and Craig Aderyn	M	U		U						High
	SNPHL171	Foel Wen and Moelfre	O	O		O						Outstanding
	SNPHL169	Ardudwy lower slopes	O	O		U						Outstanding
	SNPHL042	Mawddach Estuary	O	H		U						Outstanding
	36	Mawddach estuary	O	O		H						Outstanding
	95	Dinas Oleu	M	M		U						Moderate
	16	Morfa Mawddach	H	M		M						High
	23	Southern coastal strip	M	M		U						Moderate
	82	Barmouth	H	H		H						High
	15	Fieldscape and slopes north of Llanaber	H	H		H						High
	01	Is Mynydd & Mynydd Egryn	O	O		O						Outstanding
	31	Fairbourne	H	M		M						High
Cultural Landscapes	SNPCL054	Barmouth	H	H	H	M	H	H	O	M	H	High
	SNPCL053	Coastal railway, Conwy valley railway	H	H	H	H	H	O	H	H	O	High
	SNPCL052	Sustrans route	O	M	H	L	M	L	L	M	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL044	Fairbourne	L	L	M	M	H	M	O	M	H	Moderate
	SNPCL043	Cader Idris-Berwyns	H	O	O	H	O	O	H	O	M	Outstanding
	SNPCL042	Aber Mawddach	H	O	H	H	O	O	H	H	H	Outstanding
	SNPCL032	Rhinogydd	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	High
	SNPCL030	Coastal Ardudwy	O	O	O	H	O	O	H	H	M	Outstanding

07: North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia

Location Map



Representative photographs



This large Special Landscape Area forms a 'collar' around the north and western edges of Snowdonia National Park. It stretches from Nasareth in the south-west to Llanllechid in the north-east.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This is an upland fringe landscape which forms the transition from the mountains of Snowdonia to the lower-lying hills and farmland surrounding the National Park. Many parts of the area include the dramatic relicts of the slate quarrying industry which contribute to the landscape's strong cultural heritage and its distinctive sense of place – recognised as Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Ogwen Valley, Dinorwig, Nantlle Valley). The SLA includes large tracts of unenclosed rough grazing land, scrub and heathland (including colonising former mining areas) which extend the upland character of the National Park. These are punctuated by blocks of woodland and forestry plantations, grading down to intricate 19th century pastures and mining villages. Hill summits provide expansive views across the surrounding landscapes; to the adjacent National Park, the Llŷn AONB and northwards towards the Menai Straits. The area surrounding the tourism centre of Llanberis is a popular gateway to the National Park, with attractions including the Snowdon Mountain Railway. Away from this honeypot location, the landscape retains a rugged, upland feel with a strong sense of timelessness.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	The SLA forms a 'buffer' around the National Park enhancing and protecting its setting to enable a gradual transition from the protected landscape to its surrounding rural hinterland. The area is under pressure from tourism (with linked development and road traffic), particularly around the gateway town of Llanberis, as well as large-scale infrastructure including masts and pylons.
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	The SLA forms a 'collar' around the National Park , encompassing tracts of unenclosed uplands, former slate quarries, hill summits and valleys which fall away to the surrounding lowlands (the outer limits of the SLA are where the slopes meet the lower land).
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	This landscape extends the upland character of the National Park, with unenclosed tracts of heathland and rough grazing on hill summits, which gradually soften to lower-lying, enclosed farmland and sheltered valleys. The slate mining industry has created a lasting legacy imprinted on the landscape; from its dramatic spoil heaps and quarry faces to the historic mining villages and smallholdings built from the same grey slate. This rich cultural heritage contributes greatly to the area's strong sense of place and local identity.
	Landscape quality	Large parts of the SLA score 'High' in the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect, with parts immediately adjacent to Snowdonia evaluated as 'Outstanding'. It is an intact, generally well-managed landscape, although active quarries can be visually detracting (but part of the cultural heritage), as can the geometric conifer plantations and prominent telecommunications masts and pylons.

	Scenic quality	The SLA's close relationship with the National Park, with scenic views of the mountains, as well as long views to the coastal lowlands (including the Llŷn AONB, Menai Straits and beyond to Anglesey AONB) enhance the landscape's scenic qualities. Perceptually, this is a highly rural landscape with a strong upland feel.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides an essential setting to Snowdonia National Park, with strong visual and cultural connections to the protected landscape. It also forms a more distant backdrop to the two AONBs. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscapes and give due consideration to their Statutory Management Plans.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

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

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

[Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment](#)

The SLA falls within LCAs01: Bangor Coastal Plain, 02: Penisarwaun Plateau, 03: Llanberis-Bethesda, 04: Caernarfon Coast & Plateau and 05: Snowdon Massif (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia												
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscapes	GWNDDGL107	Clwt y Bont	L	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDGL032	Nant Peris	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL033	Nant Ffrancon	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL087	Llanberis	O	H	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL088	Penrhyn Slate Quarries	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDGL089	Nant y Betws	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL090	Betws Garmon	H	H	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL091	Tryfan	H	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL031	Dyffryn Nantlle	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL106	Fachwen	H	H	H	M						High
	SNPGL113	Marchllyn Mawr	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL108	Moel Rhiwen	M	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDGL109	Talybont	H	H	O	H						High
	GWNDDGL113	Marchllyn Mawr	H	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL146	Llanystumdwy	M	H	O	M						Outstanding
	SNPGL031	Dyffryn Nantlle	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL032	Nant Peris	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL089	Nant y Betws	U	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPGL108	Moel Rhiwen	U	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDGL105	Waunfawr	H	H	O	H						Outstanding
Visual & Sensory	GWNDDVS023	Penygroes & Talysarn	L	L	L	M						Low
	GWNDDVS006	Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)	M	L	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS007	Afon Ogwen	M	H	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS008	Abergwyngregyn	H	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS009	Bethesda	L	L	M	M						Low
	GWNDDVS010	Penrhyn Quarry	M	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDVS011	Waen-Pentir	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS012	Cefn-du	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDVS013	Llyn Padarn	H	H	H	O						High
	GWNDDVS014	Afon Rhythallt	M	H	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS004	Wig	M	H	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS019	Upper Afon Gwyfai	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS073	Abergwyngregyn	H	H	H	M						High
	GWNDDVS024	Derelict quarries	H	H	H	M						High
	GWNDDVS026	Llanberis	M	M	H	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS028	Upper Afon Llyfni	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS087	NE Snowdonia	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
	SNPVS048	Snowdon uplands	O	H	O	H						Outstanding
	SNPVS055	Moel Hebog upland	H	H	H	H						High
	SNPVS057	Afon Drwys-y-coed	O	M	H	M						High
	SNPVS059	Betws Garmon	H	M	H	M						High
	SNPVS063	Nant Peris	H	M	M	M						Moderate
	SNPVS066	Calyder mountains	O	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDVS018	Llanrug	L	M	L	L						Low

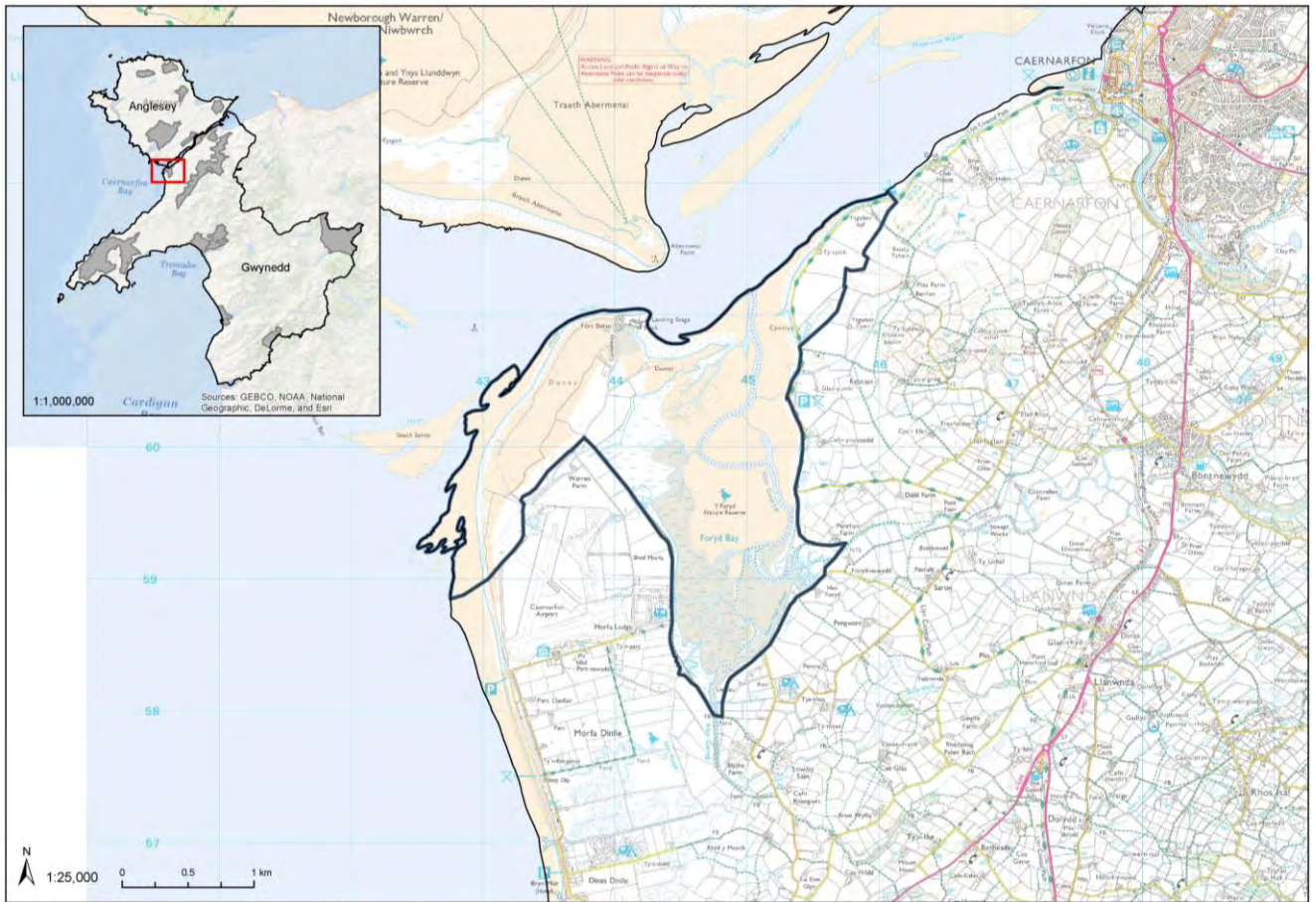
Landscape Habitats	GWNDDLH635		H	H	L	L	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH000		L	M	M	M	M	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH617		H	H	M	H	M	M	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH618		L	L	L	L	M	L	L	U		Low
	GWNDDLH624		M	M	M	H	M	M	M	H		Moderate
	GWNDDLH631		H	O	L	M	M	M	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH632		L	L	M	L	M	M	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH615		L	L	M	L	M	M	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH634		H	H	L	M	L	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH614		H	O	L	M	M	M	O	M		High
	GWNDDLH636		M	H	M	H	M	M	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH637		H	H	M	H	H	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH638		O	O	L	M	M	M	O	M		High
	GWNDDLH639		H	H	L	M	L	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH640		M	L	H	L	L	U	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH641		M	M	M	M	H	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH633		M	M	H	M	M	M	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH177		H	M	L	H	M	M	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH129		M	M	M	L	M	L	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH141		M	H	L	M	M	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH143		L	M	M	L	M	L	M	H		Moderate
	GWNDDLH145		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH149		O	O	M	M	M	M	O	M		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH151		M	M	H	M	M	L	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH616		H	H	L	M	M	H	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH173		H	H	L	H	M	H	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH644		O	O	L	H	M	H	O	M		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH601		M	M	M	H	M	H	M	H		High
	GWNDDLH604		L	L	L	L	L	M	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH608		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH611		H	H	L	M	M	H	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH612		M	H	H	U	H	H	M	U		High
	GWNDDLH613		H	H	L	H	M	H	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH171		L	L	M	L	L	L	M	M		Moderate
	SNPLH072		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH047		M	M	M	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH048		H	H	M	U	U	U	H	U		High
	SNPLH049		H	H	M	U	U	U	U	U		High
	SNPLH050		O	O	U	U	U	U	O	H		Outstanding
	SNPLH066		L	L	U	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH068		H	H	U	U	U	U	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH642		L	L	M	L	M	L	L	L		Low
	SNPLH070		O	O	U	U	U	U	O	U		Outstanding
	SNPLH024		L	L	L	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	SNPLH073		H	H	U	U	U	U	H	O		High
	SNPLH074		M	M	U	U	U	U	M	M		Moderate
	SNPLH077		L	M	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH078		O	O	M	U	M	U	O	O		Outstanding
	SNPLH087		M	L	U	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH088		H	H	U	U	U	U	H	U		High
	SNPLH069		M	M	M	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH663		M	M	M	L	L	M	M	M		Moderate
	SNPLH090		H	H	U	U	U	U	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH645		O	H	M	H	M	M	O	M		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH655		L	L	M	L	M	L	M	H		Moderate
	GWNDDLH656		H	H	M	H	H	H	H	U		High
	GWNDDLH658		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH659		L	L	M	L	L	M	L	L		Low

Landscape Habitats	GWNDDLH661		L	L	M	L	L	M	L	L		Low
	SNPLH025		M	M	M	U	U	U	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH664		M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH665		H	H	L	M	M	M	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH672		L	L	M	L	L	L	M	L		Moderate
	GWNDDLH673		H	M	L	H	H	H	M	H		High
	GWNDDLH681		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	U		Moderate
	SNPLH010		L	L	L	U	U	U	L	U		Low
	GWNDDLH643		L	L	H	L	L	M	L	L		Low
	GWNDDLH660		H	H	L	M	M	M	H	H		High
Historic Landscapes	GWNDDHL438	Dolbadarn & Pentre Castell	O	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL005	Nantlle slate quarries	O	O		O						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL329	Ochr Bryn Bras	H	H		U						High
	GWNDDHL346	Gwyrfaï valley	H	O		H						High
	GWNDDHL378	Bro Silyn	M	H		M						High
	GWNDDHL390	Pen isa'r Nant	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL394	Talysarn	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL424	Lleuar	H	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL304	Blue peris	H	H		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL433	Gallt Celyn	H	H		U						High
	GWNDDHL296	Dinorwic slate quarries	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL462	Arfon plateau	O	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL483	Bryn Bras castle	H	O		U						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL484	Cefn-du & Garreg Lefain	M	H		U						High
	GWNDDHL503	Moel Tryfan enclosures	H	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL532	Ogwen valley	O	H		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL546	Afon Rhythallt	O	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL554	Rhiwlas	L	H		M						Moderate
	GWNDDHL427	Penrhyn Quarry	O	H		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL160	Lowland coastal area around Wig	H	M		M						High
	GWNDDHL008	Nant Peris	H	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL011	Floor of Nantlle valley	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL017	Bethesda & Llanllechid	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL023	Gwaen Gynfi enclosed area	H	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL026	Brynrefail	H	H		M						High
	GWNDDHL028	Smytho	O	H		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL111	Allt Ddu	O	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL309	Nantlle village	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL149	Cefn Du enclosures	O	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL596	Mynydd Llandygai	H	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL197	Telford's road (A5)	O	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL227	Padarn & Peris lakes	O	O		M						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL228	Fachwen woods	H	H		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL235	Y Fron	H	H		M						High
	GWNDDHL251	Glynrhonwy Quarry	O	H		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL284	Enclosed hillslopes below Moel Wnion	O	O		O						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL286	River valleys above Llanberis	O	H		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL122	Gwyrfaï valley slopes	H	M		H						High
	SNPHL080	Gwyrfaï Valley	H	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL957	Carmel	O	O		H						Outstanding
	SNPHL025	Southern Carneddau	H	H		H						High
	SNPHL031	Nantlle village	O	O		H						Outstanding
	SNPHL048	Nantlle slopes dual economy settlement	O	O		H						Outstanding
	SNPHL068	Llyn Nantlle Uchaf	O	O		H						Outstanding
	SNPHL074	Moel Hebog uplands	H	H		M						High
	SNPHL075	Mynydd Graig Goch	H	O		U						High
	GWNDDHL556	Penrhyndeudraeth	H	O		M						High
	SNPHL079	Moel Eilio Snowdon lower slopes	O	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL904	Cloddfa'r Coed	M	L		L						Low

Historic Landscapes	SNPHL089	slopes	H	H	M						High
	SNPHL090	Snowdon northern slopes	O	H	M						Outstanding
	SNPHL091	Afon Arddu	O	H	H						Outstanding
	SNPHL092	Cwm Aelhir	H	H	H						High
	SNPHL093	South east Llanberis	O	O	M						Outstanding
	SNPHL094	Nant Peris	O	O	U						Outstanding
	SNPHL097	Gwaun y Gwail Afon Ffrydlas Bronnydd	O	H	U						Outstanding
	SNPHL078	Mynydd Mawr	H	H	H						High
	GWNDHDL800	Sling	H	O	H						Outstanding
	SNPHL098	Aber slopes	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL600	Cilfechyd/Cyrnant	U	H	H						High
	GWNDHDL622	Dyffryn Nantlle lower slopes	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL628	uplands	M	M	H						High
	GWNDHDL653	Treflan	H	H	O						High
	GWNDHDL657	Nebo	H	O	M						High
	GWNDHDL675	Rhostryfan-Rhosgadfan	O	O	M						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL944	Graiglwyd	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL773	Gwyrfaï valley afforested areas	L	L	H						Low
	GWNDHDL915	Fieldscape around Llanllechid	O	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL806	Unenclosed mountain	O	H	M						High
	GWNDHDL848	Cwm y Glo	M	H	M						Moderate
	GWNDHDL851	Hillslopes below Moel y Ci/Rhiwen	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL881	Moel Tryfan - lower slopes	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL888	Llanllyfni	H	H	H						High
	GWNDHDL901	Fieldscape, Tan yr allt	H	H	M						High
	GWNDHDL902	Gwaun	O	O	H						Outstanding
	GWNDHDL573	Llanberis	H	H	H						High
	GWNDHDL757	Deiniolen & Clwt y Bont	O	O	M						Outstanding
Cultural Landscapes	GWNDHDL031	Dyffryn Nantlle	H	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL010	Bangor Mountain/Arfon plateau	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL013	Telford road-y lon bost	O	O	O	O	O	L	M	M	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL021	Ffestiniog/Welsh Highland Railway	M	O	O	O	O	M	H	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL024	Quarry settlement areas	M	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL025	Slate quarries	H	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL026	Penrhyn slate quarry	H	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL027	Dyffryn Ogwen	H	O	O	O	O	M	O	H	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL028	Bethesda	H	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL005	Penrhyn estate farms and park	H	H	H	H	O	O	O	H	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL030	Bryn Bras castle and gardens	H	H	H	H	H	L	M	M	High
	SNPCL014	Quarry settlement areas	M	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL032	Southern Arfon	M	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	High
	GWNDHDL057	Llanberis	O	O	O	O	O	M	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL058	A55	H	M	L	L	M	L	L	H	High
	SNPCL001	Carneddau and the uplands	O	O	O	O	O	H	H	H	Outstanding
	SNPCL007	Tryfan-Glyderau-Elidir	O	M	H	M	H	M	H	M	High
	SNPCL010	Hebog	H	M	H	M	H	H	H	M	High
	SNPCL011	Slate quarries	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	H	Outstanding
	SNPCL012	Bangor mountain-Arfon plateau	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	SNPCL013	Dyffryn Nantlle	H	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDHDL029	Unenclosed mountain	O	U	U	M	O	U	M	M	High

08: Foryd Bay

Location Map



Representative photographs



The Foryd Bay Special Landscape Area is located on the far south-western banks of the Menai Strait, west of Caernarfon.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>Foryd Bay is a distinctive shallow estuary, comprising mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds, with a shingle strandline forming its eastern margin. The estuary is inundated at high tide, with the sound and movement of water (and water users – both boats and birdlife) producing a landscape with a dynamic character. The Bay is a valued habitat for wintering wildfowl and waders, including the widgeon: it is a national stronghold for this species. Its position at the south-western entry to the Menai Strait provides a strong naturalistic setting to this distinctive waterway, and to the Anglesey AONB across the water. The Bay evokes a sense of calm and tranquillity with a strong unspoilt nature – particularly apparent given its close proximity to the town of Caernarfon to the east.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The southern banks of the Menai Strait have experienced a significant spread of modern development extending out from the main towns of Bangor and Caernarfon. The SLA represents one of the few locations where modern development is absent. However there has been some interest in tourism related development which could impact upon the setting of the nearby World Heritage Site in Caernarfon and Anglesey AONB. It is an important SLA which retains the naturalistic setting of the Menai Strait and the AONB across the water.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA comprises Foryd Bay, including the sand dunes/salt marshes which fringe the estuary to the west and east, adjacent to the Strait. It excludes land relating to the nearby Caernarfon Airport.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>Foryd Bay forms an essential part of the wider Menai Strait – a distinctive and well-loved feature of North Wales with a strong coastal feel. The area's function as a strategic and defensive site for guarding the entrance to the Strait is also key to its sense of place (recognised as 'High' in LANDMAP's Historic Landscapes aspect). The 18th century Fort Belan is a particularly valued historic feature within the SLA.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>Most of the SLA is evaluated as 'High' in LANDMAP's Visual and Sensory aspect, with the internationally important wetlands scoring 'Outstanding' in the Landscape Habitats aspect. The landscape is entirely free of modern intrusions with little public access, it is therefore judged to be in good condition throughout.</p>

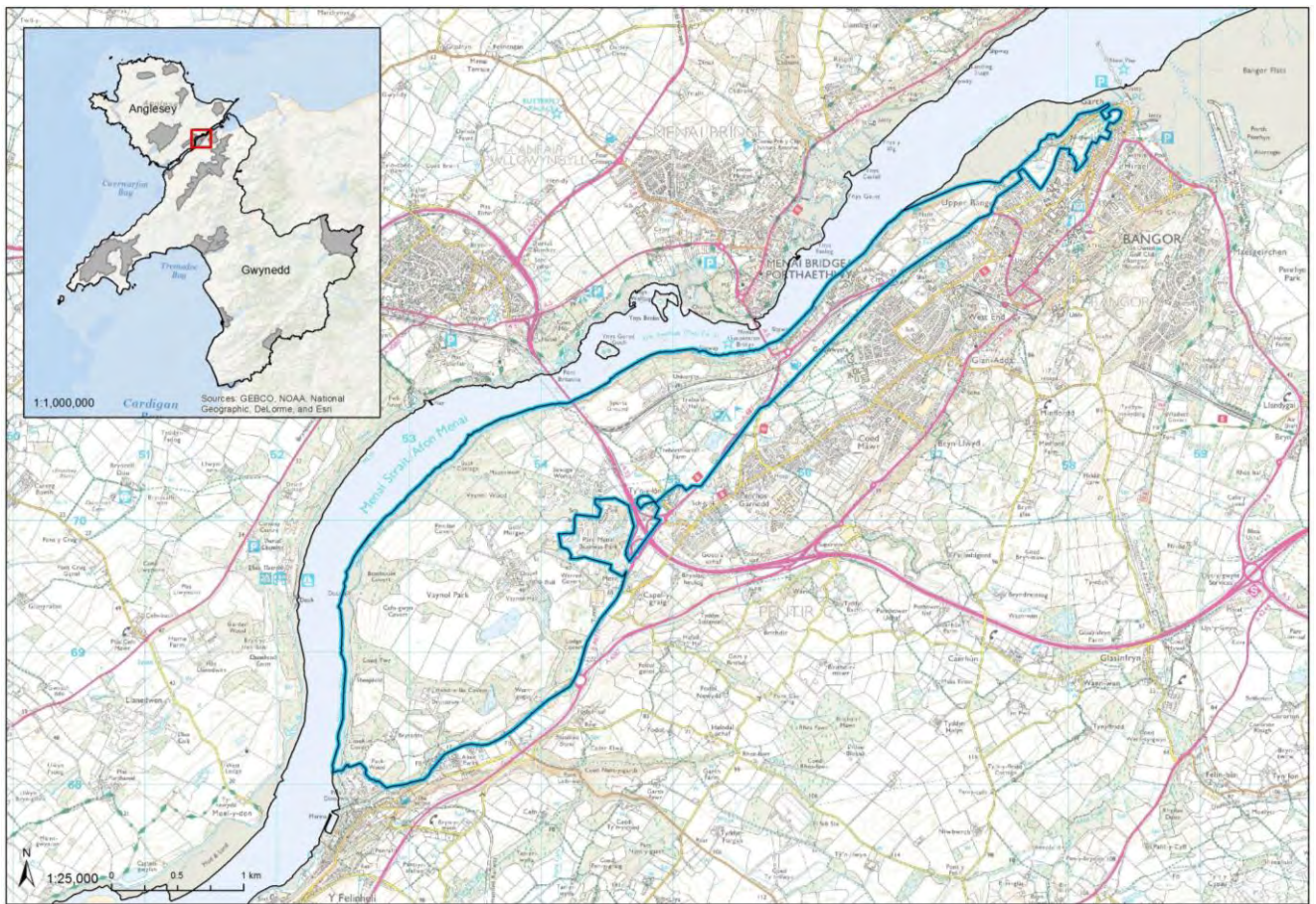
	Scenic quality	The flat and open character of the landscape allows wide-ranging views across the Menai Strait to the Anglesey AONB on the northern shore, as well as inland to the mountains of Snowdonia. The movement of water and the tides, with plentiful bird life, adds further visual and aural interest to the highly naturalistic and tranquil coastal landscape. This is broken only occasionally by the sound/sight of aircraft from the nearby airfield.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides a valued setting to the Anglesey AONB which lies on the opposite shore. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management Plan.
Special Qualities of the SLA		
<p>Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open and highly naturalistic character of the landscape; • Its function as a valued, undeveloped setting to the Menai Strait and Anglesey AONB; • The international importance of its coastal and wetland habitats – particularly for wintering wildfowl and waders (part of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, a SSSI and a LNR); • The historic and cultural significance of the landscape, including for defence and industrial development (including the 18th Century Fort Belan and the Cored Gwyrfa Fish Weir – a Scheduled Monument); • The open views inland towards Snowdonia National Park and significant views towards the Anglesey AONB on the opposite shore; • Its undeveloped and largely inaccessible character. 		
Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP		
<p><i>Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>The SLA falls largely within LCA 16: Menai Coast, with some of the eastern fringes within LCA 04: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).</p>		

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

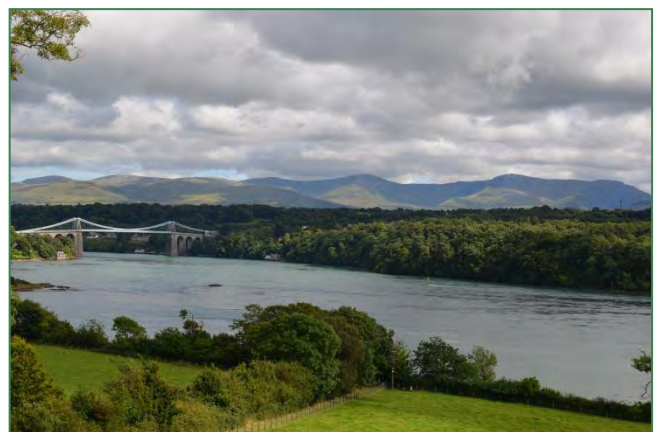
LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Foryd Bay			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	GWNDDGL148	Dinas Dinlle	H	H	O	O						Outstanding
	GWNDDGL109	Talybont	H	H	O	H						High
Landscape Habitats	GWNDDLH622		O	O	L	M	M	M	O	O		Outstanding
	GWNDDLH620		L	L	M	L	M	M	L	M		Moderate
	GWNDDLH598		M	M	H	M	U	M	M	H		Moderate
Visual & Sensory	GWNDDVS086	Mud/shingle	M	H	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS085	Beach & dunes	H	H	H	H						High
	GWNDDVS083	Sandy beaches	H	H	M	H						High
	GWNDDVS034	Morfa Dinlle	H	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS031	Pont Faen	M	M	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS030	Ffordd Bay	H	O	H	H						High
Historic Landscapes	GWNDDHL925	Fort Belan/Caernarfon airport	H	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL721	Foryd	H	M		H						Moderate
	GWNDDHL462	Arfon plateau	O	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL247	Traeth Dinlle	M	M		M						Moderate
Cultural Landscapes	GWNDDCL022	Dinas Dinlle	M	H	H	M	H	M	H	H	H	High
	GWNDDCL010	Bangor Mountain/Arfon plateau	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding

09: Menai

Location Map



Representative photographs (NB looking into the SLA from the Anglesey side of the Menai Strait)



This Special Landscape Area is located on the southern bank of the Menai Strait, covering the Faynol Estate and the wooded grounds surrounding part of the Bangor University campus. It extends eastwards to cover the countryside north of Upper Bangor.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This SLA comprises the Grade I Listed early 19th century Faynol Estate, with its ornamental woodland plantings, lake and pleasure grounds surrounding the main house and Old Hall (all Listed Buildings). The Estate is divided from the rest of the SLA to the east by the A55 route towards the Britannia Bridge. Beyond the A55 the wooded, estate character of the landscape continues – providing a scenic setting to the Menai Strait and sheltering from view the buildings of the Bangor University campus which nestle within the landscape. Valued sessile oak, ash and hazel woodlands cling to the rock slopes above the Strait, forming a linear band across the northern edge of the SLA. This is a highly scenic landscape with a sense of relative tranquillity given its close proximity to Bangor. Spectacular views across the Menai Strait to the Anglesey AONB, and southwards towards the mountains of Snowdonia National Park, further enhance the SLA's scenic setting.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The southern bank of the Menai Strait has experienced a significant spread of modern development extending out from the main towns of Bangor and Caernarfon. The SLA represents one of the few locations where modern development is (such as the Menai Business Park) is well integrated into its wooded landscape setting. The SLA enhances the naturalistic wooded setting of the Menai Strait and the significant views of the Anglesey AONB across the water.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA comprises a self-contained band of woodland/estate land and rocky shoreline that frames the southern edge of the Menai Strait. It is bounded to the south/east by the A487 and development (including Bangor), and ends at the northern entrance to the Strait, just before Bangor Pier.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>This SLA is a gentle landscape of rolling parkland, pastoral farmland, semi-natural/ornamental woodland and rocky foreshore forming a scenic edge to the Menai Strait. The Faynol Estate is a nationally registered Grade I parkland, including a well-preserved walled and terraced Elizabethan garden and the Grade I listed Old Hall. The wooded character of the landscape continues for much of the SLA's length, including nationally important sessile oak woodlands fringing the shore. The outstanding setting of the SLA – on the banks of the Menai Strait with views to the Anglesey AONB in one direction and Snowdonia National Park in the other – contributes greatly to its strong sense of place.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>Most of the SLA is evaluated as 'High' in LANDMAP's Visual and Sensory aspect owing to the attractive parkland of the Faynol Estate and the landscape's scenic setting and backdrop. However, this is impacted upon by the nearby Parc Menai Business Park, buildings relating to the</p>

		university, recreational land uses (including a golf course and caravan site) and noise/visual intrusions from the nearby main roads and the Britannia Bridge.
	Scenic quality	The wide-ranging views across the Menai Strait to the Anglesey AONB on the northern shore, as well as inland to the mountains of Snowdonia produce a landscape of high scenic quality. This is emphasised by the presence of mature woodlands (ornamental and semi-natural), the coastal influence of the Strait and the area's historic parkland . It is a strongly cultural and naturalistic landscape with a sense of relative peace and tranquillity. As above, this is eroded in the centre and inner edges of the SLA owing to the close proximity of modern development and busy roads.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides a valued historic and naturalistic setting to the Anglesey AONB which lies on the opposite shore. Intervisibility with Snowdonia National Park and the coastline towards Conwy is also an important feature of the landscape. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscapes and give due consideration to their Statutory Management Plans.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

- The strong cultural and historic character of the landscape, particularly the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of the Faynol Estate (which lies within the wider Dinorwig Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest);
- **The presence of nationally important historic buildings and monuments within the estate's** ornamental parkland setting;
- The **landscape's function as a valued setting to the adjacent Menai Strait and Anglesey AONB;**
- The national importance of its sessile oak, hazel and ash woodlands on the rocky slopes above the Menai Strait shoreline (within the Coedydd Afon Menai SSSI) and the proximity of internationally important intertidal habitats within the Menai Straits and Conwy Bay SAC.
- Its intervisibility with Snowdonia National Park to the south, the Anglesey AONB and the Conwy coastline;
- Its high levels of relative tranquillity and large areas free from modern development.

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

[*Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment*](#)

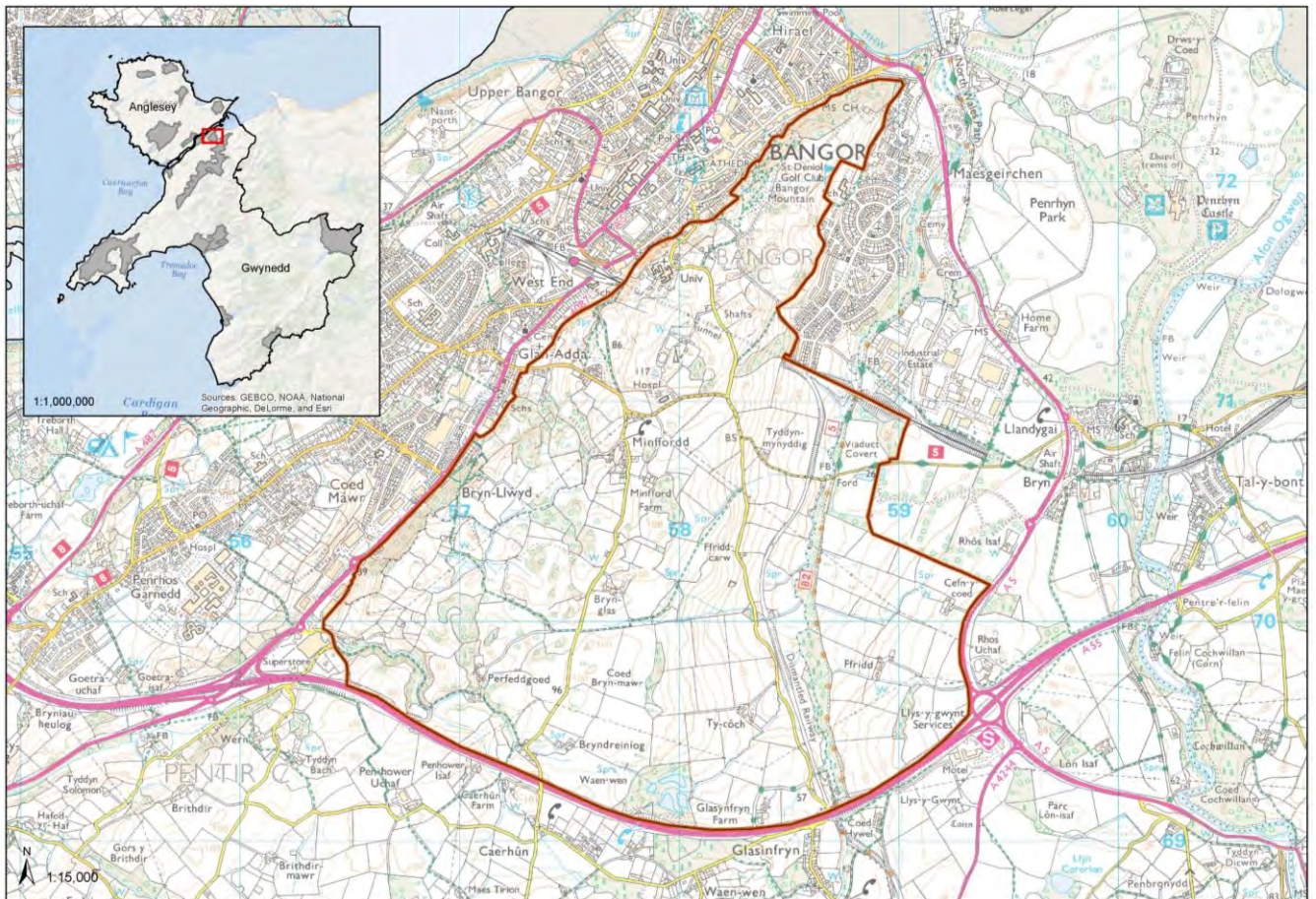
The majority of the SLA falls within LCA 16: Menai Coast, with some inland edges within LCA 01: Bangor Coastal Plain (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Menai											
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscape	111	Vaynol Park	H	H	H	M					High
	110	Bangor	M	M	M	L					Moderate
Landscape Habitats	948	East of Bangor	M	H	M	H	M	M	H	M	High
	670		L	L	M	L	L	M	L	M	Low
	669		H	O	L	M	L	H	H	H	High
	667		H	H	M	U	L	H	H	H	High
	666		M	L	L	L	L	M	M	U	Moderate
	651		L	L	M	L	L	M	L	M	Low
Visual & Sensory	086	Mud/shingle	M	H	M	M					Moderate
	025	Felinheli	M	L	M	M					Moderate
	006	Clynnog and	M	L	M	M					Moderate
	005	Vaynol Estate	H	M	H	H					High
	002	Bangor	M	M	M	M					Moderate
	001	Traeth Lafen	H	H	H	O					High
Historic Landscapes	SNPHL240	Roads	O	O		H					Outstanding
	762	Dinorwic)	O	O		H					Outstanding
	750	Vaynol	O	O		O					Outstanding
	024	plateau	H	H		H					High
Cultural Landscapes	058	A55	H	M	L	L	M	L	L	H	M High
	016	y Felinheli	H	O	O	H	O	H	H	H	O Outstanding
	015	y Faenol	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O Outstanding
	014	route	O	M	H	L	M	L	L	M	O Outstanding
	012	Treborth	H	H	H	M	M	M	H	H	H High
	011	Arfon plain	O	O	O	M	O	H	H	O	O Outstanding
	009	Parc Menai	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	Moderate
	008	Principal roads	H	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H High
	004	Chester to	H	O	O	O	O	M	H	H	O Outstanding
	002	(University)	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O Outstanding
	001	Bangor (Central)	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O Outstanding

10: Bangor Mountain

Location Map



Representative photographs (© John Briggs)



This Special Landscape Area covers Bangor Mountain and the undulating farmland around Minffordd to the south. It is bounded to the west and north by the city of Bangor, the south by the A55 and the east by an industrial estate and the A5.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This SLA consists of Bangor Mountain – the scarp face of a hill which rises up, mountain like, behind the city of Bangor. The SLA extends southwards to end at the main A5 road corridor, covering undulating pastoral farmland, patches of woodland and rough grassland on the slopes of the hill. The 'mountain' is a distinctive landform that forms an imposing feature in the townscape– particularly when viewed from the Glan Adda, High Street and Hiracl areas of the city. Rocky outcrops on the mountain afford panoramic views across the city centre (including the cathedral and university), the Menai Strait and Anglesey AONB, as well as south to the mountains of Snowdonia. The rough, naturalistic habitats and rock outcrops on the mountain provide a strong contrast to the surrounding built form of the city and nearby industrial development. Visual connections with the wooded edges of the Menai Strait and the nearby ornamental estates at Penrhyn and Vaynol provide unity to the wider landscape and enhance the setting of Bangor. The SLA is a valued open space for local residents, with the northern half taken up by St Deiniol's Golf Course.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	The distinctive landform feature of Bangor Mountain and its undeveloped, naturalistic character forms an attractive setting to the city and softens the transition from built development to open countryside. The location of the SLA undoubtedly means it is under pressure for development extending out from the city centre. Its popularity for recreation is a further pressure that could be managed sensitively through SLA designation.
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	This SLA covers Bangor Mountain and the undulating farmland around Minffordd to the south. It is bounded to the west and north by the city of Bangor, the south by the A55 and the east by an industrial estate and the A5.
Landscape(must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Bangor Mountain is a well-recognised and valued landform feature that contributes greatly to the setting and sense of place of the city. It has a diverse ecology with a variety of mixed woods, open grassland and extensive areas of gorse. These habitats evoke an 'upland' feel to the landscape , providing a sensory connection to the nearby mountains of Snowdonia and setting the landscape apart from the city. The eastern half of the SLA falls within a wider area that is valued culturally and historically for its role in the development of the famous slate industry (part of the Ogwen Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest). This includes a dismantled railway which runs through the landscape.
	Landscape quality	Despite its close proximity to Bangor, the SLA has remained largely intact, with its mosaic of habitats providing a wildlife refuge and tranquil haven for residents escaping the city. Although well integrated into its landscape setting, the crest of the mountain is taken up by the St Deiniol's Golf Course. Its popularity for recreation can impact

		on the the quality of the landscape.
	Scenic quality	The panoramic views across Bangor, the Menai Strait and beyond to the Anglesey AONB enhance the scenic qualities of the SLA. Views southwards to the National Park provide a visual connection between the hill and the higher mountains beyond.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	Although not providing an immediate setting, Bangor Mountain forms an important backdrop in views from Anglesey AONB, and a visual 'stepping stone' between the AONB and Snowdonia National Park. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscapes and give due consideration to their Statutory Management Plans.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

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

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment

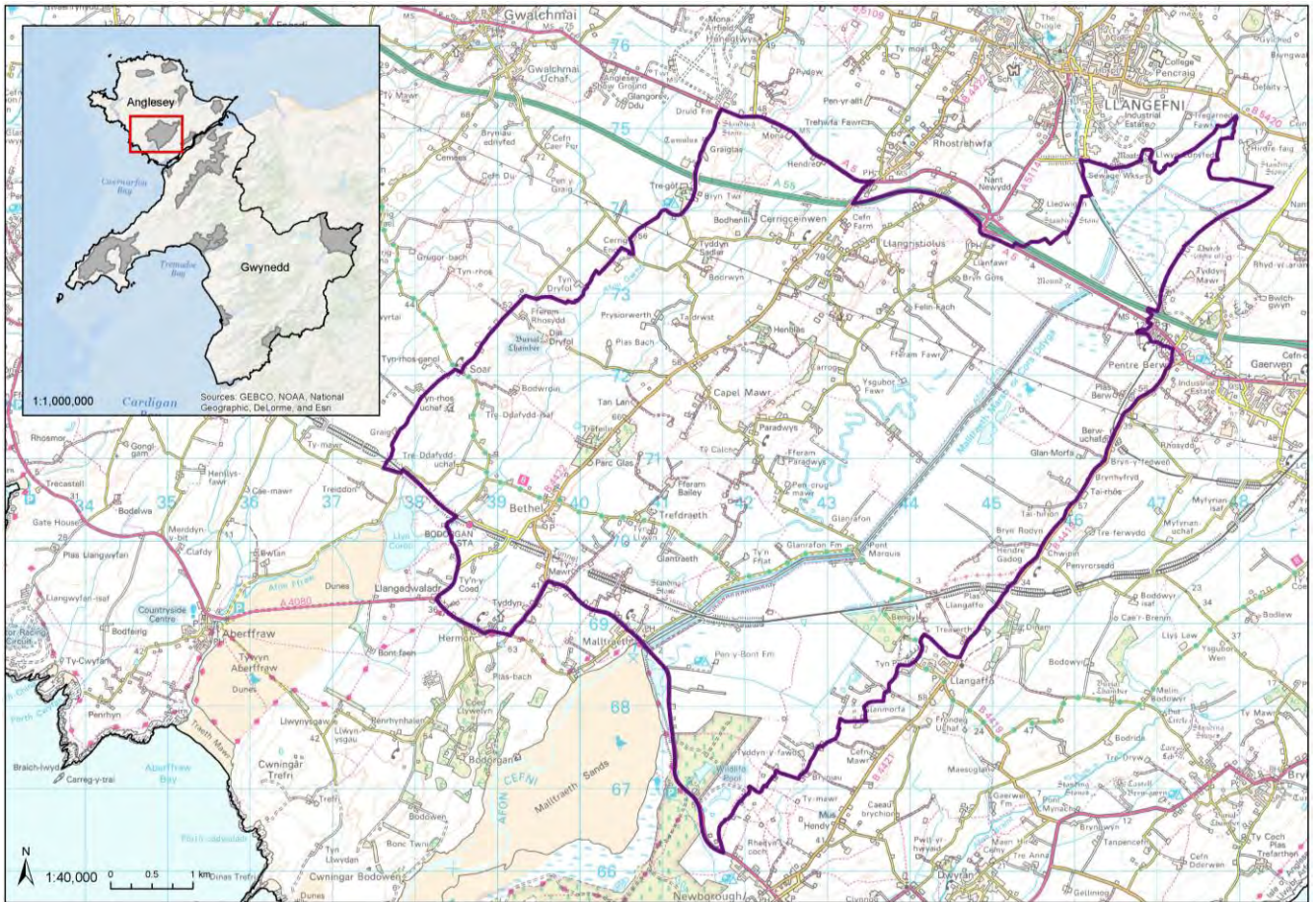
The SLA falls entirely within LCA 01: Bangor Coastal Plain (Gwynedd Landscape Guide, 2005 – updated 2012).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

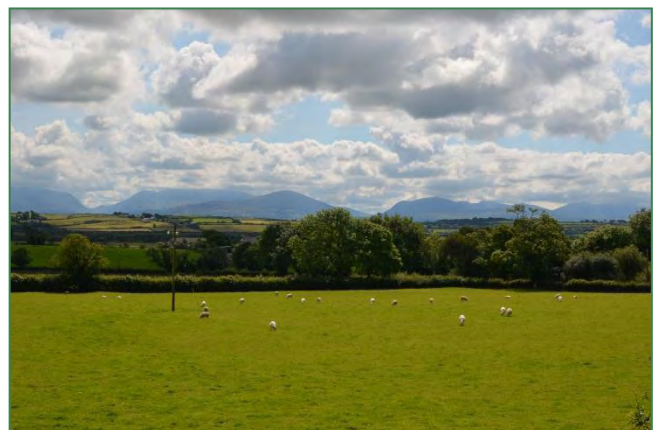
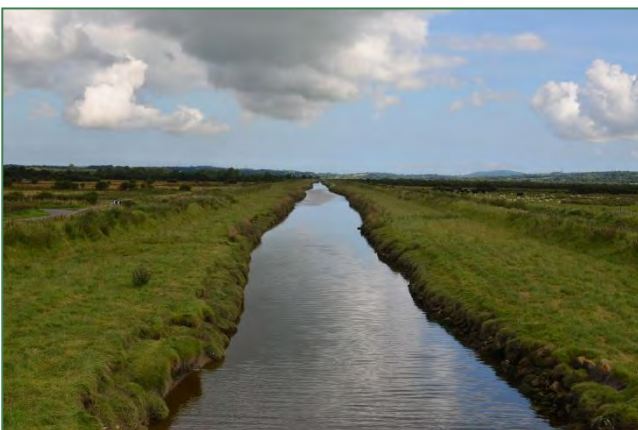
LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Bangor Mountain			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Aspect area	UID	Area name										
Geological Landscapes	GWNDDGL110	Bangor	M	M	M	L						Moderate
	GWNDDGL109	Talybont	H	H	O	H						High
Landscape Habitats	GWNDDLH948	East of Bangor	M	H	M	H	M	M	H	M		High
	GWNDDLH683		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH670		L	L	M	L	L	M	L	M		Low
	GWNDDLH666		M	L	L	L	L	M	M	U		Moderate
	GWNDDLH665		H	H	L	M	M	M	H	H		High
	GWNDDLH664		M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M		Moderate
Visual & Sensory	GWNDDVS006	Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)	M	L	M	M						Moderate
	GWNDDVS002	Bangor	M	M	M	M						Moderate
Historic Landscape	SNPHL240	Roads	O	O		H						Outstanding
	GWNDDHL975	Cegin valley	H	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL610	Bangor mountain	M	M		U						Moderate
	GWNDDHL507	Glasfryn	H	H		U						High
	GWNDDHL024	Northern Arfon plateau	H	H		H						High
	GWNDDHL005	Nantlle slate quarries	O	O		O						Outstanding
Cultural Landscape	GWNDDCL058	A55	H	M	L	L	M	L	L	H	M	High
	GWNDDCL011	Arfon plain	O	O	O	M	O	H	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL010	Bangor Mountain/Arfon plateau	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL004	Railway - Chester to Holyhead	H	O	O	O	O	M	H	H	O	Outstanding
	GWNDDCL001	Bangor (Central)	O	O	O	O	O	O	H	O	O	Outstanding

11: Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds

Location Map



Representative photographs



This Special Landscape Area covers the flat reclaimed marshland of Malltraeth Marsh and the higher ground rising up to the west and east.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This SLA comprises the flat, open expanse of Malltraeth Marsh surrounded by rising ground and ridgelines. This large grazing marsh was reclaimed from estuarine marshes in the 18th century, following the construction of the Malltraeth Cob and the canalisation of the Afon Cefni. Today the marsh comprises regular fields of grazed pasture divided by drainage ditches, with areas of reed bed, wet pasture and small ponds/ lakes forming valued wetland habitats (all of the marsh is SSSI and part is managed as an RSPB reserve). The open, treeless character of the marsh enables strong visual connections to be made with the surrounding landscapes, including the adjacent Anglesey AONB and the distant mountains of Snowdonia. The marsh is surrounded by rising land crowned by craggy ridgelines with frequent rock outcrops. This is an intricate and complex landscape with a variety of textures – contrasting greatly with the simple, uniform character of the Marsh. There is strong intervisibility between the two different landscapes; combining to create a unique and highly rural sense of place.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>This is a sparsely settled, highly rural landscape with a distinctive sense of place and strong sense of naturalness. It is on the doorstep of the town of Llangefni, with industrial development on the fringes of the settlement encroaching into the edges of the marsh. Other development pressures include major infrastructure proposals. The SLA is dissected by the A5 and A55 road corridors and the main Bangor-Holyhead railway line.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>This SLA covers the whole of Malltraeth Marsh and extends westwards to cover the higher ground overlooking the marsh with its distinctive craggy rock formations. It is bounded to the east by the ridgeline route of the B4419.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>Malltraeth Marsh is both culturally and environmentally significant, being one of the great water-control system landscapes of West Wales (along with Traeth Mawr in Gwynedd) and of national importance for its wetland habitats. The surrounding undulating ridgelines are a contrasting landscape of varying textures, colours and scale, with rock outcrops, patches of gorse, marsh and woodland interspersed between pastoral fields divided by thick hedges. The close visual connection between the marsh and its surrounding landscapes – with views to the Anglesey AONB and a backdrop of the mountains of Snowdonia, create a unique and varied sense of place.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>This is generally an intact and well-managed landscape with a variety of features providing interest across the landscape. 20th century damage to the marshes through drainage schemes and high stocking levels are being addressed, including through the restoration of wetland habitats for breeding wetland birds and wintering wildfowl. Woodland plantation blocks</p>

		introduce incongruous features into the open landscape in some locations, as do the road and rail corridors.
	Scenic quality	The marsh itself is a relatively simple landscape, however, the views to the surrounding landscapes – including the Anglesey AONB and mountains of Snowdonia – enhance its scenic qualities. The intricate rolling ridgelines surrounding the marsh, with their mosaic of habitats and craggy landform affording long views, adds variety and interest to the landscape. The northern fringes of the SLA are affected by the close proximity of the main A5 and A55 road corridors and development on the fringes of Llangefni. The main rail corridor cuts across the Marsh – a significant visual and noise intrusion.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides part of the setting to the adjacent Anglesey AONB. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management Plan.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

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

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment

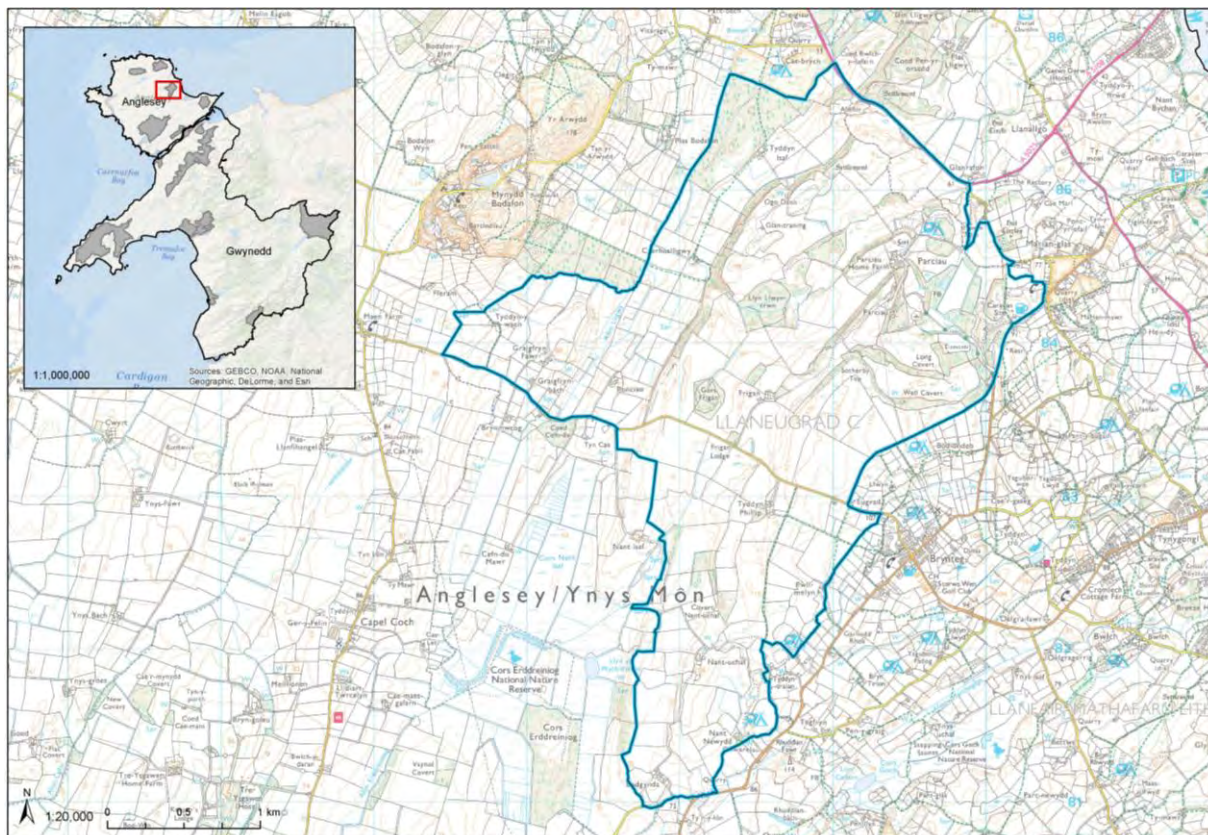
The SLA falls within LCAs 15: Afon Cefni; 12: East Central Anglesey; and 17: West Central Anglesey. A small portion of the SLA lies within LCA 14: Newborough (Anglesey Landscape Strategy, updated 2011).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds												
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscapes	2	Cerrigceinwen	H	M	M	M						High
	1	Soar	M	L	M	L						Moderate
	7	Hirde-Faig	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	6	Pentre Berw	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	5	Maltraeth	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	1	Newborough Forest	L	M	L	M						Low
	6	Gaerwen-Newborough	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	5	Nant-gwag	L	L	M	L						Moderate
	4	Maltraeth Marsh	M	H	H	M						High
	3	Afon Ceint	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	0	Benllech	H	H	H	M						High
	0	Llanerchymedd	H	H	H	H						High
Landscape Habitats	9	Llangefni	L	L	M	U	M	L	L	M		Low
	4	Newborough Forest	H	O	M	U	U	H	H	O		Outstanding
	8	Coedydd Ystad Bodorgan	U	M	U	U	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	9	Malltraeth Marsh (imp. grass)	H	H	M	U	H	H	H	H		High
	0	Farmland S.E. of Malltraeth Marsh	L	L	M	U	M	M	L	M		Moderate
	9	Malltraeth (RSPB)	H	H	O	H	M	H	O	H		Outstanding
	7	Farmland - central Anglesey	L	M	M	U	M	U	L	M		Moderate
	5	Farmland N.E. of Bryn Du	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	M		Low
	1	Malltraeth Marsh (Semi-imp. grass)	H	H	M	U	H	H	H	H		High
	5	Farmland N.W. of Menai Bridge	L	L	M	U	M	U	M	M		Moderate
	7	Aberffraw Dunes to Rhosneigr	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	M		Low
	8	Tywyn Aberffraw to Malltraeth Sands	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	L		Low
	7	Farmland N.W. of Malltraeth Marsh	L	M	M	U	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	0	Cors Tregarnedd Fawr	M	M	M	U	H	L	M	M		Moderate
	2	Cors Hendre Fawr	M	M	M	U	M	L	M	U		Moderate
	4	line	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	M		Low
	Visual & Sensory	4	South West Coastal Fringe	H	H	H	H					
1		A55 corridor	L	L	M	L						Low
8		Gaerwen	L	L	L	M						Low
9		Llangefni	M	M	M	M						Moderate
0		Malltraeth Sands	O	O	O	H						Outstanding
8		Malltraeth Marsh	L	H	H	H						Moderate
7		Malltraeth Marsh south slopes	M	H	M	M						Moderate
2		Pentraeth valleys	M	H	M	L						Moderate
9		Newborough Forest	M	H	M	H						Moderate
8		South-west ridges	M	H	M	L						Moderate
3		Central/south-west craggy belt	M	H	M	M						Moderate
2		Central smooth belt	M	H	L	L						Moderate
Historic Landscapes	0	Lledwigan	H	H		H						High
	9	Inland southern Anglesey	O	O		H						Outstanding
	3	Aberffraw area	O	H		O						Outstanding
	2	Bodorgan Estate	O	O		M						High
	8	Malltraeth Marsh	O	H		H						Outstanding
	6	Fieldscape, central eastern Mon	O	O		H						Outstanding
	5	Llangefni	H	M		H						High
	6	A5 corridor and associated villages	O	O		H						Outstanding
	5	Fieldscape south of Malltraeth	M	H		M						Moderate
	3	Fieldscape north of Newborough	O	H		H						High
Cultural Landscapes	4	South west coast	U	H	O	U	H	O	U	H	H	Outstanding
	3	Central Anglesey	U	H	H	U	H	H	H	H	H	High
	1	Sustrans Cycle Route	O	M	H	L	M	L	L	M	O	High
	5	Llangefni - Oriel Ynys Mon	M	M	L	M	M	M	H	M	H	High
	3	Newborough forest, Llanddwyn	U	H	H	U	O	H	U	O	M	Outstanding
	2	Transport corridor area	H	M	H	U	H	H	H	M	M	High
	9	Railway - Chester to Holyhead	H	O	O	O	O	M	H	H	O	Outstanding
	8	A55 road	H	M	L	L	M	L	L	H	M	High
	7	A5 Road Villages	H	M	M	U	H	H	M	M	M	High
	6	A5 Road	O	O	O	O	O	O	L	M	M	Outstanding

12: Parciau Estatelands

Location Map



Representative photograph (© John Briggs)



The Parciau Estatelands Special Landscape Area is located in east Anglesey, inland from the coastal settlement of Moelfre and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundary.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>The Parciau Estatelands SLA is a landscape with a strong parkland/managed estate feel, with swathes of mixed and ornamental woodlands, pastoral farmland and patches of gorse providing a varied texture. The landscape includes valued remnant heathland and wetlands (marshy grassland and fen); providing important ecological connections to the nearby Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve. The strong historic and cultural evolution of the landscape is evident in a number of valued archaeological sites and features. Evidence for late prehistoric and Roman occupation includes Parciau hillfort, sometimes known as Bryn Ddol, inside of which stone hut circles have been discovered. Chapels of medieval origin, the remains of a medieval settlement and buildings/features relating to the Parciau Estate (including a large domestic house and associated parkland, dovecotes, chapels and estate buildings) further strengthen the SLA's historic character. This peaceful, rural SLA lies immediately adjacent to the Anglesey AONB.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	The SLA abuts the Anglesey AONB and is located close to a popular section of coastline including the resort of Moelfre. Tourism-related development is therefore the greatest pressure, with prominent caravan parks already located along the eastern fringes of the SLA.
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	This SLA covers estate land relating to Parciau, tracing the Historic Landscapes LANDMAP aspect area ('Outstanding'). It is bounded to the north by the A4025 and Anglesey AONB, and extends westwards to nestle up to the AONB boundary.
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	The strong historic and estate managed character of this landscape results in a strong sense of place which sets the SLA apart from its surroundings.
	Landscape quality	This is an intact landscape with characteristic features appropriately managed to protect and enhance its strong historic sense of place. It includes nationally important archaeological sites and features (including the Scheduled prehistoric hut groups at Caerhoslligwy, Roman hillfort at Parciau and a post-medieval dovecot). SSSI designated heathland, mire and fen provide contrasting naturalistic land cover to the SLA-forming valued ecological and visual links with the adjacent Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve.
	Scenic quality	This is a strongly rural landscape with a range of natural and cultural features providing visual interest and variety into the landscape. The close proximity of the main A4025 coastal road and the location of caravan sites within the landscape are the only modern detractors. Its location adjacent to the Anglesey AONB further enhances the peaceful, scenic qualities of the SLA. The mountains of Snowdonia form a distant horizon in views south from the landscape.
Setting of protected landscapes (where relevant)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides part of the setting to the adjacent Anglesey AONB. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected

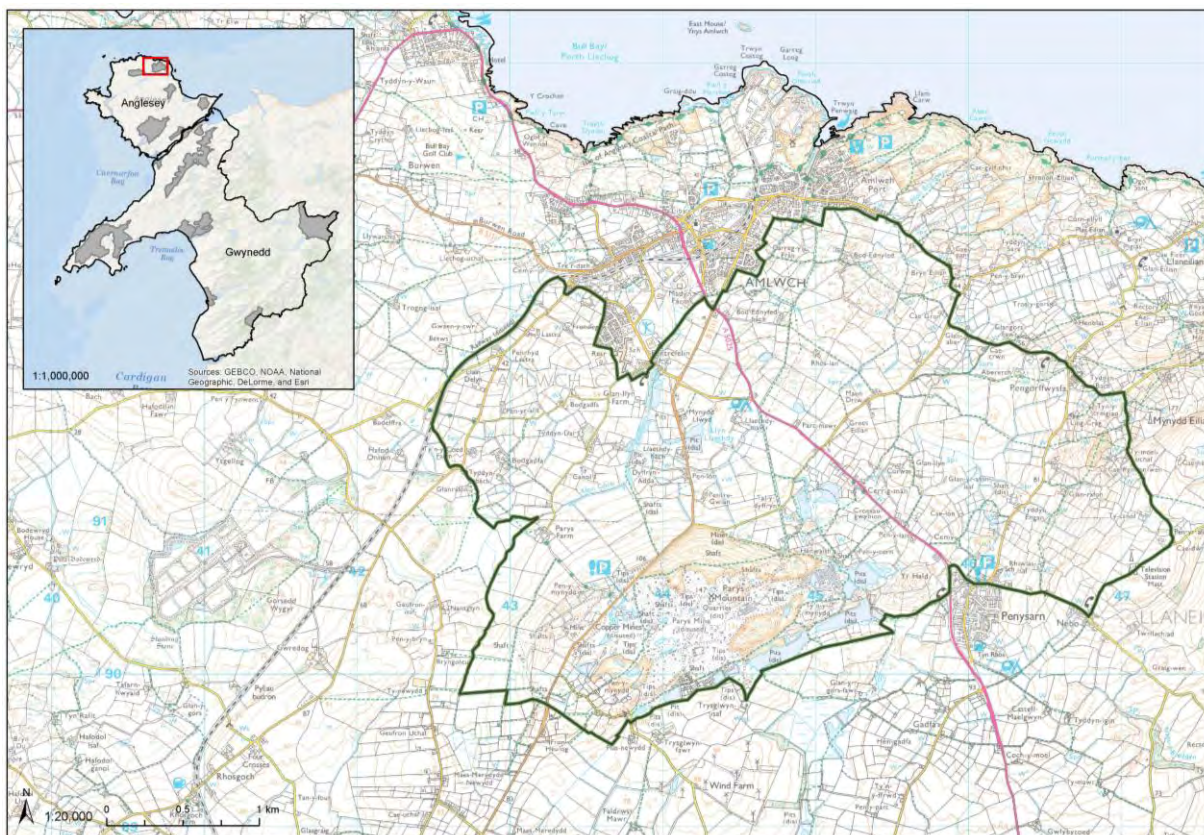
		landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management Plan.
Special Qualities of the SLA		
<p>Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong estate/parkland feel of the landscape with valued historic features and archaeological sites (Scheduled Monuments covering the prehistoric hut groups at Caerhoslligwy, Parciau Roman hillfort and a dovecot at Parciau); • Nationally important semi-natural habitats at Tyddyn Y Waen SSSI (fen meadow, flushes, willow) and Penrhos Lligwy SSSI (lowland heath, mire and flushes). These provide valued connections to the adjacent Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve/Ramsar site/SAC – the largest of Anglesey's fens; • The landscape's function as a setting to the Anglesey AONB; • Significant views from higher ground to the adjacent AONB and Snowdonia on the distant southern horizon; • The peaceful and strongly rural character of the landscape, with a general lack of modern development. 		
Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP		
<p><i>Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>The SLA falls mainly within LCAs 8: Dulas Bay Hinterland and 17: West Central Anglesey. Parts of the eastern fringes fall within LCA 9: Red Wharf Bay (Anglesey Landscape Strategy, updated 2011).</p>		

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Parciau Estatelands												
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscape	5	Tyddyn	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	0	Benllech	H	H	H	M						High
	9	Cors Erddeiniog	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	0	Llanerchymedd	H	H	H	H						High
Landscape Habitats	2	Woodland N. of Brynteg	U	M	U	U	M	H	H	H		High
	5	Farmland S.W. of Benllech	M	M	M	U	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	1	Farmland W. of Moelfre	L	L	M	U	U	M	L	H		Moderate
	7	Anglesey	L	M	M	U	M	U	L	M		Moderate
	0	Cors Erddreiniog	O	H	L	U	H	M	O	O		Outstanding
Visual & Sensory	4	Benllech hinterland	H	M	M	M						Moderate
	2	Central smooth belt	M	H	L	L						Moderate
Historic Landscapes	5	Brynrefail	M	H		U						Moderate
	3	Fieldscape, eastern Mon	H	H		U						High
	2	Parciau/Lligwy	O	O		H						Outstanding
	1	Cors Erddreiniog	U	L		H						Moderate
	9	Capel Coch	H	H		U						High
Cultural Landscapes	3	Central Anglesey	U	H	H	U	H	H	H	H	H	High
	6	North east coast	H	H	O	U	O	H	H	H	H	Outstanding

13: Parys Mountain

Location Map



Representative photographs



The Parys Mountain Special Landscape Area encompasses Parys Mountain and its surrounding transitional sloping landscape to the north. It is located in the north-east of the Isle of Anglesey, rising up from the settlement of Amlwch and the Anglesey AONB.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>The south of the SLA is formed by the core of Parys Mountain, a unique, prominent ridge which rises to some 150 metres AOD and forms a visually dominant feature which is set within gradually sloping and undulating farmland landscape. A former copper mine (at its time the largest in Britain), has left in a unusual landscape of colourful outcrops in striking shades of red, orange and brown, as a result of weathered ore deposits. The landscape reflects its rich industrial legacy, and relic features include derelict pit headgear, settling ponds, tips and quarry faces (designated as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest). Some parts of this area are also designated as a SSSI, with rare mineral bearing spoil-tips, mineral veins and rock exposures attracting unusual plants and lichens. Heathlands and wetlands provide important refuges for wildlife and contribute to the varied textures and colours of the landscape. The more gentle slopes surrounding Parys Mountain include undulating open farmland, descending towards the AONB-designated north coast. The SLA has a strong intervisibility with the sea and coastline.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA forms a prominent landmark feature in northern Anglesey, with strong functional and visual links to the adjacent AONB. Its location on the fringes of Amlwch and close to a popular section of coastline for tourism, leads to pressure for development along the SLA's northern edges. In addition, the open elevated nature of the landscape means that demand for wind energy development is a key issue, which threatens the setting of the historic landscape. The operational Trysglwyn Wind Farm is already located immediately to the south east of the SLA.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>The SLA comprises the unique and prominent Parys Mountain ridge, and the undulating transitional landscape which surrounds this feature to the north and west. Although the landscape of the surrounding sloping farmland and Parys Mountain differ in character, they do have a strong visual connection with the sea and the coast, and together form a valuable setting to the Anglesey AONB (and its seascape). The south, east and western boundaries are defined by a combination of the Historic and Cultural LANDMAP units.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>A large part of the SLA falls within the Amlwch and Parys Mountain Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, reflecting its rich industrial legacy (also evaluated as 'High' in the Historic Landscapes and 'Outstanding' or 'High' in the Cultural Landscapes LANDMAP aspects). The opencast 18th- to 19th- century copper mine and waste tips, with an extensive associated processing features and structures, results in a visually distinctive landscape ('Outstanding' in the Visual & Sensory aspect) with colourful outcrops in striking shades of red, orange, yellow and brown. The unique geology and industrial workings of the mountain have given rise to special environmental conditions, with nationally rare lichens, heathland and wetlands further</p>

		emphasising its distinctive sense of place.
	Landscape quality	Although this is essentially a man-made landscape, its unique cultural, historic and environmental characteristics combine to produce a high quality and distinctive landscape. Some modern intrusions such as the A5025, views to adjacent wind farms and close proximity to the settlement of Amlwch affect these special qualities.
	Scenic quality	The landscape forms a visually prominent and unique landmark along the north coast of Anglesey, and a strong backdrop to the seascape and landscape of the AONB. Expansive views are achievable from its elevated form, both out to sea and across the island . The area's distinctiveness and high scenic qualities have led to it being a popular place visited by travellers and artists and in more recent times it has provided a backdrop for films and science fiction programmes. Views to modern development, including successive wind turbines, can detract from its strong sense of timelessness.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA forms part of an important setting to the landscape and seascape of the Anglesey AONB. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management Plan.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

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

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

[Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment](#)

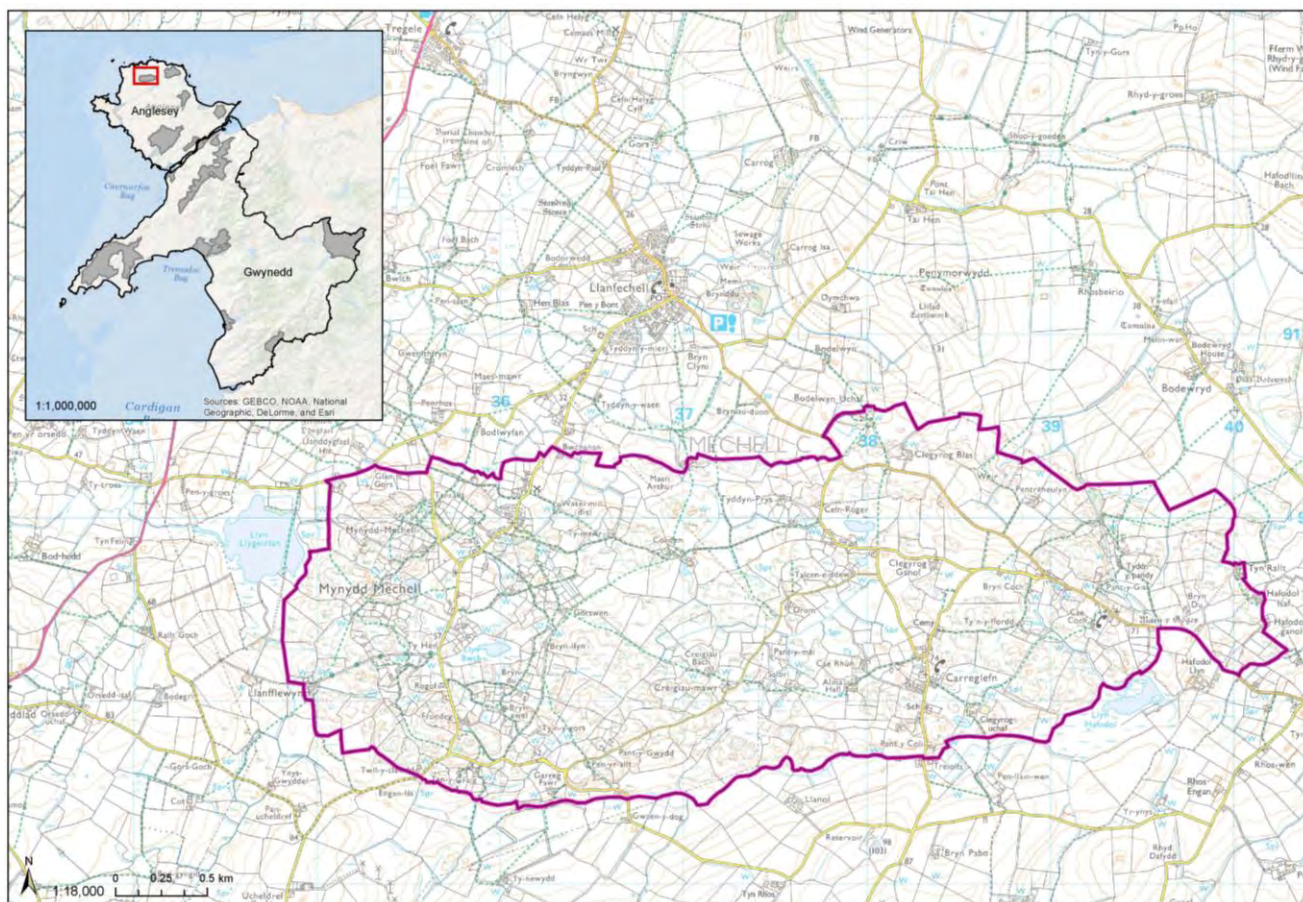
The SLA is covered by LCA 7: Parys Mountain and part of LCA 6: Amlwch and Environs, in the Anglesey Landscape Strategy (updated 2011).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Parys Mountain & Slopes												
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscapes	0	Llanerchymedd	H	H	H	H						High
	5	Amlwch	L	L	L	L						Moderate
	4	Llaneilian-Bodgadfa	L	L	M	M						Moderate
	3	Mynydd Eilean	L	L	M	L						Moderate
	2	Llanfechel	H	M	H	H						High
	1	Parys Mountain	O	O	O	O						Outstanding
Landscape Habitats	0	Mynydd Eilian	M	M	L	U	M	L	H	U		Moderate
	3	Farmland in N.W. Anglesey	M	M	M	U	M	M	M	M		Moderate
	6	Glan-y-Gors-Fawr	H	H	L	U	H	L	H	M		Moderate
	3	Farmland E. of Llyn Alaw	L	L	M	U	U	U	L	M		Low
	8	Pen-Y-Sarn	L	L	M	U	U	L	L	L		Low
	8	Amlwch	L	L	M	U	U	L	L	M		Low
	1	Farmland - N. Anglesey	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	M		Low
	0	perimeter)	H	M	L	U	H	L	H	M		High
	9	Mynydd Parys (Spoil)	U	O	L	U	U	L	H	O		High
Visual & Sensory	7	Parys Mountain	O	L	O	O						Outstanding
	0	Amlwch	L	L	H	M						Low
	1	North coast hinterland	H	M	H	M						High
	0	Drumlins with windfarms	L	L	H	H						Moderate
	3	Mynydd Eilan	H	M	M	H						Moderate
Historic Landscapes	4	Rhosybol	O	H		O						High
	1	Penrhyd Lastra	M	H		M						Moderate
	0	Amlwch/Parys Mountain	O	O		O						Outstanding
	8	Llaneilian / Pengorffwysfa	H	H		H						High
	7	Fieldscape, Rhos y Mynach	H	M		M						Moderate
	6	Fieldscape, central eastern Mon	O	O		H						Outstanding
Cultural Landscapes	3	Central Anglesey	U	H	H	U	H	H	H	H	H	High
	6	North east coast	H	H	O	U	O	H	H	H	H	Outstanding
	8	Porth Amlwch, Amlwch, Parys mines	H	O	O	H	O	O	M	H	M	Outstanding

14: Mynydd Mechell

Location Map



Representative photographs



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 area is located in north-central Anglesey, to the south of Llanfechell.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>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.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	The strong, largely unspoilt character of this landscape has high cultural, historical and visual significance. The landscape to the south of the SLA already includes a series of wind turbine developments. This is a major force for change within the wider landscape.
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	The SLA comprises a highly distinctive landscape of small-scale hummocky and craggy hill terrain, which has an attractive and unusual wild character which stands out from the surrounding more uniform plateau of the isle. Its boundary traces that of the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect (overall evaluation: High).
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	The SLA comprises an unusual craggy, upland character, despite its relatively low elevation. The landscape has a strong cultural and historic significance, with the entire SLA scoring 'High' in LANDMAP's Cultural Landscapes aspect, and predominantly 'High' (with some 'Outstanding') in the Historic Landscapes aspect. It stands out from its surroundings as a unique, varied landscape with a strong sense of place.
	Landscape quality	The SLA is an intact landscape with a balanced and coherent character. It includes a mosaic of bare rock outcrops, gorse and heathland, small scale irregular pasture fields with a patchwork of semi-natural wetlands, heathlands, scrub and small scattered ponds. Sparse settlement traces a complex network of rural lanes and footpaths. Dry stone walls and stone buildings provide strong unity with the rocky landscape. Impacts from outside of the SLA, particularly wind farm development, threaten the highly rural, naturalistic qualities of the landscape.
	Scenic quality	The SLA has a generally unspoilt scenic quality, which is evaluated throughout as 'High' in LANDMAP's Visual and Sensory aspect. From within the SLA, rural views are mainly limited and enclosed by the localised rocky, hummocky terrain. Wind turbines from outside the SLA form occasional modern detractors on the horizon.
Setting of protected landscapes (where	Setting of nationally important landscapes	N/A

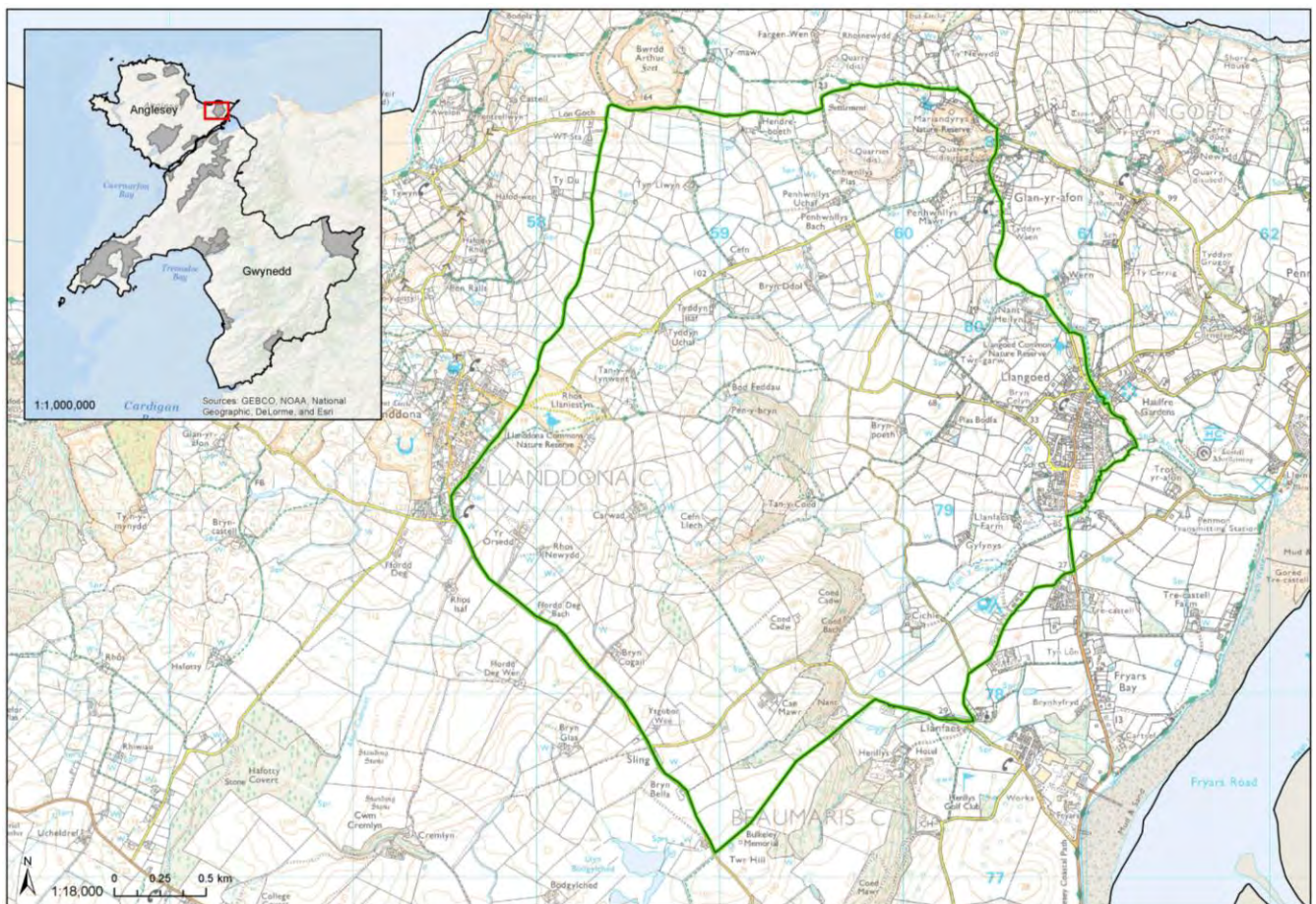
relevant)		
Special Qualities of the SLA		
<p>Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distinctive, small scale craggy landscape, with a wild upland and deeply rural character, contrasting with surrounding smoothly rolling, drumlin formed landscape. • Its intricate network of small irregular fields, paths, tracks, winding roads and spare settlement pattern. • Variety of habitats & vegetation cover, with a patchwork of semi-natural habitats set within improved grassland, such as small marshy areas and ponds, crags, heathland and gorse (including Salbri and Llyn Hafodol & Cors Clegyrog SSSIs). • 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 form prehistoric times. 		
Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP		
<p><i>Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>The SLA falls predominantly within LCA 5: North West Anglesey, with a small part in the east lying within LCA6: Amlwch and Environs, as identified in the Anglesey Landscape Strategy (updated 2011).</p>		

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation
Geological Landscapes	3	Llyn Llygeirian	M	L	M	L						Moderate
	9	Mynydd Mechel	M	L	M	L						Moderate
	2	Llanfechel	H	M	H	H						High
Landscape Habitats	6	Llyn Hafodol	H	H	U	U	H	L	H	M		High
	5	Llyn Llygeirion	H	H	U	U	H	L	H	M		High
	6	Farmland - N.W. Anglesey	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	M		Low
	1	Farmland - N. Anglesey	L	L	M	U	L	U	L	M		Low
	9	Mynydd Mechel	M	H	M	U	M	M	H	H		High
	6	Farmland - West Anglesey	L	L	M	U	M	U	L	M		Moderate
Visual & Sensory	0	Drumlins with windfarms	L	L	H	H						Moderate
	9	Mynydd Mechell	H	H	H	H						High
	8	North-west drumlins	M	H	M	L						Moderate
Historic Landscapes	8	Mynydd Mechell	H	H		M						High
	7	Fieldscape, north-west Mon	M	H		M						High
	2	Fieldscape, Rhosbeirio	H	H		U						High
	6	Mon	O	O		H						Outstanding
Cultural Landscapes	3	Central Anglesey	U	H	H	U	H	H	H	H	H	High

15: Beaumaris Wooded Slopes & Llangoed Vale

Location Map



Representative photographs (© John Briggs)



The Beaumaris Wooded Slopes & Llangoed Vale Special Landscape Area is located in the south-eastern corner of Anglesey (Penmon), inland from the coastal settlement of Beaumaris. It nestles between the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which surrounds the SLA on three sides.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This SLA comprises a strong and varied mosaic of undulating farmland enclosed by species-rich hedgerows, swathes of woodland on ridges and patches of heathland and scrub. It includes nationally-designated limestone heathland and grassland on a prominent ridge at Mariandyrys SSSI, as well as open heathland, acid grassland and woodland on Llanddona Common. This strongly rural landscape is sparsely settled with the only major settlement being at Llangoed, on the eastern edge of the SLA. Elsewhere a scattering of farms and small hamlets is linked by a network of winding country lanes, tracks and footpaths. A strong historic character prevails, with the whole SLA falling within the Penmon Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. This peaceful, highly rural landscape nestles between the Anglesey AONB which surrounds it on all but its western side. Strong intervisibility with the AONB is therefore a key feature of the landscape, as are the long views across the Menai Strait to the mountains of Snowdonia, which form a scenic southern backdrop to the area.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	<p>The SLA is surrounded by the Anglesey AONB and is located close to a popular section of coastline including the Red Wharf Bay (to the north) and the resort of Beaumaris to the south. Tourism-related development is therefore the greatest pressure on the landscape, including demand for the siting of caravan parks, chalets and cabins. Other development pressures include proposals for wind energy developments. In a landscape with little road access, any new development would have a significant bearing on the SLA's unspoilt qualities.</p>
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	<p>This SLA is bounded by the AONB on all but its western side, which traces the LANDMAP Cultural Landscapes aspect ('Outstanding') and the boundary of the Penmon Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. To the west the landscape becomes of a larger, more intensively farmed character with less diversity, therefore leaving the SLA to stand out as an area of coherent character.</p>
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>The mosaic of irregular, strongly undulating fields, bands of woodland and patches of heathland – combined with its sparsely settled nature – results in a highly rural landscape with a timeless feel. All of the area falls within the wider Penmon Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, particularly valued for evidence depicting the continuity of land use and activity from the late prehistoric period to the recent past. This includes an enclosed hut circle near Mariandyrys: a Scheduled Monument. The SLA extends the character of the AONB inland from the coast, with the backdrop of this protected landscape, and Snowdonia, combining to create a distinctive sense of place.</p>
	Landscape quality	<p>This is a landscape shaped by centuries of agricultural and land management activity, with</p>

		irregular, historic field pattern maintained by thick hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees. This pattern is diluted in parts by the past removal of hedgerows and replacement by fencing. Further diversity is provided by bands and blocks of woodland, including a rare swathe of broadleaved woodland on a scarp which extends north from Beaumaris (outside the SLA). Mariandryrs SSSI, in the north of the SLA, is a prominent limestone outcrop which gives rise to a nationally important mosaic of limestone heathland and calcareous grassland. Heathland, acid grassland, woodland and scrub is also a feature of Llanddona Common, which extends the naturalistic character of the adjacent AONB in the north-west. Generally this is an intact, well managed landscape.
	Scenic quality	This is a strongly rural landscape with few visual detractors or intrusions. Its location adjacent to the Anglesey AONB further enhances its peaceful, scenic qualities. The mountains of Snowdonia form a distinctive horizon in views south from the landscape.
Setting of protected landscapes (<u>where relevant</u>)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA forms part of an important immediate setting to the adjacent Anglesey AONB. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management Plan.

Special Qualities of the SLA

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

- Its peaceful and sparsely settled character;
- Its strong historic sense of place, falling entirely within the Penmon Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, with a nationally important hut circle found west of Mariandryrs;
- Important semi-natural habitats at Mariandryrs SSSI (limestone heathland and calcareous grassland with nationally scarce plants) and Llanddona Common LNR (lowland heathland and acid grassland);
- **The landscape's function as an immediate setting to the Anglesey AONB;**
- Strong intervisibility with the adjacent AONB and Snowdonia on the distant southern horizon;
- The peaceful and strongly rural character of the landscape, with a general lack of modern development.

Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP

[Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment](#)

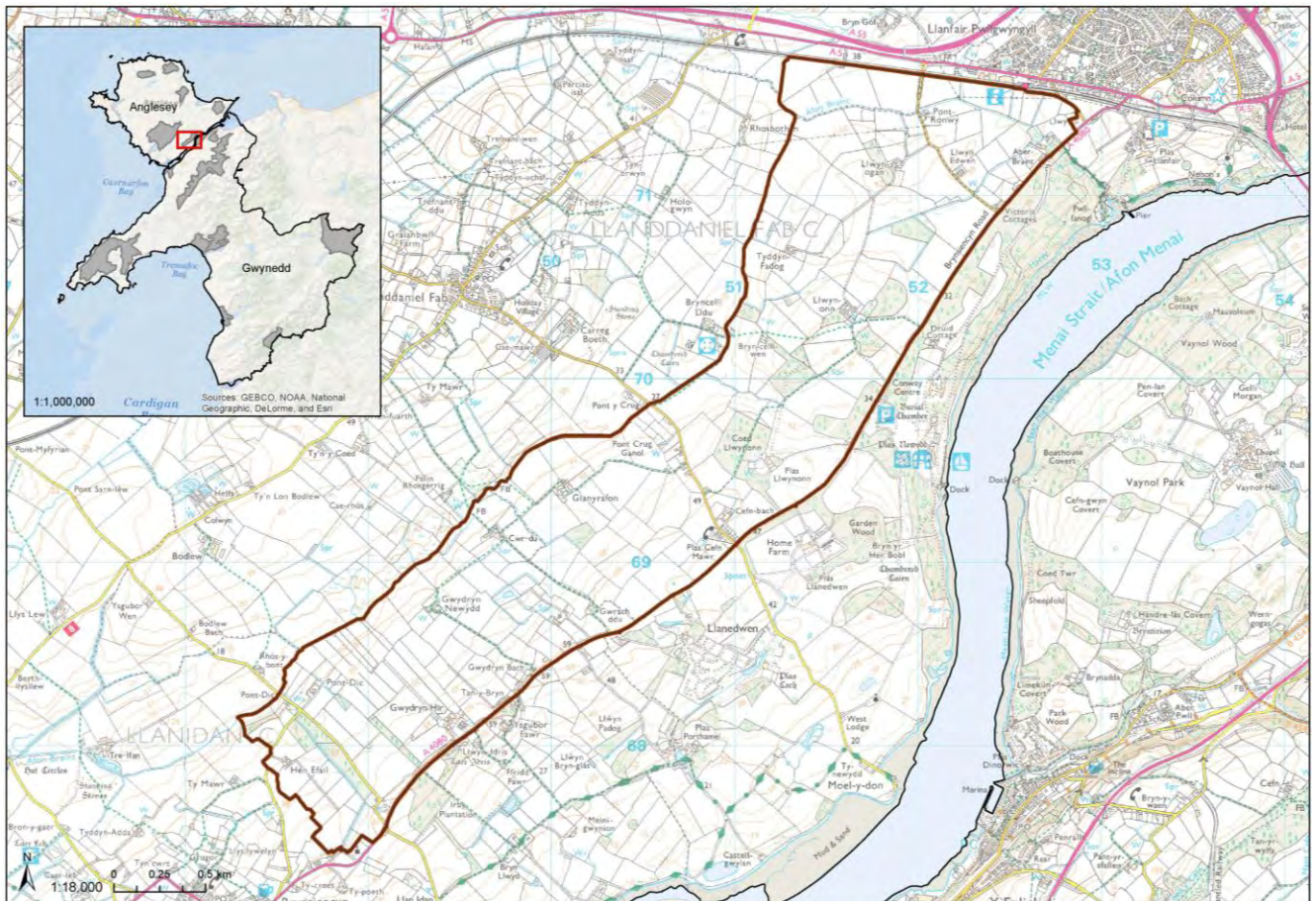
The SLA falls mainly within LCAs 12: East Central Anglesey and 11: Eastern Menai Strait, with a small area in the north within 10: Penmon & Puffin Island (Anglesey Landscape Strategy, updated 2011).

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Beaumaris Wooded Slopes & Llandoeg Vale													
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation	
Geological Landscapes	YNSMNGLO42	Llangoed	L	L	L	L						Moderate	
	YNSMNGLO41	Llansadwrn	O	O	O	O						Outstanding	
	YNSMNGLO40	Penmon	O	M	H	M						Outstanding	
	YNSMNGLO39	Llanddona	L	L	L	L						Moderate	
Landscape Habitats	YNSMNLH128	Bwrdd Arthur and Mariandrys	H	H	U	U	M	M	H	H		High	
	YNSMNLH116	Surrounding Pentraeth Forest	M	M	M	U	M	M	M	H		Moderate	
	YNSMNLH100	Farmland N. of Beaumaris	L	L	M	U	M	U	L	M		Moderate	
	YNSMNLH075	Bridge	U	M	U	U	M	H	H	H		High	
Visual & Sensory	YNSMNVSO76	Llangoed	M	L	M	M						Moderate	
	YNSMNVSO25	Beaumaris wooded slopes	H	H	H	H						High	
	YNSMNVSO17	Eastern smooth belt	M	H	L	L						Moderate	
	YNSMNVSO16	Llangoed vale	H	M	M	M						Moderate	
	YNSMNVSO15	Penmon plateau	H	M	O	H						High	
	YNSMNVSO05	Mynydd Llwydiarth	H	H	H	M						High	
Historic Landscapes	YNSMNLH069	Llangoed	O	H		O						Outstanding	
	YNSMNLH067	Fieldscape around Llanfaes	O	H		H						Outstanding	
	YNSMNLH016	Fieldscape, central eastern Mon	O	O		H						Outstanding	
	YNSMNLH011	Llanddona	O	H		H						Outstanding	
	YNSMNLH009	Fieldscape around Glan-yr-afon	U	H		H						Outstanding	
Cultural Landscapes	YNSMNLCO33	Central Anglesey	U	H	H	U	H	H	H	H	H	High	
	YNSMNLCO21	Penmon, Llanddona	H	O	O	H	O	O	L	O	M	Outstanding	

16: Southern Anglesey Estatelands

Location Map



This Special Landscape Area is located in southern Anglesey, west of the town of Llanfairpwll. It covers part of the Marquis of Anglesey's estate, which lies immediately to the north of the AONB-designated shoreline of the Menai Strait.

Statement of Value & Significance

Landscape description		
<p>This Special Landscape Area forms part of the wider Grade I listed landscaped park of Plas Newydd, which was laid out in the 18th and 19th centuries. The wider estate extends along the northern banks of the Menai Strait, within the Anglesey AONB. The landscape of the SLA forms a continuation of the character of this part of the AONB, with a strong estate feel manifested in the presence of mixed broadleaved and conifer plantations, grazed pastures, and mature in-field and hedgerow trees. It is a peaceful and strongly rural landscape, with settlement limited to scattered farms and occasional hamlets linked by quiet lanes and unmarked tracks. Spectacular views across and along the Menai Strait to Snowdonia National Park provide a highly scenic setting to this SLA.</p>		
How the SLA meets the designation criteria		
Practical (must meet both criteria)	Need	The SLA is directly adjacent to the Anglesey AONB, extending the character of the wider Plas Newydd estate which continues across the boundary of the protected landscape. It provides a valued setting to the AONB landscape and Grade I-listed parkland. Development pressure relating to wind turbines, tourism, the adjacent settlement of Llanfairpwll, and the main A4080 road corridor (which forms the southern boundary with the AONB) are the main issues affecting this landscape.
	Integrity/cohesiveness of character	This SLA follows the boundary of the larger Historic Landscape aspect area which covers the wider parkland estate within the AONB. All of this area is evaluated as 'Outstanding'.
Landscape (must meet at least one criteria)	Local distinctiveness and sense of place	The strong historic character of this landscape, and its sparsely settled character, results in a strong sense of place enhanced by its scenic setting. This provides a strong contrast with nearby development and infrastructure on the eastern fringes of the SLA.
	Landscape quality	This is an intact landscape with characteristic features appropriately managed to protect and enhance its historic sense of place. It appears no different in landscape terms to the adjacent nationally protected landscape of the AONB, with the wider Plas Newydd parkland estate having an overriding influence on the SLA and its hinterland.
	Scenic quality	A key aspect of the SLA's landscape character is its scenic setting and strong intervisibility with the Anglesey AONB, Menai Strait and the mountains of Snowdonia beyond. The tranquil and rural qualities of the landscape are intruded into locally by the A4080 road corridor, the main Bangor-Holyhead railway line and the fringes of Llanfairpwll.
Setting of protected landscapes (where relevant)	Setting of nationally important landscapes	The SLA provides an immediate setting to part of the Anglesey AONB on the northern shores of the Menai Strait. Proposals should have regard to the special qualities of the protected landscape and give due consideration to the AONB Management

		Plan.
Special Qualities of the SLA		
<p>Planning and management proposals in the SLA and within its landscape setting should take account of the following special qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong estate feel of the landscape, as part of the Grade I listed 18th/19th century Plas Newydd estate. • The mosaic of grazed pastures (including wood pasture), estate woodland plantings and mature specimen trees in fields and hedgerows; • Its function as an immediate setting to part of the Anglesey AONB; • Its strong intervisibility with the adjacent AONB, and scenic views across the Menai Strait to the mountains of Snowdonia; • The peaceful and strongly rural character of the landscape, with a general absence of modern development. 		
Reference to the local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP		
<p><i>Link to the local Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>The SLA falls wholly within LCA 12: East Central Anglesey (Anglesey Landscape Strategy, updated 2011).</p>		

Matrix of component LANDMAP aspect areas

LANDMAP Aspect Area Matrix - SLA : Southern Anglesey Estatelands													
Aspect area	UID	Area name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Overall Evaluation	
Geological Landscape	L048	Brynsiencyn	L	L	L	L						M	
	L047	Llandaniel Fab	L	L	L	L						M	
	L044	Afon Braint	L	L	L	L						M	
	L041	Llansadwrn	O	O	O	O						O	
Landscape Habitats	H067	Llanfair PG	U	M	U	U	M	H	M	M		M	
	H060	Malltraeth Marsh	L	L	M	U	M	M	L	M		M	
Visual & Sensory	S091	A55 corridor	L	L	M	L						L	
	S079	Brynseincyn	L	L	L	M						L	
	S062	Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	L	L	L	L						L	
	S026	south	H	H	H	H						H	
	S018	South-west ridges	M	H	M	L						M	
Historic Landscapes	L065	Brynsiencyn	H	O		M						H	
	L006	associated villages	O	O		H						O	
	L005	Malltraeth	M	H		M						M	
	L004	parkland	O	O		M						O	
Cultural Landscapes	035	Llanidan	H	O	O	U	O	O	M	M	H	O	
	033	Central Anglesey	U	H	H	U	H	H	H	H	H	H	
	031	Sustrans Cycle Route	O	M	H	L	M	L	L	M	O	H	
	012	area	H	M	H	U	H	H	H	M	M	H	
	009	Holyhead	H	O	O	O	O	M	H	H	O	O	