

PARC SOLAR TRAFFWLL
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:
Chapter 7 (LVIA) Appendix 7.2
LANDMAP Aspect Area

TRAFFWLL | ANGLESEY



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National Landscape Character

- 1.1.1 LANDMAP (Natural Resources Wales) details the Welsh national level approach to landscape assessment. It is a GIS (Geographical Information System) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.
- 1.1.2 LANDMAP is formally recognised in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2012) as the starting point for landscape assessments in Wales. LANDMAP provides information for all of Wales’ landscapes apart from the built up areas of Cardiff and Swansea. LANDMAP GN 46 discusses the use of LANDMAP in LVIA, Planning Policy Wales (6.3.20) also advocates the use of LANDMAP assessments to inform development management decisions, landscape character assessment, design and landscape sensitivity studies. LANDMAP is used to inform a thorough understanding of the landscape baseline from nationally mapped set of datasets.
- 1.1.3 LANDMAP Information is defined by five methodological chapters: Cultural Landscape, Geological Landscape, Historic Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Visual & Sensory. These chapters are considered the key national level landscape guidance for Wales. LANDMAP, as the most comprehensive landscape resource, will be utilised in this assessment.
- 1.1.4 LANDMAP does not specifically discuss solar farm development however Guidance Note 3 discusses the scale of the study area and Aspect Areas to be considered when assessing wind turbine development. Whilst solar is a large scale renewable development the vertical scale of the development types, and surface area required, is substantially different. As such the approach to the assessment of Aspect Areas is used as a guide only, the follow is considered appropriate for this assessment, with regard to Table 1 within LANDMAP Guidance Note 3 the following aspect area study area radius have been considered:

Table A7.1: Approach to Aspect Areas.

Aspect	Search area defined by aspects which:	Typical study area radius dependent on wind farm and turbine size and location	Evaluation of aspect areas which should be main focus of study	Useful thematic maps to inform study (can be overlaid with ZTV)
Geological Landscape	Contain site boundary and those adjacent	Site area	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation and rarity / uniqueness evaluation criteria
Landscape Habitats	Contain site boundary and those adjacent	1 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation and connectivity / cohesion criteria
Visual and Sensory	Are inter visible with development	2.5 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation. Plus moderate evaluation (where scenic quality and/or character criteria are outstanding or high).	Overall evaluation and scenic quality and character evaluation criteria
Historic Landscape	Are inter visible with development	1 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation
Cultural Landscape Services	Are inter visible with development	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high in rarity and group value evaluation criteria	Overall evaluation and rarity and group value evaluation criteria

1.1.5 With regard to the study area, the solar Development Areas are located within the following LANDMAP Aspect Areas (pdf copies contained within Appendix 7.2) and illustrated on:

- Figure 7.5 Landmap Geological Landscape
- Figure 7.6 Landmap Landscape Habitats
- Figure 7.7 Landmap Visual and Sensory
- Figure 7.8 Landmap Historic Landscape
- Figure 7.9 Landmap Cultural landscape

1.1.6 The solar Development Areas are located within the following Landmap Aspect Areas:

- Geological Landscape:
 - Development Areas 4 &5: GL020 Llanerchymedd. **High evaluation (HOST)** . plus small area of GL071 Llyn Penrhyn-Llyn Trafwll. **Moderate evaluation** and GL070 Afon Crigyll. **Moderate evaluation**.
 - Development Area 6: GL019 Bodedern. **Moderate evaluation (HOST)**. Plus small area of GL071 Llyn Penrhyn-Llyn Trafwll. **Moderate evaluation**.
- Landscape Habitats:
 - All Plots: LH084 Farmland between old A5 and Railway line. **Low Evaluation (HOST)**
 - Development Area 6 LH103 Farmland between Inland Sea and A5. **Moderate Evaluation (HOST)**.
 - Outstanding and High evaluation Aspect Areas within 1 km:
 - LH016 Valley Lakes. Outstanding evaluation
 - LH015 Llyn Traffwll. High evaluation.
 - LH024 RAF Valley Airfields. High evaluation
- Visual and Sensory:
 - Development Areas 4 &5 VS012 Central Smooth Belt. **Moderate evaluation**.
 - Development Area 6 VS020 Caergeiliog craggy lowland. **Moderate evaluation**. (plus small area of VS029 Llanfihangel lakes and dunes, non deployment area). **Moderate Evaluation**.
 - Outstanding and High evaluation Aspect Areas within 2.5 km:
 - VS030 Holy Island Straight. High evaluation
 - VS007 Holy Island. High evaluation
 - VS053 South West Coast – Rhosneigr. High evaluation
- Historic Landscape:
 - All Development Areas: HL079 Inland Southern Anglesey. **Outstanding evaluation (HOST)**
 - Outstanding and High evaluation Aspect Areas within 1km:
 - HL016 Fieldscape Central East. Outstanding evaluation
 - HL026 RAF Valley. Outstanding evaluation
- Cultural Landscape Services:
 - Development Area 4 &5: CLS017 Central Smooth Belt
 - Development Area 6: CLS026 Caergeiliog craggy lowland (Plus very small area of CLS037 Llanfihangel lakes and dunes)
 - Outstanding and High evaluation Aspect Areas within 1km:
 - Aspect areas not classified

1.1.7 The referenced Aspect Areas are considered in detail in the following section including reference tables containing the additional Landmap Aspect Areas within the study area and commentary notes.

LANDMAP – Geological Landscape

1.1.8 With regard to the Geological Landscape, the following Aspect Areas are contained within the 1km study area

Table A7.2: Geological Landscape Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility	Evaluation
GL020	Llanerchymedd	YES. Host area, Development Areas 4 &5	High
GL071	Llyn Penrhyn-Llyn Traffwll	YES. Adjoining Development Areas 4 & 5 and Development Area 6	Moderate
GL070	Afon Crigyll	YES. Adjoining Development Areas 4 & 5	Moderate
GL019	Bodedern	YES, Host area Development Area 6 Adjoining Development Areas 4 & 5	Moderate
GL066	Tywyn Trewan Common	YES	Low
GL072	Llanfairyneubwll	YES, adjoins Development Area 6.	Moderate
GL075	Valley	NO	Moderate

1.1.9 The Aspect Areas with a ‘High’ or ‘Outstanding’ evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) a Solar Development Areas are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Geological Landscape

GL020 Llanerchymedd. High evaluation.

1.1.10 Description: “Extensive area occupying most of central Anglesey and characterised by a glacial clay covered surface (Quaternary: Pleistocene) without significant areas of drumlin development”

- Overall Evaluation Criteria: High, Although the AA contains two SSSIs, 2 potential GCR sites/RIGS and 3 other RIGS, they are small in comparison to the area as a whole...They include a geology/geomorphology of outstanding value locally, but overall a valuation of ‘high’ is most appropriate in a landscape sense.
- Classification: Glacio-depositional topography/veneer

GL019 Bodedern. Moderate evaluation.

1.1.11 Description: “Area of low, rounded mounds glacial clay (drumlins) forming the south-western part of the Anglesey drumlin field (Quaternary: Pleistocene).”

- Overall Evaluation Criteria: Moderate, No notable sites recorded and geomorphology is part of a widespread feature.

LANDMAP - Landscape Habitats

1.1.12 With regard to **Landscape Habitats** aspect, the following Aspect Areas are contained within the 1km study area:

Table A7.3: Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas within 1.km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility	Evaluation
LH084	Farmland between old A5 and Railway line	Host area, all plots	Low
LH103	LH103 Farmland between Inland Sea and A5.	Development Area 6 (part host)	Moderate
LH012	Cors Plas	Development Areas 4 & 5	Moderate
LH006	Farmland, West Anglesey	All Plots	Moderate
LH024	RAF Valley Airfields	All Plots	High
LH016	Valley Lakes	Development Area 6	Outstanding
LH015	Llyn Traffwll Reservoir	Development Areas 4 & 5	High

1.1.13 The Aspect Areas with a ‘High’ or ‘Outstanding’ evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) a Solar Development Area are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Landscape Habitats

LH084 Farmland between old A5 and Railway line. Low Evaluation.

1.1.14 Value: Low, *“The Aspect Area is largely improved grassland which is generally not a particularly valuable ecological habitat. There are limited areas of more valuable semi-natural habitat present and only a small % of the Aspect Area has even been designated as a SINC. There are quite a large number of key species records but it must be borne in mind that this is a large Aspect Area so all things being equal there should be a larger number of records (also it is not known to be a fact but a possible reason for the considerable number of records may be due to intensive levels of surveying in parts of the Aspect Area in relation to the new A5 road.”*

- *Evaluation Criteria Connectivity/Cohesion: Unassessed*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: Low, Evaluated as low for habitats and moderate for key species, on balance low was felt to best reflect the overall value of the Aspect Area.*

LH103 Farmland between Inland Sea and A5. Moderate Evaluation.

1.1.15 Value: Moderate, *“Quite difficult to evaluation because the area is 79% improved grassland which is generally quite a low ecological value habitat but the scattering of SINC sites throughout the Aspect Area and a reasonable number of key species increases the evaluation to moderate. It should be noted that this is quite low on the moderate scale.”*

- *Evaluation Criteria Connectivity/Cohesion: Moderate, The hedgerow system creates quite good connectivity within the Aspect Area*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: Moderate, Evaluated as low/moderate for habitats and moderate for species so on average moderate bordering on low is a fair evaluation.*

LANDMAP – Visual and Sensory

1.1.16 With regard to **Visual and Sensory** aspect, the following Aspect Areas are contained within the 2.5m study area:

Table A7.4: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas within 2.5km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility	Evaluation
VS012	Central Smooth Belt	Host area, Development Areas 4 & 5	Moderate
VS020	Caergeiliog craggy lowland	Host area Development Area 6	Moderate
VS029	Llanfihangel lakes and dunes	Host area Development Area 6 – non Deployment. Border Development Area 4	Moderate
VS091	A55 Corridor	DAs	Low
VS008	North-west Drumlins	All DAs	Moderate
VS013	Central/South-west Craggy Belt	Development Area 4 & 5	Moderate
VS071	Bodedern	None	Low
VS090	RAF valley Airfield	All DAs	Low
VS053	Southwest coast, Rhosneigr	All DAs	High
VS067	Rhosneigr	Development Area 4	Moderate
VS030	Holy Island Straits	None	High
VS007	Holy Island	All DAs	High
VS065	Valley and Newlands	None	Low

1.1.17 The Aspect Areas with a ‘High’ or ‘Outstanding’ evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) a Solar Development Area are discussed below with potential effects upon the areas considered in the landscape assessment section (see highlighted rows).

Visual and Sensory

Development Areas 4 & 5 VS012 Central Smooth Belt. Moderate evaluation.

1.1.18 Description: *“This is a very extensive area.... It is primarily pasture, with some arable land, and medium to large sized fields with hedges, some hedgebanks and stone walls. It is criss-crossed by a network of mainly small roads, with many scattered houses and farms, hamlets and small villages. Generally it feels settled and prosperous, with a quiet rural character. It is pleasant but unremarkable, with some long views to the higher parts of Anglesey, and distant views to Snowdonia, but not usually to the coast. Only in the far west can the coast be seen. The part west of the A55 suffers from disturbance from jets from RAF Valley on weekdays. Increase in caravan and chalet parks which are generally more conspicuous in the north east part of the area”.*

- *Evaluation Criteria Scenic Quality: Moderate, Pleasant rural landscape but generally unremarkable.*
- *Evaluation Criteria Character: Low, Lack of distinct features*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: Moderate, Generally quiet pleasant rural landscape but no distinct landmarks.*

Development Area 6 VS020 Caergeiliog craggy lowland. Moderate evaluation.

1.1.19 Description: *“This area of low-lying is south of the A55, east of Four Mile Bridge. The small scale of the fields and twisting lanes is in contrast to the A55 and to RAF Valley both of which substantially intrude and detract from the overall landscape, with movement and extreme noise.”*

- *Evaluation Criteria Scenic Quality: Moderate, Pleasant rural landscape with variety of craggy features*
- *Evaluation Criteria Character: Moderate, Fairly distinct sense of place*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: Moderate, Generally pleasant rural landscape with more variety of craggy features than much of Anglesey. Marred by proximity to RAF Valley and A55.*

VS029 Llanfihangel lakes and dunes, non deployment area). Moderate evaluation.

1.1.20 Description: *“Inland from RAF Valley, towards the A55, this low-lying area on either side of Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn is a mosaic of former dunes, lakes and marshy areas, interspersed with rocky patches. There is open access on much of the flattened grassy dunes, including a golf course. The lakes are used for fishing and have wildlife interest. The rest of the land is divided into small irregular fields. This area suffers from the extremely noisy jets of RAF Valley during weekdays.”*

- *Evaluation Criteria Scenic Quality: Moderate, Pleasant with some attractive parts relating to lakes and wetlands, dunes and crags*
- *Evaluation Criteria Character: High, The variety of lakes, dunes and craggy parts gives strong character*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: Moderate, Variety of dune and lakes, wetlands, crags, but not especially attractive.*

VS053 Southwest coast, Rhosneigr. High evaluation.

1.1.21 Description: *“This area comprises the coastline from the headland north of Cable Bay to the northern end of Cymyran Bay. The stretches of sand are broken by areas of tidal rocks and are backed mainly by dunes. There are a few scattered houses on these dunes, and recent building out from Rhosneigr is starting to suburbanise the character of them. There are fine views along the beaches and out to the Lleyn Peninsula. With RAF Valley immediately behind the edge of the dunes, noise from jets is very disturbing during weekdays.”*

- *Evaluation Criteria Scenic Quality: High, Varied and attractive coastline with good views out*
- *Evaluation Criteria Character: High, Distinctive sense of place due to popularity and adjacent developments*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: High, Attractive stretch of sands and rocks, popular and accessible with good coastal views. Noise from adjacent airfield*

VS007 Holy Island. High evaluation.

1.1.22 Description: *“There are small fields with sheep, stone walls and gorse hedges. The few trees are wind-pruned. There is limited tourist development, with a few caravan/camping sites, but it remains unspoilt, with good views to the coast and to Holyhead Mountain, with a feeling of maritime openness...The quiet atmosphere of this landscape is shattered during weekdays by jets from nearby RAF Valley.”*

- *Evaluation Criteria Scenic Quality: High, Attractive variety of small-scale fields, marshy areas, interspersed with craggy knolls, scattered houses, with views to coast*

- *Evaluation Criteria Character: High, Strong character as setting for popular beaches, near to Holyhead. Generally retains quiet rural character*
- *Overall Evaluation Criteria: High, Generally quiet unspoilt rural landscape with attractive mix of rough knolls, marshy and small-scale fields, and coastal views.*

LANDMAP – Historic Landscape

1.1.23 With regard to the Historic Landscape aspect, the following aspect areas are contained within the 1km study area.

Table A7.5: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility	Evaluation
HL079	Inland Southern Anglesey.	Host area – all plots	Outstanding
HL006	A5 corridor and associated villages	All plots	Outstanding
HL016	Fieldscape, central eastern Mon	All plots	Outstanding
HL026	RAF Valley	All plots	Outstanding

- HL079 Inland Southern Anglesey. **Outstanding evaluation** (HOST)
 - Outstanding and High evaluation Aspect Areas within 1km:
 - HL016 Fieldscape Central East. Outstanding evaluation
 - HL026 RAF Valley. Outstanding evaluation

1.1.24 The Aspect Areas with a ‘High’ or ‘Outstanding’ evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) a Solar Development Areas are considered in the following section (see highlighted rows).

LANDMAP – Cultural Landscape Services

1.1.25 With regard to the Cultural Landscape Services, the following aspect areas are contained within the 1km study area:

Table A7.6: Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility	Evaluation
CLS017	Central Smooth Belt	Host area, Development Areas 4 & 5	Not given
CLS026	Caergeiliog craggy lowland	Host area Development Area 6	-
CLS037	Llanfihangel lakes and dunes	Host area (partial) Development Area 6	-
CLS081	Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn	Yes, Development Area 6	-
CLS107	A55 Corridor	All Plots	-
CLS016	Central Smooth Belt	Development Areas 4 &5	-
CLS010	North West Drumilns	All Plots	-

1.1.26 The Aspect Areas do not have specific evaluations and descriptions however the assessment classifications covering the solar Development Areas, and immediately adjoining are considered in the

