



7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 This chapter sets out the assessment of the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development. It presents the findings of a Landscape and Visual Impact assessment (LVIA) which conforms to the relevant parts of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013). The assessment focuses on the identification of likely 'significant' landscape and visual effects, including those that are, positive and negative, direct and indirect, long, medium and short term, and reversible and irreversible, as well as cumulative effects. This includes the potential effects on local landscape character and landscape designations as well as the potential effects on views experienced by people (receptors) including (but not limited to); settlements, public rights of way, registered parks and gardens and transportation corridors.
- 7.1.2 This chapter outlines the data gathering methodology that was adopted for the LVIA. It then leads to a description of the assessment methodology, the overall baseline conditions, and an assessment of potential effects. The chapter concludes with a summary of the assessment results.

Study Area

- 7.1.3 It is accepted practice within LVIA work that the extent of the study area for a development is broadly defined by the visual envelope of the proposed development and the anticipated extent of the visibility based on landform combined with developed and natural features. The study area for this appraisal extends to a c.5 km radius from the perimeter of the proposed development.
- 7.1.4 Although the study area and ZTV extend to 5km, detailed consideration of the landscape and visual effects of the solar farm development areas will be focused to a c.2.5 km study area. The study area was selected for the assessment on the basis of the scale of the proposal; up to 3 m high panels and their actual theoretical visibility considering local screening features and the nature of the surrounding topography. The likelihood of the panels being substantially perceptible at distances over 2.5km from the site is considered to be very low. GLVIA, section 5.2, additionally states that a study area should

“include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner. This will usually be based on the extent of landscape character areas likely to be significantly affected either directly or indirectly”.

- 7.1.5 The study area is further refined for each part of the assessment process as follows:
- Landscape Assessment: Landscape assessment with regard to landscape character is restricted to a 5km radius study area. Emphasis has been placed on assessing the landscape receptors likely to experience significant effects (direct and indirect), those within 2km;
 - Visual assessment: This is restricted to a 5km study area as it is only within this area that it is considered that significant effects, if any, would occur. The focus of study is further guided by the results of the zone of theoretical visibility. Emphasis is placed upon assessing the visual effects of groups of potential receptors considered to have the greatest potential to sustain higher magnitudes of visual change, so a focused study area of up to 2km is undertaken, although the viewpoints and identified landscape and recreational receptors consider

- views from outside this area; and
 - Cumulative Assessment: mapping of all Development Area within the study area, assessment guided through the production of a cumulative ZTV.
- 7.1.6 The study area has been agreed with IACC during pre-application dialogue.

Scoping

- 7.1.7 In May 2019, the Applicant submitted a request for a formal Scoping Direction from the Planning Inspectorate Wales (PINS) (on behalf of the Welsh Ministers) under Regulation 33 of the EIA Regulations. The purpose of the request for a Scoping Direction was to define the scope of this Environmental Statement (ES), including the LVIA methodology. PINS issued a Scoping Direction on 30th July 2019 and this is presented in **Appendix 1.1**.
- 7.1.8 A request for pre-application discussions was made to the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) in May 2019. Following preliminary consultations with the Authority's in-house consultees. IACC issued a response on 6th June 2019 which is presented in **Appendix 1.2**.
- 7.1.9 Following this, a series of meetings and discussions were held with IACC Officers to confirm the scope and in particular the visual assessment viewpoint locations. This work included an accompanied site visit to many of the Development Areas and selected viewpoint locations. The viewpoint locations were subsequently updated and agreed following this consultation.

Project Development

- 7.1.10 Prior to undertaking the EIA, the proposal comprised nine individual Development Areas (DAs), numbered 1 to 9. As baseline surveys and assessments were undertaken it became clear that some Development Areas had the potential to create significantly adverse environmental effects. This was primarily due to ecological, landscape / visual and cultural heritage reasons. These Development Areas were removed from the proposal as potential significant residual effects following mitigation could not be adequately addressed. The removed DAs are 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9, which are discussed further within chapter 5 of this ES.

Assessment Structure

- 7.1.11 This chapter is structured as follows:
- Introduction;
 - Methodology;
 - Policy Context;
 - Baseline Landscape Conditions;
 - Baseline Visual Conditions;
 - Scheme Design, Mitigation and Enhancement;
 - Assessment of Landscape Effect (including Cumulative);
 - Assessment of Visual Effect (including Cumulative)
 - Assessment of Viewpoints and Photomontages; and,
 - Summary and Conclusion.

7.2 METHODOLOGY

Introduction

- 7.2.1 The methodology for this LVIA conforms to the relevant parts of the ‘*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013)*’. The assessment focuses on the identification of likely landscape and visual effects, including those that are, positive and negative, direct and indirect, long, medium and short term, and reversible and irreversible, as well as cumulative effects.
- 7.2.2 Detailed explanation of the methodology including the basis on which judgements have been made on the sensitivity of the receptors, magnitude of change and level of effects is contained within **Appendix 7.1**.
- 7.2.3 The methodology and assessment viewpoints were agreed with IACC. Copies of relevant email correspondence is also included within **Appendix 7.7**.
- 7.2.4 For the purposes of clarity, the European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000), defines the term ‘landscape’ as:
- “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”.*
- 7.2.5 The ELC confirms that the
- “landscape should be considered as a resource in its own right. It provides an integrated way of conceptualising our surroundings and is increasingly considered to provide a useful spatial framework for thinking about a wide range of environmental, land use and development issues”.*
- 7.2.6 The ELC applies to all landscapes; natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, including land, inland water and marine areas. It considers landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes.
- 7.2.7 Additional guidance has also been taken from the following publications:
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 September 2019, Visual Representation of Development Proposals;
 - Landscape Character Guidance for England and Scotland, Topic Paper 9, Climate change and natural forces, the consequences for landscape character, SNH/CA;
 - Landscape Character Guidance for England and Scotland, Topic Paper 6, Techniques for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity, SNH/CA, 2004;
 - Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002); and,
 - Council of Europe, The European Landscape Convention (2000, ratified 2006) ETS No. 176.

Assessment Process

- 7.2.8 This LVIA assessment has 3 key stages, summarised as follows:
- **Baseline** – gathering of documented information; existing landscape character studies, identification of landscape and visual receptors, scoping of the assessment, agreement of viewpoints and assessment parameters, discussion with relevant consultees and the local planning authority, site visits and initial reporting of design issues with client designer;
 - **Design** – Review of initial design and ongoing design iterations following baseline survey, including responses to other specialisms e.g. ecology and cultural heritage. Consideration of mitigation options and enhancement (where appropriate); and,

- **Assessment** – involves of an assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the scheme, involves site and desk based survey and assessment. Due to the scale of development, site focussed and height above ground level, any cumulative effects are also considered within this stage.

Landscape and Visual Effects

7.2.9 LVIA is a tool used to identify and assess the effects and significance of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people’s views and visual amenity (GLVIA 2013, para 1.1).

7.2.10 Landscape and visual effects are assessed separately within this LVIA,

“the assessments are known as impact assessments but the European Union Directive refers to assessment of the effects, which are changes arising from the development that is being assessed”. (GLVIA 2013, para 1.15).

7.2.11 Impact is defined as ‘action being taken’ and the effect is defined as the ‘change resulting from the action’.

7.2.12 Landscape effects are defined as:

“An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. How the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character” (GLVIA 2013 para 5.1).

7.2.13 Visual effects are defined as:

“An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. Assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements” (GLVIA 2013 para 6.1).

Timescale of Effects

7.2.14 The principal landscape and visual effects, which are reversible, occur during the operational lifetime of the Solar Farm which will be 40 years, and owing to the size of the solar arrays, and potential for mitigation screening, the effects of the development will reduce over time. It is however expected that any mitigation planting and enhancement areas (hedgerows, trees and woodland blocks) would be retained following the operational lifetime period. Effects during construction, operation and decommissioning are considered.

7.2.15 The only receptor likely to experience construction effects that are markedly different to the operational effects is the site itself, which will temporarily take on the character of a construction site. These effects will be short term, different in nature to those experienced once the development is complete, but similar in terms of their magnitude and significance.

Seasonal Effects

7.2.16 Within the assessment, consideration is given to the seasonal differences in effects arising from the varying degree of screening and/or filtering of views by vegetation that will apply year-round. The assessment considers the visual screening effects that vegetation would provide in both summer and winter months (when deciduous

vegetation is not in leaf), and if it is considered that there would be substantial differences in the screening and/or filtering of vegetation between the summer and winter months, it will be stated.

Significance – Level of Effect

- 7.2.17 The scheme is EIA development therefore an assessment of significant effects will be undertaken. The significance of effect is determined by consideration of the landscape or visual sensitivity and the magnitude of change.
- 7.2.18 The detailed criteria used to determine the significance of effect is listed in **Appendix 7.1 Methodology**. As with all LVIA's, it should be noted that while the methodology is designed to be robust and transparent, in line with best practice, professional judgement is finally applied to determine the significance of effects, and whether the effects are considered 'Significant' or 'Not Significant'.

Subjectivity of the Nature of Effects

- 7.2.19 This LVIA does not state explicitly whether the effects of the development on landscape and visual amenity is adverse, neutral or beneficial. However, it is acknowledged that the GLVIA 2014 states that professional opinion should be applied and a positive or negative judgement stated (Para 5.37 and 6.29).
- 7.2.20 It is commonly accepted that the nature (or valency) of effects of a development are subjective based upon the attitude of the individual. The application site is set within a rural area, but large-scale developments such as RAF Valley airfield and main transport routes are present within the study area. The development may be seen as a further landscape detractor; or, be seen as a positive addition to the evolving energy generation role the landscape can play reflecting the need to generate clean renewable energy. In examining visual effects, it is not realistic to ignore public opinion (nor the likelihood that professionally qualified landscape architects may have differing positions) when discussing the effect upon views perceived by the public.
- 7.2.21 In accordance with GLVIA, a precautionary approach is taken and therefore, although the nature of effects is not stated within the assessment, it can be assumed effects would be negative unless stated otherwise. This precautionary approach of negative effects should be considered with the caveat that the valency of effect must always be considered by the decision makers, the approach should not be concluded to be the final judgement and it should be acknowledged that many people would see the development as either a positive or neutral addition.

Assessment Limitations

- 7.2.22 The assessment of landscape and visual effects is undertaken from publicly accessible locations only including roads, parks, common land and public rights of way to represent potential impacts on a range of receptors. Consideration of the effect on views from residential receptors is undertaken from representative publicly accessible points and analysis of map data close to the properties. This assessment does not consider or assess impacts from every theoretical location where the development would be visible. The LVIA does not assess the effects of any necessary electricity connection cables and ancillary works outside of the application boundary.

Design Mitigation

- 7.2.23 Mitigation is proposed to prevent / avoid, reduce, offset or remedy potential effects of the proposed development. Mitigation will be considered and referenced in the assessment of effects where applicable.
- 7.2.24 Mitigation has been incorporated in the layout, design and construction of the proposed development to limit its effects. Those that would mitigate potential effects on landscape and visual amenity are considered within this assessment of effects and discussed in Section 7.5.

Residual Effects

- 7.2.25 Residual effects are defined as the effects remaining after any proposed methods of mitigation have been implemented.
- 7.2.26 The potential for specific residual effects on landscape and visual amenity during the construction and decommissioning phase is limited given the relative short length of these phases and it is considered that the impacts would be less than those experienced during the operational phase. Where this is different the residual effects will be highlighted.

7.3 POLICY CONTEXT

- 7.3.1 This section sets out the landscape and visual focussed planning policies and material considerations, which are relevant both to the site and the type of development proposed, giving consideration to National, and local planning policy.
- 7.3.2 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning applications to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

- 7.3.3 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Adopted February 2021) is the national plan that sets the direction of development in Wales to 2040. Applications for Developments of National Significance must be determined in accordance with Future Wales. Policies 17 and 18 contain strategic spatial and detailed criteria-based policies respectively and should be considered together in the determination of applications.

- 7.3.4 Policy 17 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure states:

The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs. In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales' international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency....

Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities....

- 7.3.5 Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance provides the decision-making framework for renewable and low carbon energy technologies. The Policy states:

Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to policy 17 and the following criteria:

- 1. outside of the Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments and everywhere for all other technologies, the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);*
- 2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;*
- 3. there are no adverse effects on the integrity of Internationally designated sites (including National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites) and the features for which they have been designated (unless there are no alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured);*
- 4. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on national statutory designated sites for nature conservation (and the features for which they have been designated), protected habitats and species;*
- 5. the proposal includes biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net benefit for biodiversity;*
- 6. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets;*
- 7. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts by way of shadow flicker, noise, reflected light, air quality or electromagnetic disturbance;*
- 8. there are no unacceptable impacts on the operations of defence facilities and operations (including aviation and radar) or the Mid Wales Low Flying Tactical Training Area (TTA-7T);*
- 9. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the transport network through the transportation of components or source fuels during its construction and/or ongoing operation;*
- 10. the proposal includes consideration of the materials needed or generated by the development to ensure the sustainable use and management of resources;*
- 11. there are acceptable provisions relating to the decommissioning of the development at the end of its lifetime, including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration.*

The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.

Planning Policy Wales Edition 11

- 7.3.6 The Welsh government published the revised Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (PPW) in February 2021 which forms the overarching national level source of planning policy for Wales. It seeks to support the requirement for sustainable development via the planning system whereby the “*presumption in favour of sustainable development*” forms the overarching role.
- 7.3.7 Chapter 6, Recognising the Special Characteristics of Places is the most relevant to this LVIA. Paragraph 6.3.3 states that

Considering landscape at the outset of formulating strategies and policies in development plans and when proposing development is key to sustaining and enhancing their special qualities, and delivering the maximum well-being benefits for present and future generations as well as helping to deliver an effective and integrated approach to natural resource management over the long term. Collaboration and engagement with adjacent planning authorities, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Cadw and the third sector will be necessary to draw on a wide range of expertise and evidence. This means:

- *Ensuring Wales contributes to meeting international responsibilities and obligations for landscapes*
- *Ensure statutory and non-statutory designated sites are properly protected and managed;*
- *Ensuring that the value of all landscapes for their distinctive character and special qualities is protected; and*
- *Ensuring the opportunities landscapes provide for tourism, outdoor recreation, local employment, renewable energy and physical and mental health and well-being are taken into account and multiple well-being benefits for people and communities secure.”*

Local Planning Policy

7.3.8 The Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) was adopted in July 2017 and provides the overarching strategic planning framework for Anglesey and Gwynedd to 2026. Within the adopted Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan Proposals Map, the site lies outside defined development limits and is therefore considered to lie within the ‘open countryside’.

7.3.9 The following table provides an assessment of policies within the JLDP which are considered relevant to the proposed development and this appraisal of landscape and visual effects.

Table 7.1: Landscape and Visual Amenity Policy Considerations

Policy	Commentary
<p><u>Policy PCYFF 4: Design and Landscaping</u></p> <p><i>“All proposals should integrate into their surroundings. Proposals that fail to show (in a manner appropriate to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development) how landscaping has been considered from the outset as part of the design proposal will be refused. A landscape scheme should, where relevant:</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate how the proposed development has given due consideration to the Landscape Character Area Assessment or Seascape Character Area Assessment;</i></p>	<p>The LANDMAP landscape classification is reviewed in addition to the Isle of Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011. The assessment of landscape character and impacts will have due regard to the policy and these documents.</p>

Policy	Commentary
<p><i>Provide details of any proposed new landscaping together with a phased programme of planting; ...”</i></p>	
<p><u>Strategic Policy PS 7: Renewable Energy Technology</u></p> <p><i>“The Councils will seek to ensure that the Plan area wherever feasible and viable realises its potential as a leading area for initiatives based on renewable or low carbon energy technologies by promoting:</i></p> <p><i>Renewable energy technologies within development proposals which support energy generation from a variety of sources which include biomass, marine, waste, water, ground, solar and wind, including micro generation;</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>2. Free-standing renewable energy technology development ...</i></p> <p><i>This will be achieved by:</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>4. Ensuring that installations in accordance with PS 19 do not individually or cumulatively compromise the objectives of international, national and local nature conservation designations;</i></p> <p><i>5. Supporting installations outside designated areas provided that the installation would not cause significant demonstrable harm to landscape character, biodiversity, or amenity of residential or holiday accommodation, either individually or cumulatively. ...”</i></p>	<p>This assessment will assess whether significant landscape or visual effects arise from the scheme proposals</p>
<p><u>Policy ADN 2: PV Solar Energy</u></p> <p><i>“Proposals for Solar PV Farms of 5MW or more and other solar schemes of up to 5MW will be permitted provided that the proposal conforms to the following criteria:</i></p> <p><i>All impacts on landscape character, heritage assets and natural resources have been adequately mitigated, ensuring that the special qualities of all locally, nationally and internationally important</i></p>	<p>This assessment seeks to assess whether significant landscape or visual effects arise from the scheme proposals, and where effects are noted mitigation proposals are considered</p>

Policy	Commentary
<p><i>landscape, biodiversity and heritage designations, including, where appropriate, their settings are conserved or enhanced;</i></p> <p><i>The proposal will not result in significant harm to the safety or amenity of sensitive receptors including effect from glint and glare and will not have an unacceptable impact on roads, rail or aviation safety;</i></p> <p><i>The proposal will not result in significant harm to the residential visual amenities of nearby residents; ...”</i></p>	
<p><u>Strategic Policy PS 19: Conserving and Where Appropriate Enhancing the Natural Environment</u></p> <p><i>“When determining a planning application, consideration will need to be given to the following:</i></p> <p><i>Safeguard the Plan area’s habitats and species, geology, history, the coastline and landscapes;</i></p> <p><i>Protect or enhance biodiversity within the Plan area and enhance and/or restore networks of natural habitats in accordance with the Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Policy AMG 5;</i></p> <p><i>Protect or enhance biodiversity through networks of green/ blue infrastructure;</i></p> <p><i>Safeguard internationally, nationally and locally protected species;</i></p> <p><i>Protect, retain or enhance trees, hedgerows or woodland of visual, ecological, historic cultural or amenity value.”</i></p>	<p>This assessment seeks to assess whether significant landscape or visual effects arise from the scheme proposals, specific regard is given to the protection and retention of vegetation around the Development Areas.</p>
<p><u>Policy AMG 3: Protecting and Enhancing</u></p> <p><i>“A proposal will be granted provided it doesn’t have significant adverse impact upon features and qualities which are unique to the local landscape in terms of visual, historic, geological, ecological or cultural aspects. Measures should be taken to ensure that the development does not:</i></p>	<p>This assessment seeks to assess whether significant landscape or visual effects arise from the scheme proposals</p>

Policy	Commentary
<p>1. Cause significant adverse impact to the character of the built or natural landscape;</p> <p>2. Fail to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape;</p> <p>3. Lose or fails to incorporate traditional features, patterns, structures and layout of settlements and landscape of both the built and natural environment.”</p>	

Technical Advice Note 5 (TAN 5): Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)

7.3.10 TAN 5 provides advice on planning nature conservation in relation to development proposals. TAN 5 outlines support will be given to development if it can retain and enhance the local landscape, paragraph 3.2.2 states:

“Sensitive landscaping and planting, the creation, maintenance and management of landscape features important to wildlife, and the skilled adaption of derelict areas can provide extended habitats.”

7.3.11 TAN 5 outlines support will be given to development if it can be proven there is little to no demonstrable harm to local biodiversity conservation, paragraph 1.4.4 states:

“Section 40(1) of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) places a duty on every public authority, in exercising its functions, to “have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”.

7.3.12 TAN 5 further outlines the importance of biodiversity in paragraph 1.5.1

“Biodiversity is an important indicator of sustainable development. Biodiversity and geodiversity add to the quality of life and local distinctiveness”.

7.3.13 Stated within paragraph 1.6.1

“Biodiversity conservation and enhancement is an integral part of planning for sustainable development.”

7.3.14 Local and National planning policies are appraised in the Planning Statement submitted with the application.

7.4 LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT – BASELINE CONDITIONS

7.4.1 An overview of the existing landscape for both the application site and the wider study area as a whole has been determined by observations made during site visits and review of the published Landscape Character Assessments (LCA).

7.4.2 It follows from the above that in order to assess whether landscape character is ‘significantly’ affected by a development, it should be determined what and how each of the key characteristics would be affected. The judgement of magnitude therefore reflects the degree to which the key characteristics and elements which form those characteristics will be altered by the proposals. The scale of the development, the nature and sensitivity of the receiving landscape, and local ‘barriers’ in the landscape (such as breaks of topography, woodlands, settlements, and roads or rivers) will influence the exact extent of effect of the development.

National Landscape Character

Wales National Landscape Character Areas

- 7.4.3 The National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) undertaken by National Resources Wales (NRW) form the broadest scale of landscape character assessment in Wales. The NLCAs are defined at a broad landscape scale and the descriptive profiles for the 48 individual character areas highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics.
- 7.4.4 Within the study area, the proposed development is contained within NLCA02 Central Anglesey, but upon the boundary with NLCA01 Anglesey Coast. The boundary between both NLCAs broadly corresponds with the boundaries within the Isle of Anglesey landscape Strategy Update, LCA 17 and LCA 5 follow a similar alignment to the boundary with the coastal zone, LCA 18.

LANDMAP

- 7.4.5 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.
- 7.4.6 LANDMAP is formally recognised in PPW 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 (para. 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.
- 7.4.7 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.
- 7.4.8 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, and the following 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 7.2: Approach to Aspect Areas

Aspect	Search area defined by	Typical study area radius dependent	Evaluation of aspect areas which should	Useful thematic maps to inform
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	aspects which:	on wind farm and turbine size and location	be main focus of study	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

7.4.9 With regard to the study area, the proposed development and LANDMAP Aspect Areas are illustrated on (all included in Appendix 7.3 to this ES):

- 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

7.4.10 The DAs within the proposed development are located within the following LANDMAP Aspect Areas:

- Geological Landscape:
 - Development Areas 4 & 5: GL020 Llanerchymedd. **High evaluation.** plus small area of GL071 Llyn Penrhyn-Llyn Traffwll. **Moderate evaluation** and GL070 Afon Crigyll. **Moderate evaluation.**
 - Development Area 6: GL019 Bodedern. **Moderate evaluation.** Plus small area

of GL071 Llyn Penrhyn-Llyn Traffwll. **Moderate evaluation.**

- Landscape Habitats:
 - All Development Areas: LH084 Farmland between old A5 and Railway line. **Low Evaluation.**
 - Development Area 6 LH103 Farmland between Inland Sea and A5. **Moderate Evaluation.**
 - 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.**
 - Outstanding and High evaluation Aspect Areas within 1km:
 - HL016 Fieldscape Central East. Outstanding evaluation
 - HL026 RAF Valley. Outstanding evaluation
- Cultural Landscape Services:
 - Development Areas 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

7.4.11 The referenced Aspect Areas are discussed in detail in **Appendix 7.2.**

Regional Landscape Character - The Isle of Anglesey, Landscape Strategy Update 2011

7.4.12 TACP Consultants were appointed by Isle of Anglesey Council in April 2010 to undertake a review of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified within the original LANDMAP landscape assessment study for Anglesey, published in 1999.

7.4.13 As stated in the report introduction:

'The LANDMAP methodology provides a wealth of data for the individual evaluated aspect topics. These provide detail of the nature and importance of the individual aspect layers. However, it is also important to understand how

the aspect topics combine to produce distinctive areas of landscape with a recognisable 'sense of place' or 'local identity'. These form the individual LCAs. They are defined by overlaying the different aspect topic layer information and identifying areas where the combination of aspects is broadly the same and/or have distinct characteristics and a coherent sense of identity. LCAs provide a useful framework for description, management and policy formulation.'

It is important to recognise that the boundaries between LCAs are rarely distinct. Effectively they are based upon best judgement of a gradual, but discernible change in character.

'The topography of the island is generally subdued with a rolling, undulating pattern interspersed by harder, rocky outcrops. The landform falls east to west, with a number of low lying areas along the western coast.

'This general character belies a complex, underlying geology and effects of geomorphological processes such as glaciation. The island contains some of the oldest rocks in Wales and Britain as a whole, and these are clearly illustrated in the topography of the island. Extensive tree cover is generally scarce. The island shows a rich cultural history with evidence of man's actions extending over some 8000 years. There are over 200 Scheduled Ancient Monuments ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to later medieval features.'

'More recent landscape features include the planned landscapes of large estates, such as Plas Newydd, major transportation routes, industrial features including nuclear power and windfarms. The rich variation and quality in the coastal landscape is reflected in its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This designation underpins the focus of any management or design guidance within its area.'

Landscape Character Areas (LCA)

7.4.14 The Landscape Strategy Update 2011 contains the updated LCAs and in each instance the landscape character elements which define each area are set out, together with the key landscape issues arising from the LANDMAP exercise. This is further supported by reference to the relevant LANDMAP aspect areas by each topic which form the LCA (and as discussed in the previous section of this assessment).

- DA4 and DA5 are located within LCA 17, West Central Anglesey. DA4 also borders a small area of the LCA 18 Valley Airfield Environs.
- DA6 is set within LCA 5, North West Anglesey and LCA 18 Valley Airfield Environs, although the deployment area is predominantly within LCA 5.
- LCA 3 inland Sea is also located within the study area, but located over 1 km west of DA6.

7.4.15 The boundaries of the LCAs are illustrated on Figure 7.9, Landscape Character, Regional (included in Appendix 7 to this ES).

LCA 17, West Central Anglesey

7.4.16 Sections of the LCA description relevant to this assessment and DAs 4 and 5 include:

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

The topography is generally undulating which reflects its underlying geology, particularly the Coedana Granites. This results in a number of rocky outcrops

that typify the landscape of this part of the island. These, together with small areas of semi-natural habitats – hedges, trees, mires – are scattered throughout the area within a matrix of improved agricultural grassland.

These are mirrored by the complex of small areas of semi-natural habitat – mires, trees, hedgerows and hedge banks which are found throughout the area within a larger matrix of improved agricultural grassland. These form an important landscape resource and contribute markedly to the character of the area, breaking up areas of uniformity within the wider landscape.

The A5 and A55 roads pass through the area, whilst the main railway passes along its southern edge. The main settlements within the LCA are Llangefni and Gwalchmai and nearby adjacent to the A5 are the Anglesey Showground and Mona Airfield.”

- 7.4.17 The rocky outcrops and undulating topography (in particular) and semi natural habitats (hedges, trees and mires) referenced in the description are considered characteristic of the local areas close to the DAs within this LCA. The DAs are set within the referenced areas of improved agricultural grassland. It is noted that the trees and hedge banks ‘form an important landscape resource and contribute markedly to the character of the area, breaking up areas of uniformity within the wider landscape’. The DAs are set within these important features. The A55 transport corridor and RAF Valley Airfield are also prominent built features within the locality of the deployment areas.
- 7.4.18 The LCA highlights the following key issues which will be considered in the assessment of effects section:

Habitat Management - An extensive LCA, covering the rural heartland of Anglesey. Any proposals should take into account:

- The management of the range of semi-natural habitats - mires, trees and hedgerows found scattered throughout the area.*
- The management of wider habitats to increase their value and reflect Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives.*
- That direct and indirect effect upon habitats is properly addressed.*

Transportation Corridors - The main railway line and A5/A55 corridors pass through the LCA. It is important any new development or management proposals ensure that:

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

Settlement Edge - Development around settlement edges should:

- Be of a form and character appropriate to each settlement.*
- Be considered in terms of impacts upon the wider landscape, rather than the site above.*
- Seek to integrate using landform, vegetation etc to minimise impacts.*
- Ensure that standard solutions are not used in order that the inherent characteristics of the area are contained within the design.*

7.4.19 LCA 5 covers the north eastern area and DA6 is located upon the southern boundary of it, at the transitional zone to LCA 18, as such it is likely to contain landscape character features consistent with both areas. Relevant sections of the LCA description to this assessment and DA6 is included:

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

The western edge of the LCA is formed by the A5 corridor, which is a key element within the historic and cultural development of the island. The construction of this road by Telford, as a response to the need to improve links with Ireland, cemented the development of Holyhead as a major port. Another, more distinctive feature of the landscape is the development of wind farms, particularly to the north of Llyn Alaw (outside of the study area).'

7.4.20 DA6 is located within the southern fringes of the LCA, straddling the boundary with LCA 18 and close to the boundary of LCA 17, which is the host LCA of the other two development areas. Due to the location of the site close to two LCAs, it is considered the area of DA6 is more of a transitional one. The DA displays features including the referenced rocky outcrops although the deployment area of DA6 within LCA 5 is more enclosed with numerous mature hedgerows and drain corridors in the low lying area. As the A5 and A55 corridors are less than 1km from DA6, intervisibility will be considered.

7.4.21 The LCA highlights the following key issues which will be considered in the assessment of effects section:

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

- *Have regard to the AONB Management Plan.*

Settlement Edge - Any proposals for development or landscape management should reflect:

- *Seek to use landform, vegetation patterns to mitigate impacts.*
- *Ensure scale, form and materials respect the local vernacular.*
- *Utilise and retain local field boundary patterns – cloddiau, fences, hedgerows*

Habitat Management - Although a relatively intensely farmed area, there are a range of semi-natural habitats throughout the LCA. It includes Llyn Alaw which is an important biodiversity resource. Any development or management proposals should:

- *Provide for the management of semi-natural habitat features, including open water.*
- *Develop and enhance network of sites and link to local BAP targets.*

Energy Landscapes - The area is characterised by a number of windfarms. In considering any further developments particular emphasis should be given to cumulative effects upon the landscape character.

7.4.22 With regard to habitat management, substantial work has been undertaken in support

of the proposed development to improve habitat management and biodiversity within the DAs. See Section 7.8. Mitigation and Chapter 11 of this ES (Ecology and Conservation).

LCA 18 Valley Airfield Environs

- 7.4.23 Small areas of DAs 4 and 6 are located within this LCA, the scale of which, and transient natures of LCA boundaries, has an impact on all DAs. Relevant sections of the LCA description to this assessment and all DAs are as follows:

'A rather disparate LCA which recognises the social, cultural and economic effects of the RAF Station at Valley. The LCA includes the airfield and the adjacent 20th century holiday settlement of Rhosneigr, and its associated coastal landscapes of Traeth Cymyrau and Traeth Crigyll, as well as the series of wetlands and reserves (Llyn Penrhyn, Llyn Traffwll) inland and on either side of the settlement of Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn.

The airfield operations which include both military and civil flights has a major impact upon the statutory qualities of the area, in fact on the island and surrounding area as a whole. The nature and scale of the buildings, associated hard standings and runways visually dominate the LCA. The LCA is also traversed by the main Holyhead railway line which runs alongside the airfield.'

- 7.4.24 The LCA highlights the following key issues which will be considered in the assessment of effects section:

Coastal Landscapes - The coastline element of the LCA contains a number of habitat types – dunes, water bodies, wetlands. It is important that any development or management proposals take into account:

- *Ensure that visual qualities - open, exposure - are properly addressed by any management proposals.*
- *Have regard to the AONB Management Plan.*

Settlement Edge - The LCA includes a live military airfield and includes the settlement of Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn and Rhosneigr. Given this it is important to work closely with the authorities to ensure that both single and cumulative effects of operational developments are fully considered given its juxtaposition to the AONB and wider landscape.

- 7.4.25 The boundaries of the LCAs are illustrated on Figure 7.9, Landscape Character, Regional.

Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment - Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd & Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2014)

- 7.4.26 The Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park published a Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment in 2014. The conclusions of the assessment on the overall sensitivity of the landscape character areas to 'field scale' solar PV development is summarised below. The landscape character area boundaries follow the alignments as set out in the Landscape Strategy Update 2011.

- 7.4.27 The following site size criteria used in the assessment with regard to capacity for field scale solar:

- Large, over 5mw, 10 – 20 hectares.

- Very Large, over 10mw, over 20 hectares

A 17, West Central Anglesey: Low / Medium Sensitivity

- 7.4.28 This extensive area comprises a large area of the Isle of Anglesey's agricultural heartland including the settlements of Gwlachmai and Llangefni. Key characteristics: medium scale, open landscape, rolling and undulating and form, expansive agricultural heartland of the Isle of Anglesey.

"This medium scale, low lying landscape comprises large areas of mixed farmland. Field systems are typically regular with medium to large scale fields bounded by a mixture of stone walls and hedgerows which is indicative of a lower sensitivity and introduces the possibility of increasing vegetation height to provide further localised screening.

The Mona airfield and A5/A55 corridor detract from the tranquillity of the landscape, further reducing sensitivity.

This lowered sensitivity is counterbalanced slightly by the cultural heritage value of the landscape.

The most westerly tip of the LCA falls within Anglesey AONB, increasing the sensitivity in this area."

- 7.4.29 Indicative Overall Capacity

"...Outside the AONB and SLAs it is considered there may be some capacity for micro to small scale developments. There may also be limited capacity for larger scale developments, in particular towards the south west where the landscape is already influenced by modern infrastructure; however, any new development should be carefully sited to avoid cumulative effects with other developments".

- 7.4.30 None of the development areas within A 17 are within (or close to, >2km) the AONB, it is considered that all are located within (or close to) the main road corridor and RAF Valley Airfield which reduces tranquillity. The medium scale landscape is also bounded by mixed hedgerows which provide localised screening. It is agreed that the overall landscape scale and features of the development areas are indicative of a lower sensitivity.

A 05, North West Anglesey: Medium Sensitivity

"This medium scale landscape is influenced in many places by modern day developments such as wind farms, 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines and major transport corridors; the presence of which reduces sensitivity to field-scale solar PV energy development. A typically regular pattern of medium to large scale fields with a mixture of field boundaries introduces the possibility of increasing vegetation height to provide localised screening of such developments thus reducing sensitivity further.

In counterbalance, localised areas of less regular and more complex field patterns to the north, together with scenic areas designated within the Anglesey AONB, are considered more highly sensitive to field-scale solar PV energy development. The distinctive wild landscape of Mynedd Mechell & Surrounds SLA is also particularly sensitive and sensitivity is further enhanced by the cultural heritage value of the landscape."

- 7.4.31 Indicative overall capacity:

“Outside the AONB and SLA it is considered there may be some capacity for micro to small scale developments, in particular where these would relate well to the existing built environment/urban landcover. There may also be limited capacity for very infrequent sensitively sited small to medium scale development towards the south of the LCA.”

- 7.4.32 The location of DA6 towards the south of the area is considered to display features of reduced sensitivity to solar development, including the presence of overhead lines, main transportation corridors, and medium fields with mature hedgerows to be utilised as screening vegetation.

A18, Valley Airfield: Medium Sensitivity

- 7.4.33 This LCA comprises a flat coastal plain extending from the RAF Valley Airfield in the north down past Rhosneigr in the south. Key characteristics are: medium scale, open landscape, flat coastal plain, RAF Valley Airfield.

“This typically medium scale, coastal landscape is heavily influenced by modern development, particularly the RAF Valley Airfield which brings a level of visual intrusion to the area. The flat landform away from the coast comprises medium to large scale systems enclosed by a mixture of boundaries including hedgerows which introduce the possibility of increasing vegetation height to provide further localised screening and therefore lessen sensitivity to field-scale solar PV energy development.

This is counterbalanced by the presence of open and expansive views afforded along the coastline and the intervisibility with areas of Anglesey AONB which (together with the cultural heritage value of the landscape) increases the sensitivity to development.”

- 7.4.34 Indicative Overall Capacity:

“...Outside the AONB and SLAs it is considered there may be some capacity for well sited micro scale developments, in particular where these may relate to the existing built environment/urban landcover”.

- 7.4.35 Within the assessment, the following definitions of overall sensitivity are given:

Very High - The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are very highly sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.

High - The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.

Medium / High - The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.

Medium – Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.

Low / Medium – Few of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of the development being assessed.

Low - Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust and less likely to be adversely affected by the type and scale of development being assessed.

- 7.4.36 In summary, the sensitivity conclusions given to the 3 DAs are highlighted below:

- **A17, West Central Anglesey: Low / Medium Sensitivity** - Few of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of the development being assessed. With regard to solar development the following is stated:
‘There may also be limited capacity for larger scale developments, in particular towards the south west where the landscape is already influenced by modern infrastructure; however, any new development should be carefully sited to avoid cumulative effects with other developments.’
- **A05, North West Anglesey: Medium Sensitivity** - Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed. With regard to solar development the following is stated:
‘There may also be limited capacity for very infrequent sensitively sited small to medium scale development towards the south of the LCA.’
- **A18, Valley Airfield: Medium Sensitivity** - Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed. With regard to solar development the following is stated:
‘there may be some capacity for well sited micro scale developments, in particular where these may relate to the existing built environment/urban landcover.’

7.4.37 The character and sensitivity of the individual DAs are considered to be generally as outlined within this study however the DAs’ local study area will be assessed further against the characteristics and conclusions of the study, with an assessment of landscape value and susceptibility to change undertaken within the main assessment. It is noted that, overall, the solar development areas are predominantly within A17 West Central Anglesey, an area noted as having some capacity for large scale developments, particularly towards the south west (the area of the solar development areas) and areas influenced by modern infrastructure.

Local Landscape Character

7.4.38 An overview of the existing landscape elements and features of the site and the study area has been determined by observations made during site visits and through review of the LANDMAP classification information and Regional LCA and Capacity Study up to the defined study area boundaries. The local landscape of the site, and its immediate surroundings, is not covered by any national or local landscape designations. Local landscape character is considered in detail at a site level and within the focussed study area.

7.4.39 Aerial photographs and panoramic ‘birds eye’ views over the 3 DAs are included within **Figures 7.11 to 7.13** presented in **Appendix 7.3**. These illustrate the local landscape context.

Landscape Value

7.4.40 Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3 identifies that following a review of existing landscape designations “the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.” This LVIA provides a review of undesignated landscapes and landscape elements, which includes (but is not limited to) field structure, hedgerows, woodland, watercourses and trees, and attributes a

value to these elements.

- 7.4.41 The value of the landscape potentially affected by a proposed development is evaluated when establishing the landscape baseline and is judged as being High, Moderate or Low. This is in accordance with paragraph 5.44 of GLVIA3. Landscape value is also referred to in the following section as part of the method for 'Assessing the Level of Landscape Effects'.
- 7.4.42 The landscape value of the site and the immediate adjoining area is considered with reference to the indications of Landscape Value as identified in Table 1.2 of the Methodology (**Appendix 7.1**). **Table 7.3** provides an analysis of each of the indicators and classifies the landscape value in accordance with the Methodology.
- 7.4.43 The landscape value descriptions and criteria are considered for all of the DAs (4, 5 and 6) combined, but where there are specific differences, it is noted. Due to the geographic distribution of the DAs, in many cases DA4 and DA5 are likely to have similar characteristics, whereas DA6 may have more notable differences.

Table 7.3: Landscape Value Appraisal

Landscape Indications of Value	Description	Value Method Criteria	Value Assessment
Landscape Quality (condition)	Solar Development Area set within a range of field sizes, medium – large for Development Areas 4 and 5 and small – medium for Development Area 6. There is a large proportion of unmanaged, high hedgerow field boundaries around Development Area 6, but these are more regular around Development Areas 4 and 5. Field patterns are retained, development is set within the established structure which is protected. Development Areas within a gently undulating to flat landform, a transitional zone to lowland landscape approaching coast. Development Areas contain pastoral grass land coverage of varying quality with some areas of some wet grazing, but away from deployment zones.	Does not lie within or adjacent to a designated landscape. Some local landscape characteristics of note	Low/Medium

Landscape Indications of Value	Description	Value Method Criteria	Value Assessment
Scenic Quality	The Development Areas are close to major infrastructure, in local context, with main transports corridors to the north. RAF Valley Airfield, aircraft noise and movement a major feature. Overall sparsely populated areas away from the main road corridors. Locally distinctive but Moderate LANDMAP visual sensory evaluation	Present locally distinctive landscape characteristics of some scenic interest	Medium
Rarity	Development Areas are located within large scale LCAs, features within the Development Areas are characteristic of the wider areas, no remarkable features or rare elements within the Development Areas.	Low rarity at local scale	Low
Representativeness	The solar Development Areas are representative of the wider LCAs, typical features but none that are singularly considered important examples.	No distinctive landscape characteristics focussed to Development Areas	Low
Conservation Interests	The study area has features of ecological and cultural importance, all are considered in detail independently. These features contribute to landscape value in terms of visible features / perceptual aspects, which are minimal. No direct effects. Outstanding historic landscape LANDMAP consideration. Low / Moderate Landscape Habitat evaluation	Presents public amenity value by way of biodiversity and cultural features (but not accessible)	Medium
Recreational Value	The Development Areas do not have any valued recreational features within the boundaries, excluding a footpath in Development Area 6, but this is outside	Limited public amenity value by way of access	Low

Landscape Indications of Value	Description	Value Method Criteria	Value Assessment
	the development area and unaffected. There are trails and PROWs within the wider study area, potential for indirect effects if visible affecting wider setting of the route.		
Perceptual Aspects	Although sparsely populated it is still a settled and active landscape close to visible (and audible) signs of human activity and development – A5 / A55 corridor, overhead pylons and RAF Valley Airfield. Development areas and local landscape semi-enclosed by vegetation, with limited distant views to urban features resulting in remote and rural feel.	Site areas part of wider localised landscape, with pockets of relative tranquillity	Low/medium
Associations	Baseline work has not revealed any landscape associations linked with the particular Development Areas	Low importance	Low
Landscape Value Summary	The Development Areas combined are noted for their contribution towards landscape condition (intact field systems), scenic quality (quieter areas away from transport corridors and the airfield) and conservation interests (cultural and ecological features). These are all features considered to be generally unaffected by the proposed form of development. The Development Areas do however contain commonplace landscape features, seen throughout the host LCAs and provide very limited direct recreational value. Landscape perceptions are also influenced by the near transport corridors, overhead electricity pylons and views (and audible disturbance) from RAF Valley Airfield.		Low-Medium

Landscape Receptors

Landscape Designations

- 7.4.44 Landscape designations within the study area (applicable to this LVIA) are illustrated on Figure 7.3 presented in **Appendix 7.3**. Relevant designations mapped at this stage include: Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG); Country Parks (CP); and,

landscape designations within the Local Plan/Development Framework (if still applicable) such as: Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and any national landscape designations; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); and, National Parks (NP).

- 7.4.45 With the exception of the Anglesey AONB, no other designated landscapes such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites or regional and local designations such as SLAs are found within the study area. Landscape value is formally recognised by designation, but value can also be informed by published documentation such as tourist leaflets; art and literature. Review of local information has confirmed that there is no additional published information relating the local landscape.

Anglesey AONB

- 7.4.46 The Anglesey AONB is within the study area, c.850m south-west of DA6, the closest of the DAs to the AONB. However, whilst the boundary of DA6 is c850m from the AONB, the part of the site that will be subject to development is actually c.1.1 km from the AONB. Additionally, the AONB is 3.1 km west of DA4 and 3.2 km south of DA5. Effects upon landscape character and views from the AONB have been considered within the assessment. There are no other landscape receptors; including Registered Parks and Gardens and Country Parks within the study area.
- 7.4.47 The AONB covers the majority of the Isle of Anglesey's 201km coastline and its immediate hinterland (one third of the island and 21,500 ha), the largest AONB in Wales. The vision for the AONB as contained within the AONB 'Management Plan 2009 – 2014'. It is described as '*a peaceful and tranquil rural retreat and an ideal location in which to relax and enjoy quiet forms of recreation.*' The plan states that the objective is that development within and adjacent to the AONB reflects the objectives of the Management Plan and the traditional character of the island. Within the study area there is a notable gap within the area of the AONB, as RAF Valley Airfield and the near environs is omitted from the designation.

'The landscape of the AONB is a diverse mixture of many features, which are both distinctive and appealing. As the Anglesey AONB is predominantly a coastal designation, features such as cliffs, rocky shores, islands, sandy beaches and sand dunes tend to dominate the landscape. A significant proportion of the AONB is farmland, whilst there are also significant areas of heathland, semi natural woodland, intertidal wetlands and lakes.

The AONB has a relatively open, rolling, undulating landscape. The topography of Anglesey generally falls from the north east to the south west, and this is represented in the landscape of the AONB. The North and North West coastlines are dominated by impressive ancient Precambrian and Cambrian sea cliffs, particularly on Holy Island, while on the eastern side of the Island; limestone cliffs provide an interesting contrast. The south western coast is characterised by a series of rocky headlands and intervening sandy bays and dunes which generally enclose shallow lakes or marshes. The Menai Strait shore has low cliffs capped with woodland and rolling farmland on glacial deposits. There is limited natural woodland coverage in the AONB'. (Management Plan 2009 – 2014)

- 7.4.48 The ZTVs have been reviewed to consider the potential for inter-visibility between the AONB and the development areas. Focussing on the DA6 ZTV (as the closest DA, see Figure 7.16) the AONB boundary area is easily discernible, formed by the railway

line to the south west and RAF Valley Airfield to the south east. The ZTV illustrates the potential for theoretical visibility to DA6 from a small area of the AONB immediately to the north of the airfield, around the hamlet of Llanfairyneubwll, an area of <2km². Visibility from the AONB is discussed further in the viewpoint assessment. Effects upon landscape setting are considered within the landscape assessment.

Tywyn Trewan Common

- 7.4.49 Tywyn Trewan Common (open access land) adjoins RAF Valley Airfield and the railway corridor. This area of open access land also contains marked public rights of way. Visibility from the area is considered within the viewpoint assessment PROWs and effects upon the landscape setting of the common are also considered.

7.5 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 7.5.1 The scheme is described in detail in chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement (ES). In summary, the proposal relates to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park plus ancillary infrastructure as comprising the following:
- Photovoltaic (PV) panels to a maximum height of 3m;
 - Mounting frames - matt finished small section metal structure;
 - Scheme of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement;
 - Inverters, transformers (transformers will be housed in prefabricated containers to a maximum height of 3m), substations (DNO and customer to a maximum height of 3m) and associated cabling (below ground);
 - Point of connection;
 - Stock fencing up to a height of 2m;
 - Infra-red CCTV (CCTV cameras would operate using motion sensors and would be positioned inward only to ensure privacy to neighbouring land and property);
 - Temporary set down areas;
 - Internal service roads; and
 - Site access for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
- 7.5.2 Parc Solar Traffwll will have an export capacity of circa 35MW of electricity, enough to power approximately 11,600 homes per year and offset over 7,840 tonnes of CO₂ every year, the equivalent of taking around 3,620 cars off the road.
- 7.5.3 The proposed point of connection is located at an existing substation to the south of Caergeiliog on the eastern side of Cymyran Road. A customer substation will be located on DA6 and from here a cable will connect directly into the existing substation on Cymyran Road. DAs 4 and 5 will be connected to the customer substation by underground cabling which will be predominantly located within the adopted highway.
- 7.5.4 The panels will be arranged in rows in an east-west alignment across the development areas and orientated south. The scheme will be operational for 40 years after which all equipment can be removed from site.
- 7.5.5 The development areas will be secured by up to a 2m high stock fence or similar with wooden posts. In limited areas the fence line will be lower than 2m to for ecological reasons.
- 7.5.6 Chapter 5 of the ES details how the scheme has evolved through the design and consultation process, but in summary the consideration of landscape and visual issues has been key in refining the layout of the proposed development and has led

to the removal of a number of higher sensitivity DAs from the scheme altogether.

Duration

- 7.5.7 From a landscape and visual assessment perspective, although the proposed development is ultimately temporary and reversible, its effects on the landscape have been considered over its anticipated 40 year lifespan.

7.6 VISUAL ASSESSMENT – BASELINE CONDITIONS

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- 7.6.1 As discussed in the methodology, land that may potentially be visually connected with the proposed development has been identified and mapped at the outset in accordance with paragraph 6.6 of GLVIA 3. ZTV mapping has been produced to determine the area over which the proposed development theoretically could be seen. ZTV maps are generated by a computer from a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) representing the bare ground topography, with visual barriers added, overlaid on a map base.
- 7.6.2 The ZTV indicates the maximum theoretical area in which the proposed development may be visible. The analysis was carried out using representative height points spaced within the internal Development Areas, at a height of 3m above ground level.
- 7.6.3 The analysis uses map data (taken from Ordnance Survey Vector Map District) and includes the addition of the 'Building' layer, modelled at an assumed average height of 8m above ground level, and the 'Woodland' layer, modelled at an assumed average height of 13m above ground level.
- 7.6.4 The addition of these visual barriers over the bare earth topographic model provides a more realistic indication of the potential visibility of the development within the local landscape setting. Visibility mapping is presented on 1:10,000 scale OS base mapping. Areas with theoretical visibility at represented height points arranged within the site (at least one) to a height of 3m above ground level are shaded.
- 7.6.5 Visibility levels are further refined through the site survey and consideration of visibility from the identified receptors, settlements, recreational routes, landscape receptors and through the viewpoint assessment.
- 7.6.6 Visibility mapping to the 3 DAs is provided to a 2.5 km study area, illustrated on the following figures (presented in **Appendix 7.3**):
- Figure 7.14, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Development Area 4
 - Figure 7.15, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Development Area 5
 - Figure 7.16, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Development Area 6
 - Figure 7.17, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan — Cumulative - all Development Areas (at least one Development Area visible)

Figure 7.14 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Development Area 4

- 7.6.7 With regard to visual barriers, the main buildings around the site are shown but there are very limited woodland screening blocks shown on the OS data. In reality the site is surrounded by mature hedgerows and trees, including a prominent bank of wind swept Pine trees. Extensive theoretical visibility is shown extending over the lower lying Valley Wetland and Tywyn Trewan Common, extending to the rail corridor and

RAF Valley Airfield. Visibility is shown to the south and the rising landscape approaching Rhosneigr.

- 7.6.8 Theoretical visibility to the east is limited, screened by the gently rising land to the east of DA5, with only partial visibility from the A55 corridor to the east. Visibility to the north is focussed to the rising land north of the A55, a pastoral landscape with many hedgerows around the small fields. Views shown to the southern edge of Bryngwran only. Westerly views are possible over the lower lying landscape and Llyn Traffwll to the edge of Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn, which screens further visibility west with no visibility shown to DA6.

Figure 7.15 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Development Area 5

- 7.6.9 With regard to visual barriers, the main individual buildings around the site are shown but there are very limited woodland screening blocks shown on the OS data. In reality the site is surrounded by mature hedgerows. In contrast to DA4, to the west of the site there is limited visibility shown over the lower lying area of Valley Wetlands and Tywyn Trewan Common, visibility focussed to the western areas approaching RAF Valley Airfield and Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn. The settlement, upon a local low ridge, again screens further visibility west with no visibility shown to the area around DA6.
- 7.6.10 Visibility to the south is restricted, but visibility is focused east to the undulating landscape around Capel Gwyn and extending to the A4080 corridor. Visibility north is focussed to the near area of the A55, and the rising slopes beyond to Bryngwran. Theoretical visibility north west over DA4 to the A55 corridor and the small scale pastoral landscape that gently rises above this zone.

Figure 7.17, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Development Area 6

- 7.6.11 With regard to visual barriers, the main individual buildings around the site are shown but there are very limited woodland screening blocks shown on the OS data. In reality the site is surrounded by numerous mature hedgerows and blocks of scrub vegetation. The zone of theoretical visibility for DA6 is substantially different from that seen for DA4 and DA5. Theoretical visibility is focussed to the corridor between rising land to the east, with Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn upon it and to the west by the undulating land approaching Caergeiliog.
- 7.6.12 Visibility is focussed to the south west over Llyn Dinam and Llyn Penrhyn extending over RAF Valley Airfield, but screened from the coastal area. Visibility extends north east to the A55 corridor, but with only limited visibility beyond, over the rising pastoral landscape. There is no visibility east to DAs 4 and 5.

Figure 7.18, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan – Cumulative, all Development Areas (at least one Development Area visible)

- 7.6.13 When the limited woodland blocks (as mapped by the OS) and dispersed nature of buildings, set within the gently undulating landscape factors are considered, these features combine to allow extensive visibility over the local study area. DA6 does however stand out as an entirely different ZTV, compared to the similar visual distribution illustrated for DAs 4 and 5. Views are generally focused to the lower lying Valley Wetlands area, extending southward to the railway corridor and RAF Valley Airfield. Visibility from the east is the most restricted, limited by the undulating landscape that rises above the level of the DAs.

- 7.6.14 Visibility from the north is focused to the near A55 corridor area approaching the settlement of Bryngwran and over the surrounding pastoral landscape. Theoretical visibility is shown over DAs 4 and 5. DA6 ZTV is distinct from DAs 4 and 5, however at a cumulative level, as illustrated, this has the effect of illustrating a larger area that is theoretically visible to all DAs, when in reality it may just be one, which is why the individual DA ZTVs are provided and considered the most representative.

7.7 POTENTIAL RECEPTORS

- 7.7.1 The key visual receptors within the study area will consist of (people within) settlements, users of public rights of way (cycle ways and footpaths), and users of recreational facilities, transportation and public access networks. Registered parks and gardens and country parks are considered in the landscape baseline and effects sections but views are only considered where a view is a key component of the designated landscape.

Settlements

- 7.7.2 Settlements are considered to have a high sensitivity to visual change as there is the potential for large numbers of receptors (people) to be concentrated in these areas. It should be noted that many individual dwellings and dwellings within settlements, even when close to other proposed developments, may have 'no' or 'limited visibility' of the proposed development. For each individual property close to the development site, the exact degree of visibility will depend on the orientation of the property, the orientation of the windows in the property, and the degree of screening provided by trees, hedgerows, vegetation and surrounding buildings. With reference to the ZTV, excluding areas shown to have no theoretical visibility (i.e. screened by landform) the main residential receptors have been assessed. Individual properties within 1km of the site (grouped where appropriate) are considered in addition to settlements, measurements are approximate to the closest of the grouping.

- 7.7.3 Residential properties and (individual groups) within 200m of the Development Areas include:

- Development Area 4
 - P4R1 – Plas Farm (Plas Llechylched) – c.10m to the east
 - P4R2 – Grouping of YR Hen Grouglofft Gwar, Y Cerbyty, Y Stablau (2), YR Hen Laethoy – c. 25m to the east
 - P4R3 - Caer Ddol – c.23m to the north
 - P4R4 — Gefaely Y Gof and Hen Gwet Tac Ceffylau – c. 26m to the east
 - P4R5 - Pen Bont – c.27m to the north
 - P4R6 - Dolafon – c.42m to the north
 - P4R7 - TY Capel Hebron – c.92m to the north
 - P4R8 – Gwaenfyfyod – c.95m south
 - P4R9 - Pandy Cymnod – c.101m to the north-west

It is noted that the DA4 landowner has recently commenced construction on a new residential property next to the barn within the central area of DA4. As the property is financially connected to the scheme it will not be assessed.

- Development Area 5
 - P5R1 – Tyn Rhos – c.30m to the east

- P5R2 – Ty Croes – c.104m to the south
- P5R3 – Y Ddol – c.154m to the south
- Development Area 6
 - P6R1 - Glan Gors – within the Development Area boundary
 - P6R2 - Old School House – c.12m to the north
 - P6R3 – 1 - 31 Tudor Court – c.23m – 185m to the south-east
 - P6R4 - Cae'r Pwll – c.31m to the north
 - P6R5 - Tap Ty Hefyd – c.60m to the north-west
 - P6R6 - Yscubor Bach – c.63m to the east
 - PR67 - Tros Lon – c.66m to the north-west
 - P6R8 - Neuadd – c.70m to the north-west
 - P6R9 - Arfryn – c.94m to the north-east
 - P6R10 - Caergeiliog Farm – c.94m to the north-west
 - P6R11 - 2 – 48 Dol Eithin - c.127m - 189m to the east
 - P6R12 - Cern Farm – c.160m to the west
 - P6R13 - Rhos Bach – c.183m to the east
 - P6R14 - 30 Ffordd Cerrig Mawr – c.198m to the south-east
 - P6R15 - 29 Ffodd Cerrig Mawr – c.202m to the south-east
 - P6R16 - 27 Ffordd Cerrig Mawr – c.211m south-east
- Settlements (and main residential groups) within 2km:
 - Chapel Gwyn, c. 1.3km south-east of Development Area 5
 - Bryngwran, c. 700m north-east from Development Area 4 and 800m north of Development Area 5
 - Llanfihangel-yn-Nhywyn, c. 300m east of Development Area 6
 - Caergeiliog, c. 800m north-west of Development Area 6
 - Llanfair-yn-neubwll, c.1.3km south-west of Development Area 6

**Distances quoted from the boundary of the Development Areas to the closest area of the settlement / settlement group.*

- 7.7.4 The potential impact of the proposed development on the visual amenity of the properties listed above has been assessed within the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) included in **Appendix 7.6** to this ES. Those receptors which are considered to experience significant effects will be considered in more detail. The selected properties assessed in the RVAA have been agreed in consultation with IACC, and copies of the consultation emails confirming this are included within **Appendix 7.6**.

Recreational Routes

- 7.7.5 The Public Rights of Way (within 500 m) surrounding the Development Areas with the potential for theoretical visibility include:
- 16/004/01 – 310m north of Development Area 4 running north-south
 - 13/021/1 – 740m north-west of Development Area 4 running north-south
 - 13/023/1 – 900m north-west of Development Area 4 running north-south
 - 13/019/3 – 1.03km north-west of Development Area 4 running north-south

 - 16/008/1 – 140m east/southeast of Development Area 5 running north-south

- 16/009/1 – 400m east/southeast of Development Area 5 running north-south
- 16/007/2 – 730m north-east of Development Area 5 running east-west
- 16/003/1 – 800m north of Development Area 5 running north-south
- 16/006/1 – 820m north-east of Development Area 5 running northwest-southeast
- 16/010/1 – 880m south-east of Development Area 5 running northwest-southeast

- 32/014/1 – within Development Area 6 running northwest-southeast
- 32/014/2 – within Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/017/1 – within Development Area 6 running northwest-southeast
- 32/014/3 – Immediate south of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/029/1 – 50m northwest of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/028/1 – 60m west of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/028/2 – 60m west of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/015/1 – 80m east of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/013/2 – 100m southeast of Development Area 6 running southwest – northeast
- 32/022/1 – 300m east of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/027/1 – 370m west of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/016/1 – 390m east of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/027/2 – 400m west of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/009/1 – 530m west of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/020/1- 640m southeast of Development Area 6 running northwest-southeast
- 32/018/1 – 650m south-west of Development Area 6 running northeast – southwest
- 32/011/2 – 650m south of Development Area 6 running southwest-northeast
- 32/008/1 – 660m west of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/030/1 – 680m west of Development Area 6 running south
- 32/014/04 – 780m south of Development Area 6 running northwest – southeast
- 32/019/1 – 800m east of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/011/1 – 840m south of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/012/3 – 900m south of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/010/1 – 960m southwest of Development Area 6 running east-west
- 32/012/1 – 1km south of Development Area 6 running north-west to south-east
- 32/012/2 – 1.05km south of Development Area 6 running northwest – southeast
- 32/013/1 – 1.06km south of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/016/2 – 1.08km east of Development Area 6 running north-south
- 32/025/1 – 1.24km north west of Development Area 6 running north

7.7.6 Due to the vast numbers of recreational routes within the study area only those within 250m of the solar deployment areas will be considered in the assessment, unless they are part of a higher sensitivity route.

7.7.7 National Cycle Network Route 8 is approximately 380m to the east of DA6 and beside the northern boundaries of DAs 4 and 5.

Key Transport Routes

7.7.8 The main roads within 1km of the proposed development with the potential for

theoretical visibility include:

- A55, c.200m north of Development Area 4, c.700m to the north of Development Areas 5 and 6
- A5/Holyhead Road, c. 400m north-west of Development Area 6 (closest point)

7.7.9 The minor roads within 1km of the proposed development with the potential for theoretical visibility include:

- Alltwen Goch runs along the northern boundaries of Development Areas 4 and 5
- An un-named road runs between the boundaries of Development Areas 4 (east) and 5 (west)
- An un-named road runs along the northern boundary of Development Area 6
- Lon Satem runs north-south in between Development Areas 4 and 5
- Minffordd Road, c. 400m to the east of Development Area 6

7.7.10 Within the assessment section only the minor / local roads that pass immediately beside the boundary of the proposed development area have been considered.

7.7.11 The main Anglesey railway line runs c. 930m to the south-west of DA6. Due to the separation distance, views from the railway corridor have not been considered in the assessment section.

Selected Recreational / Cultural Destinations

7.7.12 Heritage designations including listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments will be considered independently in the heritage assessment (where applicable) - see ES Chapter 9. Within the study area, there are no other 'high sensitivity' recreational or cultural destinations, (e.g. Registered Parks and Gardens) which have a focus on landscape appreciation, that should be considered. No other recreational receptors within 1km of the proposed development are considered.

Viewpoint Assessment

7.7.13 Nineteen viewpoints have been selected on the basis that they provide views to (or illustrate the limited visibility) of the proposed development from sensitive receptors (residential, recreational and PROW) and are representative or locations within the study area. A full list of viewpoints including: a description of location; justification for selection; and approximate distance from the site and baseline views is included in table within **Appendix 7.5**.

7.7.14 The viewpoints were discussed and agreed with IACC prior to the assessment process, the locations of the viewpoints are illustrated on **Figure 7.23** Viewpoint Location Plan in **Appendix 7.3**.

7.7.15 Baseline views are considered with reference to:

- The type and relative nature of people (visual receptors) likely to be affected with consideration of the activities they are involved in.
- The location, nature and characteristics of the chosen viewpoints (representative, specific and illustrative).
- The nature, direction, composition and characteristics of the existing views experienced at the viewpoints; and
- The visual characteristics and elements of the existing views e.g. nature and extent of skyline, aspects of visual scale and proportion, landform or other

elements that may interrupt or otherwise influence views.

7.7.16 The baseline photographs are included on the Photomontage and Viewpoint Sheets, Figures 31 to 49 presented in **Appendix 7.3 and 7.4**. The viewpoints are listed below and the baseline conditions of the viewpoints are described in Section 5.2 of **Appendix 7.5**.

- VP1 Tywyn Trewan Common
- VP2 Valley Wetlands / Cerrig Cynrig
- VP3 Local lane close to Pen y Bryn / public footpath, east of Development Area 5.
- VP4 Local Road (between Development Area 4 and 5)
- VP5 Local road, close to the entrance to Plas-Llechylched
- VP6 Local road, close to Caer Ddol Farm
- VP7 Local road close to the entrance to Plas-Llechylched
- VP8 Road, close to Tyn Rhos
- VP9 Caer Elen, North of Llyn Trafwall
- VP10 Local Road, close to Arfryn.
- VP11 Tros Lon (public footpath)
- VP12 View over Llyn Traffwall
- VP13 Dinam Fawr footpath
- VP14 Llanfairyneubwll (north of)
- VP15 Tywyn Trewan Common / Dunes, Cymyran Bay
- VP16 Local Road near Bryn Madog
- VP17 Bryngwran
- VP18 Landscape north of the A55 / A5
- VP19 A55 (east of the Caergeiliog junction)

7.7.17 The viewpoints are considered within the visual assessment section and **Appendix 7.5**, supplemented with photomontages of the Development Areas from selected locations.

7.8 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL MITIGATION MEASURES

7.8.1 Landscape, visual and biodiversity enhancements are an inherent part of the proposed development. In addition to land between and around the panels, there will be significant areas of non-deployment land located in DA6 that will be brought under formal management for the life of the scheme.

7.8.2 This chapter combined with the Ecology and Nature Conservation chapter (chapter 11) provides full details of the mitigation and enhancement proposals.

7.8.3 Development Areas 1, 8 and 9 have been removed from the proposed development. Their removal is primarily for ecological reasons as it will avoid impacts to chough (bird species) foraging during winter months. The Development Area removal avoids impacts to this species, which is a mobile component of Glannau Ynys Gybi / Holy Island SPA. The removal of these 3 Development Areas, an area of proposed solar development of c 47 ha. also has substantial landscape and visual benefits, reducing the overall spread of solar development within the central, low lying and open zone of the study area (an area with few hedgerows or trees and open field boundaries) as well as reducing the overall distribution and visibility from sensitive visual receptors.

7.8.4 In summary, the proposed development will provide the following landscape and

biodiversity enhancements:

- Manage grassland to create a diverse sward between and around the solar arrays / Development Area fringes;
- Manage wet grassland margins for wildlife;
- Reinforce hedgerows to improve visual containment of deployment areas, improve landscape structure and provide habitat for a range of species;
- Minimise sediment runoff to improve water quality of surrounding water bodies;
- Manage marshland and wet grassland habitat associated with Llyn Dinam SAC/Llynau y Fali SSSI;
- Provide additional hedgerow and tree / scrub planting mitigation to improve landscape structure and screen views from sensitive receptors,
- Maintain a minimum offset distance of at least 50m from all residential receptors that will remain clear of all development; and
- Monitor the site and assess the success of biodiversity management.

7.8.5 Mitigation is an integral part of the design and assessment process. The mitigation proposals incorporate features for landscape / visual and biodiversity mitigation and enhancements. Chapter 5 of the ES and the Design and Access Statement explain how the site layout has evolved to respond to the findings of the consultation process and to the landscape / visual and biodiversity context. The following masterplan drawings illustrate the proposed mitigation for the DAs:

- **Figure 7.21** Landscape Masterplan – Development Area 4 & 5
- **Figure 7.22** Landscape Masterplan – Development Area 6

7.8.6 With regard to the mitigation proposals for DAs 4 and 5, which are within LCA 17 West Central Anglesey, the baseline section highlights a number of landscape management objectives for this LCA. The mitigation proposals for DAs 4 and 5 has been developed in accordance with the document and seek to:

- Ensure that the management of the range of semi-natural habitats - mires, trees and hedgerows found scattered throughout the area is maintained (see general hedgerow / vegetation management and the specific proposals for Development Area 6).
- Ensure that the management of wider habitats increases their value and reflect Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives.
- Ensure that the visual impacts from and to the principal transport corridors (main railway line and A5/A55 corridors) are properly considered.
- Ensure that the proposed mitigation measures reflect the wider landscape structure and that Development Area are not considered in isolation.

7.8.7 With regard to DA6, which is within both LCA 5 and LCA 18, a number of management objectives are outlined within the LCA analysis in the baseline section. The following objectives are incorporated into the mitigation proposals for DA6, and seek to:

- Use landform, vegetation patterns to mitigate impacts.
- Utilise and retain local field boundary patterns – cloddiau, fences, hedgerows.
- Habitat Management - Although a relatively intensely farmed area, there are a range of semi-natural habitats throughout the LCA. It includes Llyn Alaw which is an important biodiversity resource.
- A large area of DA6 is set aside, free of development in response to this objective. The development and management proposals seek to:
 - Provide for the management of semi-natural habitat features, including open

water.

- Develop and enhance network of sites and link to local BAP targets.

- 7.8.8 Mitigation, developed following review of the Isle of Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update (2011), seeks to integrate the development into the local landscape, screen and filter views to the site from sensitive receptors and provide landscape (and ecological) enhancement using unutilised land within the site areas, and off site if necessary. The layout of the solar arrays within the site is designed so that the existing mature vegetation around the site boundaries (and within) are retained. Appropriate buffers are integrated to the vegetation (typically a minimum of 4m from existing vegetation to the site boundary fence and a further 4m from the fence to the solar arrays) with development restricted from within the canopy of trees.
- 7.8.9 The small and medium scale nature of the local pastoral landscape is established, the DAs are located upon pastoral land set within the existing field structure allowing for focussed enhancements to the established structure.
- 7.8.10 The construction process of the solar arrays, the main land use feature of the development, is of a light footprint as the steel posts (of the panel frames) are driven into the ground with no foundations required. This construction method is of a minimal disturbance to ground conditions, the land cover of the field can remain grass pasture, the field remains available for low intensity grazing or left as fallow, partially retaining the current agricultural landscape characteristic of the site areas.
- 7.8.11 General mitigation principles applied to all the DAs includes:
- All existing boundary hedgerows will be retained, including hedge trees. Where appropriate on the boundary adjoining receptors (residential, roads and footpaths) the hedges will be allowed to grow up to at least 3m tall to help to screen visibility from publicly accessible areas to the solar Development Areas.
 - Maintain a minimum offset distance of at least 50m from all residential receptors that will remain clear of all development.
 - In the minimum 4m gap between the boundary hedges and site security fence, the grass will be subject to a low intensity management regime (cut every 2 years) to form a tussock grassland. These grassland fringes will provide enhanced habitat for reptiles, invertebrates and birds overall contributing to improved biodiversity levels in the local area. The areas of tussock grassland would act as a reservoir of grassland invertebrates particularly over winter which should have indirect benefits for Chough and will also benefit other bird species and small mammals.
 - In the main solar development areas, within the site security fence, the grassland will be managed as a meadow grassland (species-rich wild flower and fine grass mix) a supplementary seed mix will be sown where required following construction damage. The DAs will be managed as meadow grassland (suitable for farmland birds) allowed to grow or grazed by sheep as deemed appropriate by the operator.
 - Extensive seasonal grazing will be required on all parcels within the security fencing to manage grassland in a manner than encourages a variable and diverse sward. The maximum stocking density of sheep will be 4 animals per Ha. On DAs 4 and 5 particularly, this will encourage the development of species-rich semi-improved grassland of greater biodiversity value than the improved and intensively grazed grassland it replaces.
 - The creation of areas of structurally diverse grassland will provide both cover and foraging areas for breeding Lapwing. A regime of low intensity sheep grazing will

- create the desired mix of short foraging sward and longer sward for cover;
- Where there are current gaps in the perimeter hedgerows, these will be filled with a native locally appropriate mixed species hedgerow mix.
- Additional feathered sized hedge trees will be planted along the hedgerows at random spacing's to increase local tree coverage levels, filter visibility and provide green links between existing woodland and scrub areas.
- A landscape and ecological management plan will be produced and adhered to for all retained and created habitats in order for them to maintain existing value and/or realise enhanced value, making sure that management is appropriate and ongoing for the life of the development (secured by planning condition).

Visual Mitigation

7.8.12 Additional hedgerows and tree / scrub planting mitigation blocks are proposed at selected locations primarily to screen (and filter) views from sensitive receptors whilst also improving landscape structure. Areas Include:

- Development Area 4
 - New hedgerow to be added around the eastern boundary of the site area, c.600 linear metres. Occasional hedge trees will also be added to the hedge line. The hedgerow will screen and filter views from the near residential property grouping at Plas Llechylched (Plas Farm and Gefaely y Gof. The hedgerow is located beyond the minimum 50 m clear zone from the properties, set beside the site boundary fence. New infill hedgerow to be added to gap in existing hedge upon the western boundary, close to the local road and Caer Ddol and Pen Bont properties.
 - Three grass pasture fields to the south west of the Plas Farm grouping (which are within the site boundary) to be left clear of all development to reduce the scale of landscape and visual effects upon the residential grouping.
 - 50m clear zone of development incorporated into scheme layout upon the northern boundary when close to residential receptors.
- Development Area 5
 - New hedgerow to be added around the eastern boundary of the site area, c.170 linear metres. Occasional hedge trees will also be added to the hedge line. The hedgerow will screen and filter views from the near residential property of Tyn Rhos. Hedgerow is located beyond the minimum 50 m clear development zone from the property, set beside the site boundary fence.
- Development Area 6
 - All internal hedgerows and scrub banks / ditches to be retained. Retention of existing structural vegetation will break up the large areas of arrays, reducing the overall scale, when viewed from elevated locations to the north east. New hedge trees added to the north eastern site boundary to filter views from the nearby residential receptor of Arfyrn.

Ecological Specific Mitigation – Development Area 6

7.8.13 The management of c.7 ha. of the southernmost and western fields of DA6 as wet pasture / floodplain grazing marsh will provide a positive water quality improvement

to Llyn Dinam SAC and Valley Lakes SSSI. Specifically, the management will be such that cattle will graze the land adjoining the designations to control grazing to create a variable sward height.

- 7.8.14 In addition, along the principal drain through DA6 a series of small, vegetated forebays will be created to trap mobilised silt and sediment designed to maintain the slow the flow of water to aid settling out of sediment and filter the water.
- 7.8.15 Ecological specific mitigation is discussed in more detail within the Ecology and Nature Conservation Chapter (11) of this ES.

Hedgerow Specific Mitigation

- 7.8.16 All hedges (including scrub and gorse blocks where these form field boundaries) are to be retained around the site, with infilling of the gaps of missing sections undertaken. In addition to benefiting landscape and visual issues the retention of hedges will ensure that foraging, refuge and hibernation opportunities, protection from predators, and connectivity between habitats for wildlife within the local area is maintained and enhanced.
- 7.8.17 The retained hedgerows will undergo sympathetic hedgerow management throughout the life of the solar farm, thus providing landscape and ecological benefits. Outline hedgerow management recommendations include:
- Hedges will be trimmed at three-year intervals at the most and maintained at a height of at least 3 m with sections extending up to around 4.5 m;
 - At least 30% of site hedges will be left to grow for at least seven to ten years (most likely on the northern boundaries of the solar to avoid shading);
 - Ensure rotationally only 30% of hedges are cut in any one year, to allow hedge trees to fruit heavily;
 - Laying will be used to manage hedgerows that become 'gappy' or lack dense branches at their base; and
 - If hedgerow size needs to be restricted, hedges will be cut on one side and not the top (but within a maximum height of ~3m – 4.5 m).

Construction and Decommissioning Phase Mitigation

- 7.8.18 Aside from the minor access improvements, due to the method of construction there will be minimal other physical changes to the structure of the fields. This will reduce the potential for long term landscape effects of the scheme and allowing ease of restoration and a change back to pastoral use when the scheme is decommissioned.
- 7.8.19 Specific mitigation measures considered during the construction phase relevant to landscape and visual issues include:
- There will be limited vegetation loss, the existing access points and farm tracks will be used. Access tracks for construction will largely follow existing farm tracks and utilising existing entrances. The existing farm tracks within the site will be improved as required by adding stone/granular material which will weather over time. Where additional temporary tracks are required for construction, these will be created using interlocking sheet material to avoid longer term soils damage; and
 - The temporary construction compounds will be located within the DA (see **drawing LOC1001/1/04**) minimising direct and indirect effects on landscape elements, landscape character and visual receptors.

7.8.20 The proposed development will be operational for 40 years, at the end of which it can be dismantled and removed and the site reinstated to previous conditions.

7.8.21 Specific mitigation measures, considered during the decommissioning phase relevant to landscape and visual issues include:

- The temporary de-commissioning compound and all disturbed and excavated areas will be reinstated following completion of de-commissioning activities. Any concrete foundations (if used) will be broken up, removed and earth reinstated to make up levels;
- There will be no vegetation loss, mitigation vegetation to remain as landscape features;
- Existing entrances, tracks and access points will be used (including temporary access tracks where required); and
- The site will be reinstated to previous use, grass pasture.

Proposed Mitigation – Approximate Areas / Quantities, Development Areas 4, 5 and 6

7.8.22 The mitigation treatments and existing features are shown on the proposed Landscape Masterplan and Mitigation **drawings LOC1001/06/21 - 22** in **Appendix 7.3**.

Table 7.6: Development Area 4 – Proposed Landscape Planting

Development Area 4 - Mitigation Treatment	Number / Area
Tussock Grassland outside site security fence	c.1.2ha. (excludes internal area around retained barn)
Meadow Grassland within site security fences	c.4.9 ha.
Proposed Native Hedgerows (new and infill)	c.620 l/m
Proposed Hedgerow Trees	c.3 no. per 100 l/m
Proposed Native Woodland / Scrub	n/a – existing site vegetation retained
Managed Wet Grazing Grassland	c.1.2 ha.
Managed Meadow Grassland – winter seed source for birds	c.4 ha.
Length of existing hedgerows around and within site (retained and protected)	All existing hedgerows retained
Area of solar arrays	c.7.8 ha. (within overall deployment area of c.18.2 ha.)

Table 7.7: Development Area 5 – Proposed Landscape Planting

Development Area 5 - Mitigation Treatment	Number / Area
Tussock Grassland outside site security fence	c. 0.8 ha.
Meadow Grassland within site security fences	c.3.5 ha.
Proposed Native Hedgerows (new and infill)	c.170 l/m (site entrance and close to residential property) remaining hedgerows retained.
Proposed Hedgerow Trees	c.3 no. per 100 l/m
Proposed Native Woodland / Scrub	n/a
Managed Meadow Grassland – winter seed source for birds	c.0.5 ha.
Length of existing hedgerows around and within site (retained and protected)	All existing hedgerows retained
Area of solar arrays	c.2.4 ha. (within overall deployment area of c.6 ha.)

Table 7.8: Development Area 6 – Proposed Landscape Planting

DEVELOPMENT AREA 6 - Mitigation Treatment	Number / Area
Tussock Grassland outside site security fence	c.2.2 ha.
Meadow Grassland within site security fences	c.6.7ha.
Proposed Native Hedgerows (new and infill)	n/a c.24 no. standard trees to hedgerow on N and NE boundary
Proposed Hedgerow Trees	c.3 no. per 100 l/m
Proposed Native Woodland / Scrub	n/a
Managed Wet Grazing Grassland	c.2.6 ha.
Managed Meadow Grassland – winter seed source for birds	c.0.7ha.
Ecological management of SSSI / SAC	c.3.3 ha. (to be agreed)
Length of existing hedgerows around and within site (retained and protected)	All existing hedgerows retained
Area of solar arrays	c.4.1 ha. (within overall deployment area of c.12.6 ha.)

- 7.8.23 Overall, the mitigation and enhancement proposals seek to reduce the landscape effects of the solar development areas and integrate the site within the host LCAs. Mitigation proposals are also developed to screen and filter the development from the view of sensitive receptors, whilst also providing a range of ecological mitigation enhancements. This is considered to be a benefit over the current grazed pasture land use of the development area which is discussed further in the ecological chapter.
- 7.8.24 The overall areas of the development zones (within the Development Area security fences) considered against the overall deployment footprint of the solar arrays (excluding the limited access tracks and supporting infrastructure) presents the

following areas:

- Total area of the solar deployment zones and internal security fenced areas = c.37.3 ha.
- Total area of solar arrays and site infrastructure (all Development Areas) = c.15.2 ha.
- Overall ground coverage of development = c.41% focussed upon the solar arrays. The remaining areas of the internal deployment zones (c.22.1 ha.) would be set aside for ecological mitigation (predominantly grassland) and the conservation of the retained vegetation within the Development Area boundaries.
- Note the area of non deployment also excludes the additional mitigation areas outside of the deployment zone of Development Area 6, which total c.6.5 ha. and the areas set aside as grassland fringes and clear development zones (available as grassland or grazing) when close to residential receptors, a substantial c.16.5 ha. of retained grassland that will remain undeveloped, but in positive management.

7.9 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

7.9.1 Opportunities exist for potential cumulative views, where more than one solar farm, including the proposed development, may be seen either simultaneously or sequentially. Solar farms with the potential to generate cumulative effects include those which; are constructed, are in construction; have planning permission and are not yet constructed; or, are awaiting determination of planning permission. There are no other cumulative solar schemes within the study area.

7.9.2 Consideration has also been given to potential cumulative influences from other environmental topics assessed as part of this EIA and from significant and non-solar proposals beyond the application site boundary.

7.9.3 Details of such schemes are listed in Chapter 13 of this ES. The identified schemes that have the greatest potential to create cumulative impacts are located a considerable distance from the application site (beyond the ZTV presented in **Appendix 7.3**) and as such are unlikely to contribute to a significant effect on landscape character and / or visual amenity.

7.9.4 The ES demonstrates that no significantly adverse effects will be created from other environmental topics during both the construction and operational phases of the proposal therefore no 'in combination' effects will occur. Furthermore, the baseline assessment has considered surrounding land-uses that may influence local landscape and visual amenity.

7.10 ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF LANDSCAPE EFFECT

Introduction

7.10.1 In order to assess whether landscape character is 'substantially' affected by a development, it should be determined what and how each of the key characteristics would be affected. The judgement of magnitude therefore reflects the degree to which the key characteristics and elements which form those characteristics will be altered by the proposals. The scale of the development, the nature and sensitivity of the receiving landscape, and local 'barriers' in the landscape (such as breaks of topography, woodlands, settlements, and roads or rivers) will influence the exact extent of effect of the development. The assessment focuses on the operational

phase. Temporary and short term effects during the construction and decommissioning phases are discussed following the main effects where applicable.

- 7.10.2 Landscape assessment involves assessing the sensitivity of a landscape receptor against the magnitude of change that will be likely to be caused by a development to evaluate the significance of effects upon that receptor.
- 7.10.3 The significance of the effect of a development on the landscape is not an absolute scale but is a judgement based on the magnitude of the anticipated effect (or scale of change) and the sensitivity of the landscape to development.

Effects on Landscape Character - Landscape Character Areas, Landmap Aspect Areas and Landscape Receptors

- 7.10.4 The landscape resource is assessed in terms of sensitivity, which combines judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development concerned and the value attached to the landscape. Sensitivity is specific to the project/development.
- 7.10.5 Landscape characteristics of the application site and consequences of the development upon the landscape character of the development areas (and wider study area) is considered. The assessment includes the host and near adjoining landscape character areas (LCA 17, LCA 5 and LCA 18). In addition, consideration is given to landscape effects upon the host LANDMAP Aspect Areas and those within the study area selected for further consideration due to higher level classifications as discussed within Section 7.4.
- 7.10.6 Detailed assessment tables are included with **Appendix 7.5**, and are summarised in the below table.

Table 7.8: Assessment of Landscape effect – Summary Table

Receptor	Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Landscape Effect	Level of Landscape Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Comment
LCA 17: West Central Anglesey	Medium / Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	Host area for Development Areas 4 & 5
LCA 5: North West Anglesey	Medium	Low	Moderate / Minor (Not Significant)	Host area for the main deployment zone of Development Area 6
LCA 18: Valley Airfield Environs	Medium	Negligible	Minor (Not Significant)	Non deployment area of Development Area 6
LANDMAP				
Visual and Sensory				

Receptor	Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Landscape Effect	Level of Landscape Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Comment
VS012: Central Smooth Belt (HOST)	Medium (moderate evaluation)	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	Host area for Development Area 4 & 5
VS020: Caergiliog craggy lowlands (HOST)	Medium (moderate evaluation)	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	Host area for Development Area 6, all deployment area
VS029: Llanfihangel Lakes and Dunes (HOST)	Medium (moderate evaluation)	Negligible	Minor (Not Significant)	Non deployment area of Development Area 6
VS030: Holy Island Straight.	High evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant)	
VS007 Holy Island	High evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant)	
VS053 South West Coast – Rhosneigr	High evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant)	
Geological Landscape				
GL020 Llanerchymedd. (HOST)	High evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant landscape effect, geological)	
GL019 Bodedern (HOST)	Moderate evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant landscape effect, geological)	
Landscape Habitats				
LH084 Farmland between old A5 and Railway line (HOST)	Low Evaluation	Low	Minor (Not Significant landscape effect, landscape habitats)	
LH103 Farmland between Inland Sea and A5 (HOST)	Moderate Evaluation.	Low	Minor (Not Significant landscape effect, landscape habitats)	
LH016 Valley Lakes	Outstanding evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant landscape effect, landscape habitats)	
LH015 Llyn Traffwl	High evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant landscape effect, landscape habitats)	
LH024 RAF Valley Airfields	High evaluation	No Change	Neutral	

Receptor	Landscape Sensitivity	Magnitude of Landscape Effect	Level of Landscape Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Comment
			(Not Significant landscape effect, landscape habitats)	
Historic Landscape				
HL079 Inland Southern Anglesey (HOST)	Outstanding evaluation.	Low	Minor (Not Significant landscape effect historic landscape)	
HL016 Fieldscape Central East	Outstanding evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant landscape effect historic landscape)	
HL020 RAF Valley	Outstanding evaluation	No Change	Neutral (Not Significant landscape effect historic landscape)	
Cultural Landscape Services				
CLS017 Central Smooth Belt	n/a	Not assessed	n/a	
CLS026 Caergeiliog craggy lowland	n/a	Not assessed	n/a	
Landscape Receptors				
Anglesey AONB	High	Negligible	Minor - Neutral, a Not Significant landscape effect upon the AONB	
Tywyn Trewan Common	High	Negligible	Minor - Neutral, a Not Significant landscape effect upon the common	

7.10.7 As presented in **Appendix 7.5** and the above table, analysis of the published landscape character assessment and LANDMAP data, considered with the particular characteristics of the study area, has concluded that there would be no significant effects upon landscape character as a result of the development. Due to the scale of the local landscape and LANDMAP areas, the development form and local context (vegetation, built form and topographic elements), the scheme will have a limited but adverse impact on characteristic elements, notably the pastoral landscape pattern and coverage. Despite being considered a Moderate level of effect (at the most adverse) these are effects that are geographically restricted to the reduced number of Development Areas (3 no. in total) and set within the expansive landscape character and LANDMAP aspect areas within the study area.

Site Level Effects on Landscape Character – Landscape Sensitivity

7.10.8 The landscape resource is assessed in terms of sensitivity which combines

judgements of its susceptibility to the type of change or development concerned and the value attached to the landscape. Sensitivity is specific to the project/development.

- 7.10.9 Landscape characteristics of the application site and consequences of the development (up to ~250m) are considered.

Site Level (Development Areas) Susceptibility to Change

- 7.10.10 The susceptibility to change of the landscape to the solar farm development, within the three development areas, is determined with reference to the baseline assessment of the existing landscape and is assessed by considering the ability of the landscape to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences for the maintenance of the landscape baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies or strategies.
- 7.10.11 Considering the scale of the proposed solar farm development (vertical and overall surface area) within the three DAs, local landscape features (gentle undulating landform surrounded by blocks of mature hedgerows and scrub), the susceptibility to change of the pastoral landscape is considered to be **Medium**. It is accepted that there would be some undue consequences as a result of development, but that the landscape receptor has some capacity to accept change due to the development form and scale.
- 7.10.12 The development would lead to a loss of pastoral grazing land at the local level, although the use can still continue at a lower intensity. It is also considered that due to the distribution of the individual development areas in the study area (and the overall reduction in number of development areas from the original proposal) that the local landscape and immediate surroundings could accommodate this particular form of development without a significant change in local character. The development areas contain few landscape characteristics that would be vulnerable to the proposal.
- 7.10.13 The Medium classification within this assessment corresponds with the character area sensitivity classifications of Medium/Low for LCA 17, Medium for LCA 5 and Medium for LCA 18 within the Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd & Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2014). A medium classification is defined as, *'Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed'*.
- 7.10.14 With regard to field scale solar within LCA 17, it is reiterated that the 2014 assessment report states: "...There may also be limited capacity for larger scale developments, in particular towards the south west where the landscape is already influenced by modern infrastructure; however, any new development should be carefully sited to avoid cumulative effects with other developments".

Value of the Landscape Receptor (Site <250m)

- 7.10.15 The value of the landscape receptor, the host pastoral / grazing fields of the 3 solar DAs, is considered with regard to the baseline landscape value conclusions.
- 7.10.16 The DAs and surrounding areas (<250m) are not subject to any national, regional or local landscape designations and contain few sensitive elements cited in the referenced landscape character and sensitivity assessments.
- 7.10.17 The DAs are noted for their landscape condition, focussed on intact field systems,

but this is a commonplace feature within the study area, and as development will be set within the field structure, the main change is the ground coverage, from pastoral grassland to solar farm infrastructure with surrounding pastoral elements. The DAs are noted for their individual scenic quality (quieter areas away from transport corridors and the airfield) although (excluding DA6) are not publicly accessible, providing no recreational value. When visible, or close to the development areas, landscape perceptions are also influenced by the local detractors including; the near transport corridors, overhead electricity pylons and views (and audible disturbance) to and from RAF Valley Airfield.

- 7.10.18 It is acknowledged that the visual aesthetic (character) locally of the DAs will change however, the retention and management of surrounding vegetation (acknowledged to be one of the key landscape characteristics) and proposed mitigation will lessen the visual prominence of the solar farms, aiding landscape integration.
- 7.10.19 Overall, it is considered that the site areas are of a **Medium-Low** landscape value.
- 7.10.20 In accordance with the LVIA methodology (**Appendix 7.1**), a Medium-Low landscape value judgement can be explained as “Areas identified as having some redeeming feature(s) and possibly identified for improvement. Does not lie within or adjacent to a designated landscape..... Presents some locally important / distinctive landscape characteristics, with some scenic interest but does not provide public amenity value by way of access or opportunity for quiet enjoyment.”

Overall Sensitivity of the Site and Local Area

- 7.10.21 The susceptibility to change of the local landscape and landscape value indicators are considered **Medium** and **Low - Medium**. The landscape sensitivity of the site to the proposed development is therefore concluded to be Medium (low), **Medium** overall, due to the local scale of the development, spread over 3 Development Areas. In accordance with the LVIA methodology, **Appendix 7.1**, the Development Area are described as “*comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place. Elements with a medium susceptibility to change, partly able to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences but contains few (affected) features that could not be replaced*”.
- 7.10.22 Mitigation measures proposed would, over time, improve the landscape and ecological structure and aid the integration of the development, contributing to wider scale improvements to green infrastructure and local biodiversity gains within the local area.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 7.10.23 Landscape effects arising as a result of the proposed development are considered with reference to the criteria established in the methodology including size and scale of effect; geographical extent; and, duration and reversibility. The type of effect considered includes:
- The potential operational effects upon the landscape fabric within the site (direct effect);
 - The potential operational effects on the host landscape character area (direct effect), including the consideration of any effects within designated areas; and,

- The potential operational effects on the wider landscape character areas within the study area (indirect effects), including consideration of any effects within designated areas and cumulative landscape effects as a result of other solar farms.

7.10.24 The direct effect of the proposed development upon the landscape character of the site and local area depends on; the key characteristics of the receiving environment (as previously considered), and, the degree to which the development may be consistent or at odds with the landscape and how the development would be perceived within the landscape. Perceptions can be influenced by; the distance to the site, weather conditions, appearance/fit of the development (levels of visibility), and, relationships to other built and natural features in the landscape.

7.10.25 It is acknowledged that there is an overlap between perception of change to landscape character and visual amenity; landscape character is derived from the combination pattern of landscape elements in the view. The effects of a development on landscape character arise from its relationship to these combinations and patterns.

Scale of Effect

7.10.26 Consideration is given to the scale of the change in the landscape that is experienced as a result of the development and can include both the loss and addition of new features. The development would result in a change to an area of pastoral farmland (and rough grazing), total site area of the three DAs is c. 60 ha of which solar is deployed on c.37 ha (the area within the security fences). Within the deployment areas the solar arrays and infrastructure will cover c.15 ha. of the ground area, the remainder is grass. The zones outside the security fences, c.23 ha. will be low intensity managed grassland, areas of existing hedgerows and trees, or managed for specific ecological purposes e.g. wet grazing.

7.10.27 The main landscape element affected is the pastoral grass coverage (rough grazing for DA6), as the fields host the development. The field systems contribute extensively to the landscape character, but this is in conjunction with surrounding hedgerows, scrub and tree coverage, which frame and knit the landscape together. These features are unaffected. The solar arrays within the field systems will alter the local aesthetic aspect, forming notable new features, but contained and set within the established structure. The landscape character areas are of a large scale, the changes to the three DAs will not have notable effects upon the wider distinctive, but commonplace, character. The overall scale of effect is considered to be **Moderate**, a partial change to existing landscape elements and characteristics.

Geographical Extent

7.10.28 The geographical extent of effects is influenced by the landscape setting (established features around the site), the scale of the proposed development, localised topography and is distinct from the scale of effect.

7.10.29 Due to the form of development, up to c.3m tall solar arrays set within pastoral field systems, combined with the established landscape features around the site and gentle topographic variations, the geographical extent of effect is considered focussed to site level, but can extend over immediate localised areas to a maximum of 250m. The geographical extent of effect is **Minor**.

Duration and Reversibility of Effect

- 7.10.30 The effects have been assessed over the lifespan (40 years) of the proposed development – effects which are ultimately reversible (and therefore temporary) due to the method of construction (and time limited nature of the application / permission). The solar arrays and limited ancillary infrastructure could be removed, and the fields returned to pastoral (or conservation) use. Despite being ultimately reversible, a **High-Moderate** level of effect is concluded with regards to duration and reversibility of landscape effects.

Overall Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 7.10.31 Magnitude is considered with regard to the scale, geographical extent, and duration and reversibility of landscape effects, as set out in the methodology. The magnitude of landscape change arising from the proposed development is considered to be **Medium**.
- 7.10.32 In accordance with the methodology this is a “Partial loss to landscape elements of the baseline and introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape but which could co-characterise parts of the landscape”.

Overall Level (Significance) of Landscape Effect

- 7.10.33 The significance of landscape effect of the proposed development upon the local area is determined by consideration of the landscape sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effect.
- 7.10.34 With reference to the evaluation of the landscape effects and with regard to the methodology, a ‘Medium’ landscape sensitivity and a ‘Medium’ magnitude of change is considered to result in a **Moderate** significance of landscape effect overall, as discussed in the methodology this is judged to be ‘Not Significant’ effect overall. The landscape effects are considered to be centred at a local level (focussed study area), but will have an adverse impact on characteristic features (pastoral grassland). It is judged that the development would cause a medium sensitivity landscape to be markedly changed due to the nature of the developments scale, although it is noted effects are largely contained by retained field structure and topographic features of the local area.

Assessment of Predicted Landscape Effect during Construction and Decommissioning Phases

- 7.10.35 Construction activities which have the potential to temporarily affect the landscape character and landscape receptors include:
- Frequency of deliveries to site and vehicle movements on and off site;
 - Effects upon local tranquillity by installation of site infrastructure - fencing with CCTV, solar arrays, switchgear, substation and inverters; and
 - Formation of temporary construction compound (welfare and construction equipment) and reinstatement works to areas disturbed by construction activities.
- 7.10.36 De-commissioning activities which have the potential to affect the landscape character and landscape receptors include:
- Dismantling and removal of all installed infrastructure resulting in increased

- vehicle movements to and from site;
 - Effects upon local tranquillity through the activity of construction operations (machines and movement); and
 - Reinstatement works to areas disturbed by de-commissioning activities and time period for reinstatement works to establish.
- 7.10.37 From the description of the construction and de-commissioning activities as outlined above, any effects on landscape character and landscape receptors during the construction and de-commissioning phases will be temporary and short term in duration. There would be no direct changes to the landscape immediate outside of the site boundaries (no additional requirements for space), the construction and decommissioning operations retained within.
- 7.10.38 Any damaged fields as a result of de-commissioning activities will be re-seeded with a locally appropriate grassland mix. It is therefore considered that the short-term, reversible and temporary nature of the construction and de-commissioning activities on landscape character will ensure that the overall effects will be, at worst, Minor. These are considered to be limited to the local context of the site boundaries, short term and temporary effects, overall a 'Not Significant' nature.

Assessment of Predicted Effect on Landscape Receptors

- 7.10.39 The baseline landscape section established the following landscape receptors within the study area with the potential to be adversely affected by the proposed development. The receptors are considered in further detail within **Appendix 7.2**.

Anglesey AONB

- 7.10.40 Review of the individual Development Area ZTVs (Zone of Theoretical Visibility) and analysis of theoretical visibility over the AONB confirms that the geographical area of the AONB with the potential for visibility to the DAs would be extremely limited, and when theoretically visible, focussed to DA6 only.
- 7.10.41 The ZTVs illustrate the potential for theoretical visibility to DA6 from a small area of the AONB immediately to the north of the airfield, around the hamlet of Llanfairyneubwll, an area of <2km² and an area further west, upon rising land beyond the inland sea. The areas shown to have theoretical visibility are very small, with limited public access. Considering the separation distances and potential for intervening screening by vegetation (and with reference to the Viewpoints close to the AONB boundary) it is considered that the landscape effects upon the setting of the AONB, as a result of the development would be **Minor / Neutral** – a 'Not Significant' Landscape effect.

Tywyn Trewan Common Open Access Land

- 7.10.42 Review of the ZTVs confirms that there is the potential for theoretical visibility from the common to DAs 4 and 5. It is noted that the ground level within the common is lower than the DAs to the north, considering the areas of vegetation within the intermediate area to the north, the potential for intervisibility between the Development Areas and the common is limited. Due to the viewing angle, dense gorse vegetation within the common and the separation distances it is considered that the landscape effects upon the setting of the common, as a result the development would be **Minor / Neutral** – a 'Not Significant' Landscape effect.

7.11 ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT

Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect on Residential Properties / Receptor Groups

- 7.11.1 As outlined within the baseline section, there are 35 residential receptors / groups within the study area to be assessed which may have visibility to the proposed development, detailed assessment tables are included with **Appendix 7.5**, and a summary is provided in the below table. Effects upon views and visual amenity during the construction and decommissioning phases are considered separately. Residential receptors are illustrated on **Figure 7.20, 7.21 and 7.22**.

Table 7.9: Assessment of Visual Effect on Residential Properties – Summary Table

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Potential Level of Visual Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Level of visual effects (longer term), c. 5 – 10 years, after establishment of mitigation (where applicable)
Development Area 4			
P4R1 – Plas Llechylched – c.10m to the east	High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow will filter closest ground level views but due to viewing angle, large (but more distant areas) of the DA likely to remain visible.
P4R2 – Grouping of 1 - YR Hen Grouglofft Gwar 2 - Y Cerbyty, 3 - Y Stablau, 4 - YR Hen Laethoy – 25m to the east	Medium-High	Major - Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow will filter the closest ground level views and due to viewing angle and site specific topography, will also filter large and more distant areas of the DA.
P4R3 - Caer Ddol – c.23m to the north	High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow and hedge trees will filter near ground level views and some distant views however due to the separation distance large areas of the DA likely to remain visible,

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Potential Level of Visual Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Level of visual effects (longer term), c. 5 – 10 years, after establishment of mitigation (where applicable)
			but remain focused to upper storey windows.
P4R4 – Gefaely Y Gof and Hen Gwet Tac Ceffylau – 26m to the east	Medium- High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow will filter the closest ground level views but due to viewing angle and site specific topography, slightly elevated views remain to the more distant areas of the DA.
P4R5 - Pen Bont – c.26m to the north	High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow and hedge trees will further filter near ground level views and some distant views however due to the separation distance large areas of the DA likely to remain visible, but views remain focused to upper storey windows.
P4R6 - Dolafon – c.42m to the north	High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow and hedge trees will filter near ground level views and some distant views however due to the separation distance large areas of the DA likely to remain visible, but remain focused to upper storey (side and rear) windows.
P4R7 - Ty Capel Hebron (Property next to) – c.92.3m to the north	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Potential Level of Visual Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Level of visual effects (longer term), c. 5 – 10 years, after establishment of mitigation (where applicable)
P4R8 – Gwaenfynyod – 95.1m south	Low - Negligible	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P4R9 - Pandy Cymnod – 101m to the north-west	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
Development Area 5			
P5R1 – Tyn Rhos – c.30m to the east	High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation hedgerow upon site boundary will filter the closest ground level views but due to gently rising topography of the DA, views to internal areas to remain, particularly from 1st floor windows.
P5R2, Ty Croes	Medium	Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P5R3, Y Ddol	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
Development Area 6			
P6R1, Glan Gors (within site)	Medium	Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R2 - Old School House – c.11m to the north	Low	Moderate-Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R3 – 1 - 31 Tudor Court – c.25m – 185m to the south-east	Low- Negligible	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R4 - Cae'r Pwll – c.30m to the north	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R5 - Tap Ty Hefyd – c.65m to the north-west	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R6 - Yscubor Bach – c.63.m to the east	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Potential Level of Visual Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Level of visual effects (longer term), c. 5 – 10 years, after establishment of mitigation (where applicable)
PR67 - Tros Lon – c.60m to the north-west	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R8 - Neuadd – c.70m to the north-west	Medium- Low	Moderate/Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R9 - Arfryn – c.90m to the north-east	High	Major, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Major-Moderate, a SIGNIFICANT visual effect. Mitigation tree planting upon the near north east site boundary will filter the views over the site area, although large expanses of solar still likely to be visible.
P6R10 - Caergeiliog Farm – c.93m to the north-west	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R11 - 2 – 48 Dol Eithin - c.127m - 189m to the east	Medium	Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R12 - Cern Farm – c.160m to the west	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R13 - Rhos Bach – c.180m to the east	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
P6R14 – 27, 29 and 31 Ffordd Cerrig Mawr – c.195m to the south-east	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
Settlements (and main residential groups) within 2km:			
Chapel Gwyn, c. 1.3 km south- east of Development Area 5	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
Bryngwran, c. 700m north-east from Development Area 4 and 800m north of	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect (excluding area of village assessed in Viewpoint assessment, VP 17)	

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Potential Level of Visual Effect (SIGNIFICANCE)	Level of visual effects (longer term), c. 5 – 10 years, after establishment of mitigation (where applicable)
Development Area 5			
Llanfihangel-yn-Nhywyn, c. 300m east of Development Area 6	Negligible	Minor - Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect (excluding area of village assessed in residential assessment, P6R3)	
Caergeiliog, c. 800m north-west of Development Area 6	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
Llanfair-yn-neubwll, c.1.3km south-west of Development Area 6	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	

- 7.11.2 In summary, the main residential visual receptors within c.200m of the site have been assessed. With regard to DA4, the largest of all the solar Development Areas under assessment, 9 no. residential receptors (inc groups) were considered, and within this assessment 5 no. properties / groups are considered to experience potentially significant visual effects. These properties are all located close to the site boundary, with near range views, generally from upper storey windows and therefore over large areas of the site. Mitigation proposals will be implemented to screen and filter views to the solar arrays over time (hedgerow and tree planting plus management of existing hedgerows) however at scheme opening, visual effects from 5 no. receptors are considered to be 'major', therefore 'significant' in accordance with the methodology. Visual effects for these 5 no. properties are considered to reduce over time as the mitigation is implemented and matures, however due to the separation distances, it is only likely to filter views and the visual effects, although reduced, will remain at a 'significant' level.
- 7.11.3 The properties close to DA4 judged to experience 'significant' visual effects are subject to additional assessment of Residential Visual Amenity, see **Appendix 7.6** and the summary at 7.11.10 to 11 below.
- 7.11.4 The visual assessment of DA5 considered 3 no. residential receptors. It is noted that some of the properties within 200m of DA5 were considered within the DA4 assessment, with reference made if the receptors would have potential visibility over DA5 in the main appraisal tables. Overall, there would be very limited potential for visibility to both DAs 4 and 5 from the properties close to the site boundaries. One residential property, Tyn Rhos, is considered to experience significant visual effects. The property is located immediately beside the DA with open views from the house over the adjoining field, host to the solar arrays. Significant effects are to be expected

due to the near range open views from curtilage, ground and first floor. An offset clear zone has been incorporated into the scheme design (increasing the separation distance) to reduce the scale of effects and mitigation proposals will be implemented to screen and filter views to the solar arrays over time (hedgerow and tree planting). However, at scheme opening, visual effects are considered to be 'major', therefore 'significant' in accordance with the methodology. Following the establishment of mitigation planting, effects are considered to reduce to major-moderate but remain 'Significant' due to the near distance, potential for elevated views from the property and the sloping nature of the site area which gently rises to the south-west away from the property, increasing visible areas.

- 7.11.5 The properties close to DA5 judged to experience 'significant' visual effects are subject to additional assessment of Residential Visual Amenity, see **Appendix 7.6** and the summary at 7.11.10 to 11 below.
- 7.11.6 Fourteen individual residential receptors / groups were assessed around DA6. Only one individual property, Arfryn, is considered to experience 'significant' visual effects. The property occupies a locally elevated position close to the northern boundary of the site. Due to the local change in ground level, there is the potential for expansive views aligned to the south west over the Development Area. Additional mitigation tree planting is proposed for the near (northern and north east) boundary. This will filter the views to the near areas over time however due to the viewing angle visibility will remain, but to the more distant areas of the site. Effects are still concluded to remain 'Significant', but reducing from a major to a major-moderate scale of effect.
- 7.11.7 The properties close to DA6 judged to experience 'significant' visual effects are subject to additional assessment of Residential Visual Amenity, see **Appendix 7.6** and the summary at 7.11.10 to 11 below.
- 7.11.8 Five additional settlements within the study area were considered, the assessment concluded that there would be extremely limited visibility to the DAs from the settlements. The scale of visual effect was considered to be 'negligible' and therefore 'not significant' visual effects are concluded from the local settlements.
- 7.11.9 Overall, the residential visual assessment has concluded that 7 no. properties / groups (out of 31 no. assessed) would experience 'major' visual effects, that are considered 'significant'. It is noted that these are effects considered at scheme opening. Despite the mitigation proposals, which reduce the scale of effects over time, due to the location of the properties relative to the solar DAs, significant effects, albeit of a reduced level, are still concluded to remain.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Summary

- 7.11.10 Those properties with identified potential significant visual effects were considered in further detail through a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) See **Appendix 7.6**. RVAA is a stage beyond LVIA and focusses exclusively on private views and private visual amenity.
- 7.11.11 The RVAA, considered the properties close to DA boundaries that were judged to experience visual effects of a 'significant' nature. Views were considered from the near garden areas with analysis of property windows and potential views towards the development areas. The RVAA reviewed the 14 selected properties (agreed with

IACC) against the defined criteria to consider the effect of the solar development upon the residential visual amenity on the living conditions of the residents. Significant visual effects (upon selected properties) are acknowledged within this LVIA but with regard to case law and residential visual amenity guidance, the assessment has judged that there would be no situation where the solar development would appear 'overbearing, overwhelming or oppressive' in such a way that the visual effects would render the properties as an unattractive and uninhabitable places to live.

7.11.12 In summary the RVAA confirms that identified residential receptors will not experience significant adverse effects.

Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect on Recreational Routes within 250m

7.11.13 As discussed in the baseline section there is an extensive network of footpaths and trails within the study area, many are continuous routes however the different sections are named independently within the baseline section and illustrated on **Figure 7.3** (to a 1km study area). Detailed assessment tables are included with **Appendix 7.5**, summarised in the below table.

Table 7.9: Assessment of Visual Effect on Recreational Routes – Summary Table

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Level of Visual Effect	Comment
Development Area 4 (no public rights of way within 250m of Development Area 4)			
National Cycle Network Route 8	Low	Moderate - Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Note, this is an overall assessment excluding occasional open gate areas which are assessed within Viewpoint section.
Development Area 5			
National Cycle Network Route 8	Low	Moderate - Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	Note, this is an overall assessment excluding occasional open gate areas which are assessed within Viewpoint section.
16/008/1 – 140m east/southeast of Development Area 5 running north-south	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
Development Area 6			

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Level of Visual Effect	Comment
32/014/1 – within Development Area 6 running northwest- southeast	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/014/2 – within Development Area 6 running north-south	Low	Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/017/1 – within Development Area 6 running northwest- southeast	High	Major – A 'Significant' visual effect	Note, significant effects focussed to the section beside the site, a length of c.170m, overall PROW of a 'Not Significant' level.
32/014/3 – Immediate south of Development Area 6 running north-south	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/029/1 – 50m northwest of Development Area 6 running north-south	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/028/1 – 60m west of Development Area 6 running north-south	Medium - Low	Moderate - Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/028/2 – 60m west of Development Area 6 running east-west	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/015/1 – 80m east of Development Area 6 running east-west	Negligible	Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT visual effect	
32/015/2 – 100m southeast of Development Area 6 running southwest – northeast	Low	Minor – A 'Not Significant' visual effect	

7.11.14 In summary, no public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways) pass within 250m of DA4, however the National Cycle Network Route 8 route passes along the road that

forms the northern boundary of the DA. Viewpoint Photomontage 6 (**Appendix 7.4**) illustrates the view over DA4 from the open site access gate. Overall, the scale of effect upon users of the National Cycle Route was considered to be 'moderate – minor' and therefore 'Not Significant', views are generally screened and filtered by mature roadside vegetation and that around the DAs.

- 7.11.15 Visual effects upon users of the National Cycle Network Route 8 were also considered within the DA5 assessment as the route passes beside the site upon a shorter section beside the boundary. Excluding an open gate area (the location of Viewpoint Photomontage 8) the visual effect upon users is again considered to be 'Not Significant'. One other public footpath was assessed close to DA5, 'Not Significant' effects are concluded due to the restricted visibility.
- 7.11.16 DA6 has the greatest concentration of public rights of way within 250m, 9 no. in total. Only 1 no. footpath was considered to experience effects of a 'significant' nature, footpath 32/017/1, which passes directly beside the southern boundary of the solar arrays within the Development Area boundary. The route follows the hedge line and would be aligned in the meadow fringes between the hedgerow and site security fence. It may be possible to mitigate views from the footpath over time through the provision of a new native hedgerow beside the site security fence. Overall visual effects from the PROW away from the immediate site area would remain at a 'Not Significant' level, views screened by near mature hedgerows.
- 7.11.17 Overall, the assessment of recreational routes has concluded that only the users of 1 no. footpath would experience visual effects of a 'significant' nature. It is though highlighted that these significant visual effects are limited to a short section of the path which passes immediately beside the boundary of the deployment area of DA6. Away from the section beside the deployment area of DA6, effects upon users of the footpath would be of a 'Not Significant' level.

Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect on Vehicular Routes within 1km

- 7.11.18 As stated in the baseline section, within the 1 km study area there are a number of roads, those close to the proposed development are considered in addition to the main 'A' roads within the study area that experience higher vehicle journeys, and act as a gateway to the island.
- 7.11.19 Detailed assessment tables are included with **Appendix 7.5**, summarised in the below table:

Table 7.10: Assessment of visual effect on vehicular routes – Summary Table

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Level of Visual Effect	Comment
'A' Roads			
A55, c.200m north of Development Area 4, c. 700m to the north of	Low-Medium	Minor-Moderate – A 'Not Significant' visual effect	Refer to additional illustrative views from the road, Viewpoint Sheet 20

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Level of Visual Effect	Comment
Development Area 6			
A5/Holyhead Road, c. 400m north-west of Development Area 6	Low	Minor - Neutral – A 'Not Significant' visual effect	
Minor / Local Roads			
Alltwen Goch runs along the northern boundaries of Development Areas 4 and 5	The local road that runs beside the northern boundary of Development Areas 4 and 5, Alltwen Goch has been considered within the National Cycle Network assessment. Local road of lower sensitivity than national cycle route so overall level of visual effect reduced, remaining Not Significant.		
An un-named road runs between the boundaries of Development Areas 4 (east) and 5 (west)	The road runs between the boundaries of Development Areas 4 (to the west) and 5 (to the east), views from the road corridor as considered within Viewpoints 4, 5, 7 and 16. Range from 'significant' at the open gate area to 'not significant' when screened by near hedgerows / intermediate vegetation and buildings.		
An un-named road runs along the northern boundary of Development Area 6	Road runs along the northern boundary of Development Area 6 – views from the road corridor which will be most extensive when travelling west. Visual effects considered within the viewpoint assessment as it is the location of Viewpoint 10, 'significant' from elevated open location of Viewpoint 10.		

- 7.11.20 In summary, the main vehicular routes have been assessed and concluded the effects from the main 'A' roads that pass through the study area would be 'Not Significant'.
- 7.11.21 Views from the A55 dual carriageway, due to the relative near distance and high vehicle numbers are considered to be the most important. At the request of IACC, illustrative photographs taken from the passenger side of a moving vehicle are provided in Viewpoint 20 (**Appendix 7.4**). The photos seek to assist in demonstrating the level of visibility from the main road corridor (an area where it is not possible to stop and take photographs). Overall, it is considered that visibility to the DAs would be very limited and of a short duration. The road corridor passes through shallow cuttings and low embankments within the local landscape, bordered by areas of mature scrub and tree vegetation which combine to restrict extensive visibility from the corridor other than that illustrated within Viewpoint 20.
- 7.11.22 As illustrated upon Viewpoint 20, there is a very small section of carriageway to the south of Bryngwran with open views (south) to DAs 4 and 5. Angled and glimpsed views are possible to DA 4, however as the road passes upon an embankment to the north of DA 5, there are elevated views to the northern area of DA 5, the zone between the properties of Dolafon, Pen Bont and the Plas Farm grouping. The grass pasture of the site is visible in addition the line of electricity pylons and the existing

barn within the site. Once the A55 road corridor passes west of Pen Bont there are no further views to DA 5, and no discernible views to DA 6 further to the west.

7.11.23 Visual effects from the minor roads that pass the DA boundaries have additionally been considered as they are the location for numerous viewpoints. The viewpoint assessment concluded a range of both 'significant' and 'not significant' effects from these roads. It is noted that for road users all views would be transient and glimpsed in nature, of a short term duration. The viewpoint assessment focussed on the most visible locations, i.e. stationary views from open field gates, so not wholly representative of views experienced by travellers upon the local roads.

Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect during Construction and Decommissioning Phases

7.11.24 Construction activities which have the potential to temporarily affect the views and visual amenity of receptors include:

- Frequency of deliveries to site and vehicle movements on and off site;
- Effects upon local views to the site to the installation of site infrastructure - fencing with CCTV, solar arrays, switchgear, substation and inverters. Visible construction operations / machinery; and
- Views of the temporary construction compound (welfare and construction equipment) and reinstatement works to areas disturbed by construction activities.

7.11.25 De-commissioning activities which have the potential to affect the views and visual amenity of receptors include:

- Dismantling and removal of all installed infrastructure resulting in increased vehicle movements on and off site;
- Effects upon local views to the site through the visible activity of construction operations (machines and movement); and
- Short term views to areas disturbed by de-commissioning activities and time period for reinstatement works to establish.

7.11.26 From the description of the construction and de-commissioning activities as outlined above, any effects on views and visual receptors during the construction and de-commissioning phases will be temporary and short term in duration.

7.11.27 Any damaged fields as a result of de-commissioning activities will be re-seeded with a locally appropriate grassland mix, all landscape mitigation will remain so the level of visual containment of the sites will be unaffected. It is therefore considered that the short-term, reversible, and temporary nature of the construction and de-commissioning activities on views and visual receptors will ensure that the overall effects will be, at worst, Minor. These are considered to be experienced by a small number of people and form small features in the overall view. The effects would be short term and temporary and overall considered to be of a 'Not Significant' nature.

Assessment of Predicted Visual Effects on Viewpoints

7.11.28 Visual receptor sensitivity to change is defined as being High, Medium, Low or Negligible depending upon the activity of the receptor. For further information in relation to sensitivity see the Methodology in **Appendix 7.5**. The location of the viewpoints is illustrated on Figure 7.23.

7.11.29 To assist in the description and comparison of the effects on views, issues to be

considered include:

- The nature of the view of the development e.g. full, partial, glimpse.
- The proportion of the development or features that would be visible e.g. full, most, small, part, none.
- The distance of the viewpoint from the development and whether the viewer would focus on the development due to its scale and proximity or whether the development would be only a small, minor element in a panoramic view.
- Whether the view is stationary or transient or one of a sequence of views, as from a footpath or moving vehicle; and,
- The nature of the changes e.g. changes in the skyline profile, a new visual focus, changes in visual simplicity or complexity and alteration of visual scale.

7.11.30 The existing level of visibility from the viewpoints is illustrated as a baseline photograph on the viewpoint sheets. Detailed analysis of the viewpoints is made with reference to the current baseline views and then assessed against the photomontage or annotated site extents (where appropriate). The viewpoint assessment considers the existing visible local features, e.g. trees and built structures and the proposed mitigation vegetation at scheme opening, considered to be the time of greatest visibility to the development. Further comment is made regarding ~5 – 10 years from planting to take account of the screening and enhancement potential of the existing vegetation and proposed mitigation.

7.11.31 Detailed analysis of the viewpoints is made with reference to the current baseline views (Section 7.6). The analysis of the magnitude of change, and the resulting visual effect, are summarised in the following table, detailed assessment tables are contained within **Appendix 7.5**.

Table 7.11: Assessment of visual effect on viewpoints – Summary Table

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Level of Visual Effect
VP1 Tywyn Trewan Common	Negligible	Minor - Neutral – a 'Not Significant' visual effect
VP2 Valley Wetlands / Cerrig Cynrig	Low - Negligible	Minor – a 'Not Significant' visual effect
VP3 Local lane clos to Pen y Bryn / public footpath, east of Development Area 5	Low	Minor – a 'Not Significant' visual effect
VP4 Local Road (between Development Area 4 and 5)	No Change	Neutral – a 'Not Significant' visual effect
VP5 Local road, close to the entrance to Plas- Llechylched	Medium	Moderate – a 'Not Significant' visual effect
VP6 Local road, close to Caer Ddol Farm	High	Major – a 'Significant' visual effect
VP7 Local road close to the entrance to Plas- Llechylched	High	Major – a 'Significant' visual effect
VP8 Road, close to Tyn Rhos	High	Major – a 'Significant' visual effect

Receptor (distance to closest area of site boundary)	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Level of Visual Effect
VP9 Caer Elen North of Llyn Trafwll	Low	Minor – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP10 Local Road, close to Arfryn.	High	Major – a ‘Significant’ visual effect
VP11 Tros Lon (public footpath)	Medium	Moderate – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP12 View over Llyn Traffwll	Low	Minor – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP13 Dinam Fawr footpath	Negligible	Minor / Neutral – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP14 Treflesg	Negligible	Neutral – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP15 Tywyn Trewan Common / Dunes, Cymyran Bay	n/a – no visibility	Neutral – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP16 Local Road near Bryn Madog	n/a – no visibility	Neutral – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP17 Bryngwran	Medium	Major / Moderate – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP18 Landscape north of the A55 / A5	Low	Minor – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect
VP19 A55 (east of the Caergeiliog junction)	Medium - Low	Moderate – a ‘Not Significant’ visual effect

7.11.32 The viewpoint assessment considered an extensive range of publicly accessible locations to illustrate the greatest (and representative) levels of visibility to the 3 solar Development Areas within the study area. All locations were agreed in consultation with IACC. 19 no. viewpoint locations have been assessed, the viewpoints considered close range views to the DAs and also the potential visibility of multiple DAs distributed within the study area. Four viewpoints were considered to experience visual effects of a ‘significant’ nature.

7.11.33 Viewpoint 6 visual effects are ‘significant’. The viewpoint is located at the open field entrance to DA4 and as is to be expected, offers near open views through the gap in the hedgerow to the solar arrays. The viewpoint is representative of fleeting views from passing vehicles and riders upon National Cycle Route 8, and partially representative of nearby individual residential property. It is however noted that the viewpoint location represents the most open and visible location upon this section of road (when stationary), views from the vast majority of the road upon this boundary would be filtered and screened, a similar aspect to that shown on Viewpoint 5. Views from the road are considered within Section 7.11.

7.11.34 Visual effects from Viewpoint 7 are also considered to be ‘significant’. The viewpoint is located at a similar viewing angle and distance to Viewpoint 6, the open field (future site) access, but to DA5. Again, as is to be expected, this location would offer the greatest level of visibility over the new solar arrays of DA5. The viewpoint is representative of the fleeting view possible to users of the road corridor, although it is highlighted that the view represents a stationary and glimpsed view away from the direction of travel. As per Viewpoint 6, views from the vast majority of the road upon

this boundary would be filtered and screened, a similar aspect to that shown on Viewpoint 5. Views from the road are considered within Section 7.11.

- 7.11.35 Viewpoint 8 is also considered to experience visual effects of a 'significant' nature, aligned towards DA5. The location is similar in aspect to Viewpoints 6 and 7, the viewpoint is located at an open field access point. The road in the local area is bordered by mature hedgerows but this location offers the greatest level of visibility. Views also partially representative of nearby individual residential property. It is again highlighted that the view represents a stationary and a glimpsed view away from the direction of travel.
- 7.11.36 Viewpoint 10 (overlooking DA6) was also considered to experience 'Significant' visual effects. These effects would be focussed to road users travelling west, at this particular point, but also partially representative of views from near individual residential property. This viewpoint location is again considered to be at a position with the most open views over DA6. Views from the majority of the road corridor in this area would be filtered and screened by mature hedgerows beside the road. It is again highlighted that the view represents a stationary and a fleeting view is only possible at this specific elevated location from a short section of highway.
- 7.11.37 The remaining viewpoints, despite some locations offering visibility to the Development Areas, were all considered to experience visual effects overall of a 'Not Significant' nature. These are effects that although considered to be noticeable in many instances, would not be dominating when the development is viewed within the overall visual environment. These would be effects that would not be material in the planning decision making process.

7.12 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Landscape Assessment

- 7.12.1 With regard to landscape value the assessment has concluded that the DAs were of a 'Low-Medium' value combined based on the criteria within the methodology.
- 7.12.2 The DAs are noted for their contribution towards landscape condition (intact field systems), scenic quality (quieter areas away from transport corridors and the airfield) and conservation interests (cultural and ecological features). These are all features considered to be predominantly unaffected by this form of solar development. The DAs also contain commonplace landscape features that are seen throughout the host LCAs and provide very limited direct recreational value / public access. Landscape perceptions are also influenced by the near busy transport corridors, overhead electricity pylons and views to (and audible aircraft disturbance) from RAF Valley Airfield.
- 7.12.3 The published landscape character and capacity assessments for Anglesey the; *Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd & Snowdonia National Park Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2014)* was reviewed as part of the baseline assessment, and key points have been highlighted. The DAs are within 3 different landscape character areas. It is notable that the study states for LCA17: West Central Anglesey (assessed to be of a low/medium sensitivity) and covering the majority of Development Areas 3, 4 and 5 that:

“...Outside the AONB and SLAs it is considered there may be some capacity for

micro to small scale developments. There may also be limited capacity for larger scale developments, in particular towards the south west where the landscape is already influenced by modern infrastructure; however, any new development should be carefully sited to avoid cumulative effects with other developments”.

- 7.12.4 The study states for LCA18: Valley Airfield (assessed to be of a medium sensitivity), which is considered to representative of Development Area 6:

“This typically medium scale, coastal landscape is heavily influenced by modern development, particularly the RAF Valley Airfield which brings a level of visual intrusion to the area. The flat landform away from the coast comprises medium to large scale systems enclosed by a mixture of boundaries including hedgerows which introduce the possibility of increasing vegetation height to provide further localised screening and therefore lessen sensitivity to field-scale solar PV energy development”.

“...Outside the AONB and SLAs it is considered there may be some capacity for well sited micro scale developments, in particular where these may relate to the existing built environment/urban landcover”.

- 7.12.5 Overall the assessment concluded with regard to the landscape sensitivity of the solar Development Area that:

“Some (when medium sensitivity – LCA 5 & 18) and Few (when Low/medium sensitivity – LCA 17).... of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change from the type and scale of development being assessed.”

- 7.12.6 With regard to landscape receptors in the study area, with the exception of the Anglesey AONB there are no other designated landscapes such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites or regional and local designations such as SLAs. Tywyn Trewan Common, as a large area of open access, is also considered within the assessment.

- 7.12.7 Analysis of the published landscape character assessment and LANDMAP Visual Sensory data, considered with the particular characteristics of the study area, has concluded that there would be no significant effects upon landscape character and LANDMAP areas as a result of the development. Due to the scale of the areas, the form of development and local context (vegetation, built form and topographic elements) the schemes will have a limited adverse impact on characteristic elements, notably affecting the pastoral landscape pattern. Despite being considered a Moderate level of effect (at the most adverse) these are effects that are geographically restricted within the expansive landscape character / visual sensory areas.

- 7.12.8 The susceptibility to change of the landscape to the solar farm development, within the three DAs, considered the ability of the landscape to accommodate the specific proposed development. Due to the scale of the proposed solar farm development (vertical and overall surface area) within the three DAs, local landscape features (gentle undulating landform surrounded by blocks of mature hedgerows and scrub), the susceptibility to change of the pastoral landscape is considered to be **Medium**. It is accepted that there would be some undue consequences as a result of development, but that the landscape receptor has some capacity to accept change due to the development form and scale.

- 7.12.9 The development would lead to a loss of pastoral grazing land at the local level,

although the use can still continue at a lower intensity. It is also considered that due to the distribution of the individual DAs in the study area (and the overall reduction in number of DAs from the original proposal) that the local landscape of the DAs and immediate surroundings could accommodate this particular form of development without a significant change in local character. The DAs contain few landscape characteristics that would be vulnerable to the proposal.

- 7.12.10 The value of the landscape receptor, three solar DAs, which consist of a range of pastoral fields, is considered with regard the baseline landscape value conclusions. The DAs and surrounding areas (<250m) are not subject to any national, regional or local landscape designations and contains few sensitive elements cited in the referenced landscape character and sensitivity assessments.
- 7.12.11 The DAs are noted for the landscape condition, intact fields systems, but this is a commonplace feature in the study area. The DAs are noted for their individual scenic quality (quieter areas away from transport corridors and the airfield) although (excluding DA6) are not publicly accessible, providing no recreational value.
- 7.12.12 It is acknowledged that the visual aesthetic (character) locally of the DAs will change however, the retention and management of surrounding vegetation (acknowledged to be one of the key landscape characteristics) and proposed mitigation will lessen the visual prominence of the solar farm, aiding landscape integration.
- 7.12.13 Overall, it is considered that the DAs are of a **Medium-Low** landscape value. In accordance with the methodology these are:

“Areas identified as having some redeeming feature(s) and possibly identified for improvement. Does not lie within or adjacent to a designated landscape..... Presents some locally important / distinctive landscape characteristics, with some scenic interest but does not provide public amenity value by way of access or opportunity for quiet enjoyment.”

- 7.12.14 Magnitude is considered with regard to the scale, geographical extent, and duration and reversibility of landscape effects, as set out in the methodology. The magnitude of landscape change arising from the proposed development is considered to be **Medium**.

- 7.12.15 In accordance with the methodology this is a

“Partial loss to landscape elements of the baseline and introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape but which could co-characterise parts of the landscape”.

- 7.12.16 The significance of landscape effect of the solar DAs upon local area is determined by consideration of the landscape sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effect.
- 7.12.17 A ‘Moderate’ significance of landscape effect is concluded overall, this is a ‘Not Significant’ effect. Although not significant effects are stated, adverse landscape effects are acknowledged and the moderate effects are still of a level to form an important consideration (although not in itself material) in the overall planning decision making process. The solar farm proposal over the three DAs by nature of its scale would at a localised level markedly change a medium value / susceptibility to change landscape, diminish the sense of place and adversely impact characteristic features (focused on the pastoral fields within the established

structure).

- 7.12.18 With regard to the construction and de-commissioning activities, any effects on landscape character and landscape receptors during the construction and de-commissioning phases will be temporary and short term in duration. There would be no direct changes to the landscape immediately outside of the site boundaries (no additional requirements for space), as the construction and decommissioning operations retained within.
- 7.12.19 It is therefore considered that the short-term, reversible and temporary nature of the construction and de-commissioning activities on landscape character will ensure that the overall effects will be, at worst, Minor. These are considered to be limited to the local context of the site boundaries, short term and temporary effects, overall a 'Not Significant' nature.
- 7.12.20 Not significant landscape effects are concluded upon the identified landscape receptors within the study area; Anglesey AONB and Tywyn Trewan Common.

Visual Assessment

- 7.12.21 With regard to DA4, the largest of all the solar DAs under assessment, 9 no. residential receptors (inc groups) were considered, and within this assessment 5 no. properties / groups are considered to experience 'significant' visual effects. Mitigation proposals will be implemented to screen and filter views to the solar arrays over time. Visual effects for these 5 no. properties are considered to reduce over time as the mitigation is implemented and matures, however due to the separation distances, it is only likely to filter views and the visual effects, although reduced, will remain at a 'significant' level.
- 7.12.22 The visual assessment of DA5 considered 3 no. residential receptors. A single residential property, Tyn Rhos, is considered to experience 'significant' visual effects. The property is located immediately beside the DA with open views from the house over the adjoining field, host to the solar arrays. Mitigation proposals will be implemented to screen and filter views to the solar arrays over time (hedgerow and tree planting). However, due to the location of the property and viewing angle relative to the DA, visual effects would remain at a 'significant' level.
- 7.12.23 Fourteen individual residential receptors / groups were assessed around DA6. Only one individual property, Arfryn, is considered to experience 'significant' visual effects. The property occupies a locally elevated position close to the northern boundary of the site. Additional mitigation tree planting is proposed for the site boundary. This will filter the closest views over time however due to the viewing angle visibility will remain, but focussed away from the site, however effects would remain 'significant'.
- 7.12.24 Overall, the residential visual assessment has concluded that 7 no. properties / groups (out of 31 no. assessed) would experience 'major' visual effects, that are considered 'significant'. These are generally effects that are considered material in the planning decision making process.
- 7.12.25 Those properties with identified 'significant' visual effects are considered in further detail through a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). The RVAA reviewed the properties against the defined criteria to consider the effect of the solar development upon the residential visual amenity on the living conditions of the

residents. Significant visual effects (upon selected properties) are acknowledged within this LVIA, but with regard to case law and residential visual amenity guidance, the assessment judged that there would be no situation where the solar development would appear 'overbearing, overwhelming or oppressive' in such a way that the visual effects would render the properties as an unattractive and uninhabitable places to live.

- 7.12.26 Five additional settlements within the study area were considered, the assessment concluded that there would be extremely limited visibility to the DAs from the settlements. The scale of visual effect was considered to be 'negligible' therefore 'not significant' visual effects are concluded from the local settlements.
- 7.12.27 The network of footpaths and trails within 250m of the DA boundaries have been assessed.
- 7.12.28 With regard to National Cycle Network Route 8, the route passes along the road that forms the northern boundary of both DA4 and DA5. The scale of effect upon users of the National Cycle Network Route was considered to be 'moderate – minor' and therefore 'not significant'.
- 7.12.29 DA6 has the greatest concentration of public rights of way within 250m, 9 no. in total. Only 1 no. footpath was considered to experience effects of a 'significant' nature, footpath 32/017/1, which passes directly beside the southern boundary of the solar arrays within the DA boundary. Away from the site area, effects are considered to be of a 'not significant' level.
- 7.12.30 The main vehicular routes have been assessed and it is concluded the effects from the main 'A' roads that pass through the study area would be 'not significant'. These routes are subject to the greatest volume of traffic movements in the study area, notably the A55 dual carriageway.
- 7.12.31 Visual effects from the minor roads that pass close to the DAs have been considered as they are the location for numerous viewpoints. The viewpoint assessment concluded a range of both 'significant' and 'not significant' effects from these roads. It is noted that for road users all views would be transient and glimpsed in nature, of a short term duration.
- 7.12.32 With regard to the construction and decommissioning phases, any effects on views and visual receptors during the construction and de-commissioning phases will be temporary and short term in duration. Any damaged fields as a result of de-commissioning activities will be re-seeded with a locally appropriate grassland mix, all landscape mitigation will remain so the level of visual containment of the sites will be unaffected. The effects would be short term and temporary and overall considered to be of a 'Not Significant' nature.

Viewpoint Assessment

- 7.12.33 The viewpoint assessment considered an extensive range of publicly accessible locations to illustrate the greatest (and representative) levels of visibility to the three solar DAs from within the local landscape of the study area.
- 7.12.34 Four viewpoints were considered to experience visual effects of a 'significant' nature. Viewpoint 6, Viewpoint 7 and Viewpoint 8 are considered to be 'significant' and whilst

located overlooking different DAs, the locations are similar in that they are located at the open field access gates. Significant effects are to be expected due to the near range views, representative of the view possible by users of the road corridor, although it is highlighted that the view is transient and a glimpsed view away from the direction of travel. The view from the majority of the near road corridors is generally filtered and screened.

- 7.12.35 Viewpoint 10 (overlooking DA6) was also considered to experience 'significant' visual effects. These effects would be focussed to road users travelling west, at the particular point, but also partially representative of views from the near individual residential property. This viewpoint location is again considered to be at a position with the most open views over DA6. Views from the majority of the road corridor in this area would be filtered and screened by mature hedgerows beside the road. It is again highlighted that the view is transient and a glimpsed view at this locally elevated location.
- 7.12.36 The remaining viewpoints, despite some locations offering visibility to the DAs, were all considered to experience visual effects overall of a 'not significant' nature. These are effects that although considered to be noticeable in many instances, would not be dominating when the development is viewed within the overall visual environment. These are effects that would not be material in the planning decision making process.

Cumulative Summary

- 7.12.37 As discussed in Section 7.9 opportunities exist for potential cumulative views, where more than one solar farm, including the proposed development areas, may be seen either simultaneously or sequentially. The three solar DAs are considered independently and in combination where applicable within the assessment. Solar farms with the potential to generate cumulative effects include those which; are constructed, are in construction; have planning permission and are not yet constructed; or, are awaiting determination of planning permission. The baseline assessment confirmed that there are no other cumulative solar schemes within the study area.
- 7.12.38 Consideration has also been given to potential cumulative influences from other environmental topics assessed as part of this EIA and from significant and non-solar proposals beyond the application site boundary. Details of such schemes are listed in Chapter 13 of this ES. The identified schemes that have the greatest potential to create cumulative impacts are located a considerable distance from the application site (beyond the ZTV presented in **Appendix 7.3**) and as such would not contribute to a significant effect on landscape character and / or visual amenity.

Residual Impacts

- 7.12.39 This assessment of landscape and visual effects has considered the likely 'Significant' direct and indirect effects of the proposed development including the prescribed landscape mitigation measures during construction, operation and decommissioning. Mitigation measures are permanent and discussed in detail in Section 7.8, they are considered to positively contribute to the landscape structure of the site areas. Landscape and visual issues were also considered during the iterative design process, pre assessment, which resulted in changes to the scheme design. The identified landscape and visual effects are therefore also the residual effects.

Where the Development Area specific mitigation will alter long term landscape and/or visual effects this has been noted in the assessment conclusions.

Final Comment

- 7.12.40 This LVIA demonstrates that the proposed Development Areas of Parc Solar Traffwl Solar Farm could be successfully integrated into the local landscape of Anglesey without causing significant and wide scale harm to the landscape character. The development allows for opportunities for enhanced mitigation and management of the unused areas of the development site, totalling c.29 ha. The assessment concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects upon the protected landscape with the study area; the Anglesey AONB.
- 7.12.41 Whilst visual effects are noted, the assessments have established that these would be focussed upon a limited number of near residential, transportation and recreational receptors only, receptors focused to the site boundary areas, outside of this near zone, visual effects reduce to not significant levels. It is expected that the extensive proposed planting mitigation and management of existing vegetation over time will filter views to the Development Areas and reduce the level of visual effects in many cases to 'not significant' levels.